



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**
SPIRITUALITY, FORMATION & EDUCATION SERVICE

Catholic
Certificate
In Religious
Studies

2011-2012

Validated by the Board of Religious Studies of
The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales

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- WHAT IS THE CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES? -

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The course seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith.

- WHO IS THE CCRS FOR? -

- Catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic Faith and Catholic Education
- Serving teachers in Catholic and other schools
- Teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools

- COURSE AIMS -

- Provide participants with the knowledge and understanding of the teaching and beliefs of the Catholic faith
- Enable participants to make an informed contribution to their field of work in the Church

- COMMITMENT -

The dates for the modules are fixed as advertised in this booklet. Unless otherwise negotiated, classes will begin and end at the advertised times. Please ensure early arrival for registration.

Anyone unable to attend a session of a module should contact the Spirituality, Formation and Education Service before the course is due to start.

If a student has less than the minimum 80% attendance record for any module, they will be deemed to have automatically deferred that module.

The same level of commitment to attendance is expected from those who are following the course and are not seeking to qualify for the certificate.

- COURSE STRUCTURE -

The course is structured in eight modules - six Core and two Specialist. The Core modules explore such areas as the Scriptures, the Person of Jesus, the Church and its Sacramental Life and Moral Understanding. The eight modules taken over two years are:

1. *Old Testament*
2. *New Testament*
3. *Christology*
4. *Specialist Module Unit 1*
5. *Church*
6. *Morality*
7. *Sacraments*
8. *Specialist Module Unit 2*

It is preferable to study the Core modules and a Specialist module in the order shown, but not essential. The maximum number of modules one may complete within a year is three Core and one Specialist.

Module 1: Old Testament

Saturdays: 9.30am-3.30pm
8 October & 15 October 2011

Essay Deadline: 14 November 2011

Aim: The purpose of this module is to introduce participants to the writings in the Old Testament in order to help them recognise God's revelation contained there and its continuing relevance in Christian life today.

Module 2: New Testament

Saturdays: 9.30am-3.30pm
26 November & 3 December 2011

Essay Deadline: 6 January 2012

Aim: The purpose of this module is to familiarise participants with the process through which the New Testament writings came into being and to help them interpret the material presented and understand its significance for the life of a Christian today.

Module 3: Christology

Saturdays: 9.30am-3.30pm
14 January & 21 January 2012

Essay Deadline: 20 February 2012

Aim: The purpose of this module is to deepen participants' awareness of the significance and centrality of the person and work of Jesus Christ in the daily life of the Christian as well as in the worship of the Church.

Module 4: Specialist Module Options

Each Specialist Module will be taught over two days from 9.30am to 3.30pm and students will select during the course from the following elements (*though options may vary slightly*):

- *Catholic Education (Principles & Practice)..... 17 March & 24 March 2012*
- *Liturgy (Principles and Practice)..... 17 March & 24 March 2012*
- *Community Cohesion..... 17 March & 24 March 2012*
- *Parish Leadership27 March & 28 March 2012*
- *Chaplaincy27 March & 28 March 2012*
- *or module title on current issue may be offered*

Essay Deadline: 23 April 2012

- ACADEMIC YEAR 2011—2012 -

Module 5: Church

Tuesday evenings: 7.00pm-9.00pm

11 & 18 October, 1, 8 and 15 November 2011

Essay Deadline: 9 December 2011

Aim: The purpose of this module is to enable participants to reflect on the nature of the Church and its mission in the world today.

Module 6: Morality

Tuesday evenings: 7 00pm-9 00pm

22 & 29 November, 6 December 2011, 10 & 17 January 2012

Essay Deadline: 10 February 2012

Aim: The purpose of this module is to help participants develop the skills of moral decision-making, to examine Christian teaching in its relation to the universal search for what constitutes “human good”, and to explore the application of Christian understanding to some contemporary moral issues.

Module 7: Sacraments

Tuesday evenings: 7.00pm-9.00pm

24 & 31 January, 7, 21 & 28 February 2012

Essay Deadline: 27 March 2012

Aim: The purpose of this module is to develop participants’ understanding and appreciation of Sacraments in the life of Catholics as a sign of Christ’s continuing presence with the Church.

Module 8: Specialist Module Options

Each Specialist Module will be taught over two days from 9.30am to 3.30pm and students will select during the course from the following elements (*though options may vary slightly*):

- *Catholic Education (Principles & Practice)..... 17 March & 24 March 2012*
- *Liturgy (Principles and Practice)..... 17 March & 24 March 2012*
- *Community Cohesion..... 17 March & 24 March 2012*
- *Parish Leadership27 March & 28 March 2012*
- *Chaplaincy27 March & 28 March 2012*
- *or module title on current issue may be offered*

Essay Deadline: 23 April 2012

- WHAT DOES THE CCRS REQUIRE? -

Each module requires ten hours of class contact time, further reading, and successful completion of an essay or assignment to the value of 1500 words or equivalent. The Certificate will be awarded after a **minimum of two years** and within a **maximum of five years** from the date of initial registration.

