



**Pontifical University  
St Patrick's College, Maynooth**

**Higher Diploma in Theological Studies**

Programme content:

1. **Systematic Theology**, which examines the meaning and implications of the principal faith-affirmations of Christianity concerning God, Jesus, the Church, the human condition, etc.
2. **Moral Theology**, which deals with the experience of morality and in particular with the bearing of Christian faith on the moral life. Topics include: conscience, making moral decisions, the Bible and morality, bioethics, ethics and communications, ethics of gender and sexuality, justice, morality and law, ethics in public life, peace and war.
3. **Scripture**, which covers the nature and significance of the Bible, origins of Biblical texts, literary forms, interpretation today. It will include a study of particular Old Testament and New Testament books.

A module on *Foundations of Worship* will also be incorporated in the main programme.

4. **Elective subjects:** Foundations in Religious Education/Catechetics; Church History; Spirituality, Spirituality and Daily Life; Introduction to Islam.

**Duration/mode:**

**1 year, part time, evening course.**

**Fee: 2012/2013**

€3,100 for 2011/2012

We do not yet have the fee for 2012/2013

(for Irish and other EU students)

\* This course qualifies for tax relief.

**Normal entry requirement:**

**Primary degree or equivalent. While the degree/qualification will normally be in a discipline other than Theology, consideration will be given to all applications.**

*\*The Diploma is recognised by the Department of Education and Skills as entitling teachers holding Department-recognised degrees and teacher-training qualifications to teach up to 15 hours' Religious Education per week in a voluntary secondary school.*

**Application forms and further information:**

**Admissions Office,  
Pontifical University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.**

**Telephone: 01-708 4772**

**Fax: 01-708 3441**

**E-mail: admissions@spcm.ie**

**Web site: www.maynoothcollege.ie**

**Selection procedure:**

**First-come, first-served basis (provided entry requirements have been met and application is complete and correct).**

**Closing date for receipt of completed application forms:**

**1 June 2012. However late applications may be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.**

## TIMETABLE

**Mondays 6:30pm – 9:30 p.m.**

**Wednesdays 6:30pm – 9:30 p.m.**

**In addition to Monday and Wednesday lectures students must attend class on 4 Saturdays during the year (2 Saturdays per semester) 10:00am – 4:00pm**

The **core courses** (Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Scripture, and Foundations of Worship) will be taught on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

The **electives** will be taught on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Two Saturdays will be devoted to each elective and students must take **two** electives.

## ASSESSMENT

- **Coursework and Examination**

All core courses will be assessed by means of coursework (50% of total mark) and end-of-year examination (50% of total mark). Electives may be assessed by means of coursework only.

- **Major Essay**

Students must complete a major essay on one of the core areas as part of their coursework requirements.

## CORE COURSES

### **1. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

Systematic Theology is divided into three parts:

#### ***Part A: Introduction to Ecclesiology***

This module in ecclesiology aims to introduce students to the theological understanding of the Church as it emerges in Scripture and as it unfolds in the course of history. Particular attention is given to the ecclesial vision of Vatican II and the work of contemporary theologians. Within this context the following topics will be dealt with: understanding the Church as founded by Jesus Christ, the Church as universal sacrament of salvation, the Church's relationship to other ecclesial communities and the relationship between ecclesiology and Mariology.

Suggested introductory reading:

Raymond Brown, *The Churches the Apostles left behind*, NY: Paulist Press, 1984

Francis O'Sullivan, *The Church we believe in*, NY: Paulist Press, 1988

## ***Part B: God, Revelation, Jesus Christ***

God:

- the search of humankind for God
- the search of God for humankind

Revelation:

- the Old Testament revelation of God
- the New Testament revelation of God in Christ and the Holy Spirit

From Revelation to Christology:

- The Passion, Death and Resurrection as the nucleus of New Testament Christology
- Great Christological Councils
- Jesus Crucified and Forsaken as the Face of God for Today

Suggested introductory Reading:

The Second Vatican Council, The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*  
Gerald O'Collins, *Christology*, Oxford University Press, 1995.

## ***Part C: The Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Healing and Communion***

- Key principles of Catholic sacramental theology
- Contemporary theological literature
- The Church as Sacrament
- The Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
- The Sacraments of Healing: Penance, Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick
- The Sacraments at the Service of communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony
- Issues relating to the Sacraments in the context of the contemporary mission of the Church in Ireland

Suggested introductory reading:

Philippe Béguerie, and Claude Duchesneau, *How to Understand the Sacraments*, London: SCM Press, 1991.

### **Assessment**

Students will write ONE essay and TWO reflection papers in Systematic Theology and must also sit an end-of-year examination.

## 2. MORAL THEOLOGY

Moral Theology is divided into three parts:

### ***Part A: Introduction***

- what being moral means
- why be moral?
- how do we make moral judgments?
- making moral judgments in a Christian context
- moral responsibility

### ***Part B: Are we responsible for ourselves and each other ?***

- respect for life
- truthfulness in relationships: an ethic of gender and sexuality
- key issues in bioethics

### ***Part C: Are we responsible for society?***

- is there a 'common good'?
- what is social justice?
- natural law and human rights
- religion, morality and law
- morality and public policy
- morality in public life

### **Assessment**

Students will write ONE essay and TWO reflection papers in Moral Theology and must also sit an end-of-year examination.

