



Diocese of  
Nottingham



# Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) A Course of Catholic Formation

The CCRS is a course is a two-year course exploring questions of faith and ministry from an adult perspective.

## Who is the course for?

The course is for all adults interested in exploring their faith – from all backgrounds, walks of life - and for those involved in areas of ministry such as teaching and the various ministries involved in parish life today – catechists, eucharistic ministers, parish pastoral councils, youth work, justice and peace.....

The course seeks to provide the opportunity to explore and reflect on questions of faith, belief and everyday living as a member of the Catholic Community today. Through prayer, shared reflection, group discussion and study the course seeks to enable people to take up their ministry with greater confidence.

## What are the aims of the course?

The overall aim of the course is to help people explore their faith as adults and recognise their call to service. It takes account of the experience that we bring and encourages us to grow through shared experience. The course aims to:

- Provide those in ministry in parishes and schools with knowledge and understanding of the teaching and beliefs of the Catholic Faith
- Employ and encourage sound adult educational processes which express Gospel values
- Enhance understanding of education and formation within the Church as a life-long process
- Enable all participants to make an informed contribution to their chosen field of work in the Church
- Develop an appreciation of the principles of Catholic Education at all levels
- Highlight the role and function of Religious Education within the school curriculum

We do this through:

- Prayer and liturgy
- Pastoral reflection
- Study
- Group discussion



## Course Content

The content of each of the modules is that outlined in the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies Handbook. The specialist modules in Year 2 are chosen early in Year 1 to allow for planning and booking tutors. It may not be possible to offer the full complement of Specialist Modules. For a specialist module to run there must be a minimum group of 7.

## Course Information

To be awarded the **CCRS** the six core modules and two specialist modules are assessed by an assignment of 1500 words or equivalent and 100% attendance required. For those not wishing to receive the CCRS a Diocesan **Living Ministry** Certificate will be awarded – for this a reflective log is to be written of around 500 words.

### **Entry requirements:**

- An interest in exploring faith issues
- Openness to reflection on life experience
- Willingness to share
- Ability to listen to and respect the views of others
- Commitment to learn and study



## **CORE MODULES**

### **The Bible: Old Testament**

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

### **The Bible: New Testament**

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.

### **Jesus Christ**

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.

### **The Church**

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

### **Sacraments**

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

### **Christian Morality**

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.

## **SPECIALIST MODULES**

The two specialist modules can be selected from the following:

### **Liturgy**

The purpose of this module is to enable participants to gain an overview of liturgical principles and to be able to relate their learning to their specific parish situations.

### **Catholic Social Teaching**

This module offers an introduction to Justice and Peace, the development of this area of Church life in history and the teaching of the Church, and Justice and Peace in the modern world and current issues.

### **Parish Catechesis**

The purpose of this module is to enable participants to reflect on the nature of catechesis, and the relationship between evangelisation, catechesis and culture.

### **Catholic Schools and Religious Education**

This module explores the nature and purpose of Catholic Education and its historical development, questions of mission and ethos and issues concerned with Religious Education.

### **Bereavement**

The purpose of this module is to familiarise participants with the bereavement process and to equip them to work in Bereavement Ministry in the Catholic Parish.

### **Youth Ministry**

This module will enable students to gain an understanding of youth ministry in an ecclesial context, to explore the relationship between youth culture, faith and spirituality and the skills necessary for good practice.