All essays or assignments should be sent by the deadline dates to the Spirituality, Formation and Education Service. (Our aim is to return marked essays within six weeks of the stated essay deadline date).

There are three options available:

OPTION ONE: COMPLETING ALL EIGHT MODULES

Those wishing to be awarded the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies qualification must attend eight taught modules and successfully complete each module assignment.

OPTION TWO: COMPLETING A SINGLE MODULE

For those interested in attending and completing the assignment relating to a particular module for personal interest or professional development.

OPTION THREE: ATTENDING A SINGLE MODULE

For those interested in attending a single module for personal interest or professional development. There is no requirement to complete the assignment.

Please note: Credits gained for modules completed within this diocese may be transferred to another diocese, or accredited body, to allow for a continuation of study in another part of the country. It is the responsibility of the student to apply in writing for such credits and to register with the new diocese.

- ACCREDITATION FOR PRIOR LEARNING -

Accreditation for prior learning is also possible. Students who may have completed equivalent study of a module on another course (post A-Level) should make a formal request in writing to have this recognised prior to starting the module.

- ATTENDANCE -

There is a national requirement for participants to have **at least 80%** attendance per module for any certificates to be awarded. Failing to meet this requirement will mean deferring the module to a later date.

- ASSESSMENT CRITERIA -

PASS

The work displays:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- There is some degree of knowledge and understanding of the relevant material;
- Use of an acceptable range of resources is made.

Argument and Analysis:

- An argument is attempted; the work is largely descriptive, rather than analytical.

Structure and Coherence:

- Some attempt is made to organise material logically and to focus on the question.

Presentation:

- The work is presented clearly and legibly, with an acceptable standard of written English within the specified word count;
- Appropriate use of referencing and bibliography is made.

DISTINCTION

The work displays all or a significant number of the following:

- Evidence of good knowledge and understanding of the question and materials, relevant concepts and methodology;
- Reading beyond the recommended minimum;
- Independent reflection;
- Good level of critical analysis;
- Clear and coherent arguments supported by appropriate examples;
- Good, clear written style;
- Full and accurate referencing and bibliography.

FAIL

Either a significant amount of the work is not the participant's own, or the work displays all or some of the following limitations:

- Inadequate understanding of the subject area; misunderstanding of key concept(s);
- Poor use of resources;
- Insufficient engagement with the question;
- Unfocussed response to the question;
- Inadequate use of referencing and bibliography;
- The work is illegible and/or shows an unacceptable standard of written English and/or exceeds the specified word count.

- ASSIGNMENT GUIDANCE -

- Read the essay/assignment titles carefully
- Choose your assignment
- Decide on your particular focus
- Read your session notes, handouts and suggested Bibliography (consult the tutor if you need further advice)
- Make relevant notes from the books you are reading
- Write out a plan

The following suggestions may be useful:

- Make a summary of what you think you want to say (this should form the content of the Introduction)
- Divide this into sections and/or paragraphs
- List the content/title/theme of each paragraph
- Read your notes once more
- Develop your thoughts, themes, reflections, arguments logically
- Note the content of your Conclusion
- Check that your Introduction introduces your assignment (it may need to be adjusted in the light of your developing thoughts)

If necessary, talk over your plan with the tutor. Begin writing your assignment based on this plan. Retain the plan until your assignment is marked and returned to you.

Remember:

- to type or word process, which is preferable, but clear handwriting is also acceptable;
- to write the title at the beginning of the assignment as well as on the title page;
- to give a source for every quotation including the page number;
- to give website addresses and dates accessed;
- to include your Bibliography on a separate page;
- to include the number of words;
- to include an Assignment Assessment Sheet completed at the top;
- to keep a copy of your completed assignment.

Assignment should demonstrate:

- adequate reading;
- fulfilment of the learning outcomes as listed in the module description;
- ability to assimilate, reflect on and criticise the material studied;
- skills necessary to communicate the substance of the study from an adult Christian stance.

- USING THE INTERNET FOR ASSIGNMENTS -

There is a great deal of material available on all kinds of subjects on websites, but it is not all of the same quality. When you use a search engine such as Google, you may find yourself accessing websites belonging to individuals or groups with some very curious agendas on religious topics.

What we offer below is a list of sites that have been checked by competent people in the subject areas of the modules of the CCRS. Using these sites will give you access to some sound ideas.

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR CCRS STUDENTS

<http://www.ntgateway.com>

Access to various New Testament websites

<http://www.torreys.org/bible/>

Studies on biblical themes

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm

Text of Vatican II documents

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm>

Text of Catechism

<http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/>

Theology resources

www.linacre.org/

Material on medical ethics

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/>

Website of American bishops

www.catholic-ew.org.uk

English & Welsh Bishops' website

<http://www.lasalle.edu/~dolan/bibliography/Jesus.htm>

Bibliography for Christology

- COST -

Each module costs **£45.00** (waged), or **£35.00** (students and unwaged).
A registration fee of **£20.00** will apply to those completing Option One.

Applicants intending to engage, or already engaged, in parish ministry may find their parish willing to assist with course fees. Please contact the parish priest for further information.