## 3. SCRIPTURE

Scripture is divided into three parts:

### ***Part A: The Bible and Its World***

#### **Indicative Syllabus:**

- Which Bible? Texts and Canons
- The Geographical Context: From Fertile Crescent to Eastern Mediterranean
- The Historical Context: From Sumerian City States to the Roman Empire
- The religious Context: From Israelite Religion to Judaism
- Old Testament / Hebrew Bible: A Broad Survey
- New Testament: A Broad Survey
- Ways of Reading: An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics
- Ways of Telling: An Introduction to Biblical Narrative
- Reception of the Scriptures: The Bible in Western Art

#### **Indicative Bibliography:**

Barton, John, ed, *The Biblical World*, 2 vols, London: Routledge, 2002, [220,61 BAR]

Coogan, Michael, *The Old Testament: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2009, [220,61 POW]

## ***Part B: The Old Testament***

### **Indicative Syllabus:**

- The Abraham Story: Call, Covenant and Akedah
- The Moses Story 1: Call, Revelation of the Divine Name and Passover
- The Moses Story 2: Exodus, Decalogue and Covenant
- The David Story: Anointing, Covenant, Sin and Forgiveness
- The Prophetic Legacy 1: Amos and Justice
- The Prophetic Legacy 2: Isaiah and Hopes for the Davidic Line
- The Prophetic Legacy 3: Jeremiah and the Fall of Jerusalem
- The Prophetic Legacy 4: Second-Isaiah and the Figure of the Servant
- Psalms: Original Contexts and Christian Rereading

### ***Indicative Bibliography:***

Boadt, L, *Reading the Old Testament*, New York: Paulist, 1984, [220,61 BOA]

Charpentier, E, *How to Read the Old Testament*, London: SCM, 1982.

Collins, JJ, *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998.

### ***Elements and Forms of Assessment:***

Keyword/Character Quiz, Reflection Paper and Exam

## ***Part C: The New Testament***

### **Indicative Syllabus:**

- Paul: Pastor and Letter Writer
- Galatians: Paul's response to a Crisis Situation
- Romans: Paul the Theologian
- What is a Gospel? Mark's Creative Writing
- Twenty-First Century Questions to First Century Gospels
- Parables and Riddles of the Kingdom
- Mark's Passion Narrative
- Pontius Pilate: A Character in all Four Gospels
- The Miracles in the Gospel of Matthew

### **Elements and Forms of Assessment:**

Keyword/Character Quiz, Reflection Paper and Exam

## **4.FOUNDATIONS OF WORSHIP**

### ***Why Liturgy?***

This section will begin by exploring the questions: why celebrate? why do human persons need to ritualise? Some basic concepts from the disciplines of anthropology, ritual studies and liturgical studies will be introduced. Topics: What is human ritual? Its role in constructing a community of meaning. Myth, Symbol, Rite. Time and its experience. Space and Music. Ritual and Culture. Why do we celebrate?

### **Assessment**

Students will complete one written project for this module.

## **5. ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **Foundations in Religious Education**

The first aim of the course is to provide an introduction to contemporary understandings of religious education. To this end, terms such as religious education, catechesis, religious formation, and religious instruction will be explored. Contemporary approaches to religious education will also be examined. Particular attention will be paid to how the core process of catechesis is understood today.

The second concern of the course is to propose foundations for a participatory and empowering approach to religious education: The Shared Christian Praxis Approach. Participants will be invited to use this approach as a rich resource for the teaching of religion in many contexts such as the secondary school.

### **Introduction to Islam**

This course aims to introduce students to key elements of Islam. It will examine the five pillars and main articles of faith. Drawing on the historical development of Islam, it will reflect on the relationship of Christianity and Islam. The contemporary situation of Islam in Ireland will also be examined.

### **Church History**

#### *The Catholic Church in Ireland 1795-1922*

The aim of the course is to expose students to the range of issues facing the Church as it emerged from the penal era and set itself the goal of being the final arbiter of public opinion in Ireland. Topics will include: the Church and the Union, Catholic Emancipation, relations between Church and State, the idea of a devotional revolution, Gallicanism versus Ultramontanism in the Irish Church, Cardinal Cullen's impact socially and politically, the Church and Nationalism, the Church and violence, the Home Rule movement, education at primary and university level, the Church and the Rising, conscription and partition. The focus, however, will not simply be Ireland. Irish developments will be linked with the papacy's struggle to consolidate its influence in European affairs following the Congress of Vienna in 1814. The British aspect will also be a major consideration as Irish and English Catholicism went their separate ways following Emancipation. The often strained relations between Irish and English Catholics created a climate of distrust at a political level, the consequences of which have not been entirely dissipated even to this day.

### **Spirituality and Daily Life**

This course will offer an opportunity to explore (1) the vital relationship between Theology and Spirituality and (2) the rich significance of this relationship for our own personal faith journey and praxis. As this is a broad topic particular attention will be given to the significance of The Trinity, The Incarnation and The Paschal Mystery for Christian living. This course aims to encourage students to (A) identify and explore their own spirituality whilst (B) gaining a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the riches of the Christian Tradition and (C) to be enriched by the wisdom and experience of all participating in the course.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Students will have the option of staying overnight in the college. Please check with the *Maynooth Campus Conference & Accommodation Centre* (details below) for availability. Students must produce student card.

**Below are the Academic/Student Rates for 2012-2013 (correct going to print).**

### **En Suite Rooms:**

En suite single                   €3.00 (room only)  
En suite sharing               €3.00 per person sharing (room only)  
An additional charge of €6.70 per person will apply for breakfast.

### **Non – En Suite Rooms:**

Single Room only           €26.00  
Single B&B                   €32.45  
Twin Room only           €22.00 per person sharing  
Twin B&B                   €30.00 per person sharing

***Maynooth Campus Conference & Accommodation Centre:***

**Tel: (01) 708 6400 or please check web site: [www.maynoothcampus.com](http://www.maynoothcampus.com)**

Please phone the Conference Centre directly to avail yourself of the above special rates.