



Parish Catechist Formation Award in Catholic Theological Education

What is a Catechist?

"At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus proclaimed that he had been sent to announce a joyful message to the poor, making it plain and confirming by his life that the Kingdom of God is for all men, beginning with those who are most disadvantaged. Indeed he made himself a catechist of the Kingdom of God for all categories of persons... He is available to all. He is interested in the needs of every person, body and soul... Jesus concluded his earthly life by sending his disciples to do the same, to preach the Gospel to every creature on earth, to "all nation" (Mt 28:19; Lk 24 :27) "to the end of the earth, (Acts 1:8) for all time, "to the close of the age" (MT 28:20)."

(General Directory for Catechesis #163)

In short, the Catechist is one who allows the Good News of the Kingdom to resound in the hearts and minds of people today. Catechesis is a ministry which helps people deepen their relationship with Christ, through reflection on the riches of Scripture, liturgy, our faith Tradition and our experience of life.

What is the course for?

This course combines introductory study of aspects of theology, Scripture and Catholic thought (aiming at an academic award from the University of Glasgow) with reflection and study on aspects of catechesis (prayer, learning, faith development, faith-sharing, Catechism and programmes, etc) as a comprehensive package of formation for working in parishes as catechists. For some, this might mean principally working with children, for others with RCIA, but our vision is that Catechesis would become a part of a whole parish's experience of growth in faith, worship, ministry and community living. Those who successfully complete the course would be formally commissioned as Parish Catechists by the Archbishop.

What topics will be covered during the course?

During this course you will cover a variety of topics including Sacred Scripture, Dogma, Moral Theology, Sacramental Theology, Fundamental Theology and Liturgy. Catechetical modules will also include observation and practical experiences.

What are the entrance requirements?

The admission of a participant will require a meeting with members of the Academic Committee to assess academic ability and appropriate attitudes and to answer any questions about requirements, fees, etc. The candidate will also be given information about the type of support that will be offered throughout the programme. The ability to work at Scottish Higher level is required.

Students will also be asked to supply the names of two referees. Normally one of these will be the Parish Priest, whose nomination is essential to acceptance for Catechist formation, given that it is directed towards ministering in parish life.

Will I need to sit any exams?

There are no formal exams. However, you will be required to submit a piece of written work and make an oral presentation, normally as part of a small group, for each module.

***I haven't studied like that or written an essay since I was at school many years ago.
Will I be able to cope?***

All of the modules involve great support from tutors and others. In addition, participants are offered a mentor should they wish someone to accompany them more closely. However, written work is always relevant to the level of the course, and usually tries to draw on personal experience and interests as well as reading. People are often anxious at first, and exercises can be challenging, but they are tailored to the needs of those involved.

Will I be able to fit this into my busy schedule?

This two-year course consists of four modules per year, plus a catechetical component for those undertaking catechist formation.

All modules consist of 75 hours notional student effort. These are made up of:

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| *Class contact | 4 hrs per week for 6 weeks | = 24 hrs |
| Prescribed reading | 4 hrs per week for 6 weeks | = 24 hrs |
| Workshop day | 3 hrs | = 03 hrs |
| Private study | 24 hrs | = 24 hrs |
| | Total | = 75 hrs |

* These consist in two 2-hour sessions.

As well as the above, the catechetical component consists of two workshop Saturdays, 6 evenings per year (normally September and June) and an evening within each module exploring practical and catechetical applications of the theological material being explored.

What will I achieve at the conclusion of this course?

You will be given an Award in Catholic Theological Education from the University of Glasgow in a particular ceremony. If you have undergone the catechetical formation component the Archbishop will also formally commission you as a Parish Catechist during a special Mass once the course is completed.

When can I begin?

The course normally begins in September. If you would like to register an interest please contact the RE Department, and speak to your Parish Priest about the possibility of sponsoring you to become a Parish Catechist.

For further information, contact the R.E. Department;

0141-226-5898

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