Teachers may be able to apply for assistance with course fees from their school.

Invoices will be issued following receipt of the application.

Any student withdrawing may be eligible for a refund of any modules paid for but not yet started. There will be no refunds for any partially completed modules. In any event, the fees for the initial module will be retained to cover administration costs.

A small bursary may be available to women students who are not more than 25 years old and who are studying in the North-East of England. Please write for a leaflet and application form to:

The Duchess of Leeds Assumption Fund
28 Hexham Avenue
Walker
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 3AL

- RESOURCES -

The Diocese have an arrangement with the North East Religious Learning Resources Centres in Newcastle and Durham. They hold books and resources on our behalf and these can be especially helpful for each module of study. Information packs are available on the NERLRC website, www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk or by request from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Spirituality, Formation and Education Service.

Useful resources may be purchased from Pauline Books & Media at:

St Mary's Cathedral
Clayton Street West
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 5HH

Tel: 0191 231 6040
Email: newcastle@pauline-uk.org

- DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (DCRS) -

An optional route through the CCRS
(please refer to the DCRS Schedule on the following page)

The DCRS was first established in Autumn 2007. It offers participants a route through the CCRS in three stages:

Stage One: Two Core Modules and One Specialist Module

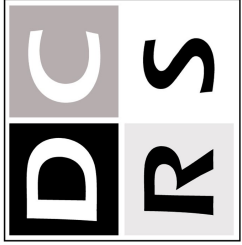
Stage Two: Two Core Modules and One Specialist Module

Stage Three: Two Core Modules

Each stage runs over an academic year and each carries an award recognised within the Diocese. Those who complete all three stages of the Diocesan Certificate within five years can be awarded the nationally recognised qualification the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies which is validated by the Board of Religious Studies of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Those wishing to achieve the CCRS should confirm their interest on application.

All DCRS modules are held on weekdays, 9.30am—3.30pm.

For further information access the Diocesan Education Service website:
http://www.edurcdhn.org.uk/parish/parishes_courses_dcrs.php



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

SPIRITUALITY, FORMATION & EDUCATION SERVICE

DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

| TEACHERS | CATECHISTS | CHAPLAINS | PARISH LEADERS |
|----------|------------|-----------|----------------|
|----------|------------|-----------|----------------|

INFORMATION EVENING
 Course Code: 43/11 St Cuthbert's House, Newcastle
 19 September 2011, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

STAGE ONE

For people looking for development in Catholic Education either in schools or parish Catechetics.

New Testament Module
27 & 29 September 2011
 Christology Module
17 & 18 January 2012
 Catholic Education
20 & 21 March 2012

New Testament Module
27 & 29 September 2011
 Christology Module
17 & 18 January 2012
 Parish Leadership Module
27 & 28 March 2012

New Testament Module
27 & 29 September 2011
 Christology Module
17 & 18 January 2012
 Chaplaincy Module
27 & 28 March 2012

New Testament Module
27 & 29 September 2011
 Christology Module
17 & 18 January 2012
 Parish Leadership Module
27 & 28 March 2012

STAGE TWO

For those having completed Stage One and who wish to further develop their ministry.

Church Module
22 & 23 November 2011
 Sacraments Module
1 & 2 February 2012
 Liturgy Module
17 & 18 April 2012

Church Module
22 & 23 November 2011
 Sacraments Module
1 & 2 February 2012
 Liturgy Module
17 & 18 April 2012

Church Module
22 & 23 November 2011
 Sacraments Module
1 & 2 February 2012
 Liturgy Module
17 & 18 April 2012

Church Module
22 & 23 November 2011
 Sacraments Module
1 & 2 February 2012
 Liturgy Module
17 & 18 April 2012

STAGE THREE

For those who have completed Stages One and Two and who are taking on advanced responsibilities or wish to further develop their ministry

Morality Module
8 & 9 December 2011
 Old Testament Module
7 & 8 February 2012

Morality Module
8 & 9 December 2011
 Old Testament Module
7 & 8 February 2012

Morality Module
8 & 9 December 2011
 Old Testament Module
7 & 8 February 2012

Morality Module
8 & 9 December 2011
 Old Testament Module
7 & 8 February 2012

This is a rolling programme. Participants may pick up the next stage when they choose. Anyone completing all three stages within a five year period will be awarded the CCRS (if all attendance and essay requirements are met).

TIME: 9.30am—3.30pm
COSTS: (Information Evening - no charge)
 £65 per module
 £20 registration fee if going onto CCRS Option One

Attendees are encouraged to seek sponsorship from their School or Parish.

- CONTACT -

Please direct all enquiries to:

Mr Eamonn Diffley
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
Spirituality, Formation and Education Service
St Cuthbert's House
West Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 7PY

Tel: 0191 243 3313

Fax: 0191 243 3309

Email: office@edurcdhn.org.uk

- FURTHER INFORMATION -

Please see the Board of Studies CCRS Handbook for more information about the course. This handbook can be found online by following the link on the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Spirituality, Formation and Education Service website www.edurcdhn.org.uk/ccrs

