



# Certificate in Theological Studies

Level 7 (20 credit ECTS)



Ossory  
Adult Faith  
Development



St Kieran's College  
Kilkenny



NUI MAYNOOTH  
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

# Certificate in Theological Studies

Level 7 (20 credit ECTS)

## Introduction

With the advent of Parish Pastoral Councils and the structured involvement of lay people in the life of the diocese, St Kieran's College Kilkenny, as part of its mission of education and formation, wishes to offer, on behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Ossory, a programme of education for those involved in parish life.

The programme will be offered on the Kilkenny Campus of NUI Maynooth, based at St Kieran's College. It will continue a tradition of education based on the values of the gospel,

of both lay and clerical students, which began in 1782.

The Programme will be accredited by St Patrick's College Maynooth.

This course will be of interest to people who are involved in parish life or to those who are involved with the Diocesan Forum. It may also be of interest to those who wish to deepen and enrich their own understanding of their faith and who are prepared to become involved in parish life.

### Course Aims

- To provide general theological education and formation in the main aspects of faith.
- To provide the theological background needed for lay involvement and leadership roles at parish and diocesan level.

### Specific Admission Requirements

- Applicants under 23 must have achieved matriculation requirements.
- Applicants over 23 are asked to submit a short piece of no more than 100 words on why they want to do this course.
- Final selection will be based on a short interview.

### Special requirements for progression to Certification

- Attendance and participation (85% attendance mandatory).
- Satisfactory completion of assignments.

### Methods of Assessment

- Written assignment will be completed at the end of each module.
- The assignment will be decided by the staff member in charge of the module.
- Such an assignment could range from an essay, a reflective project or review, the completion of class assignments or a learning journal.

### Course Duration

100 hours part-time over one academic year from September to May.

### Fee

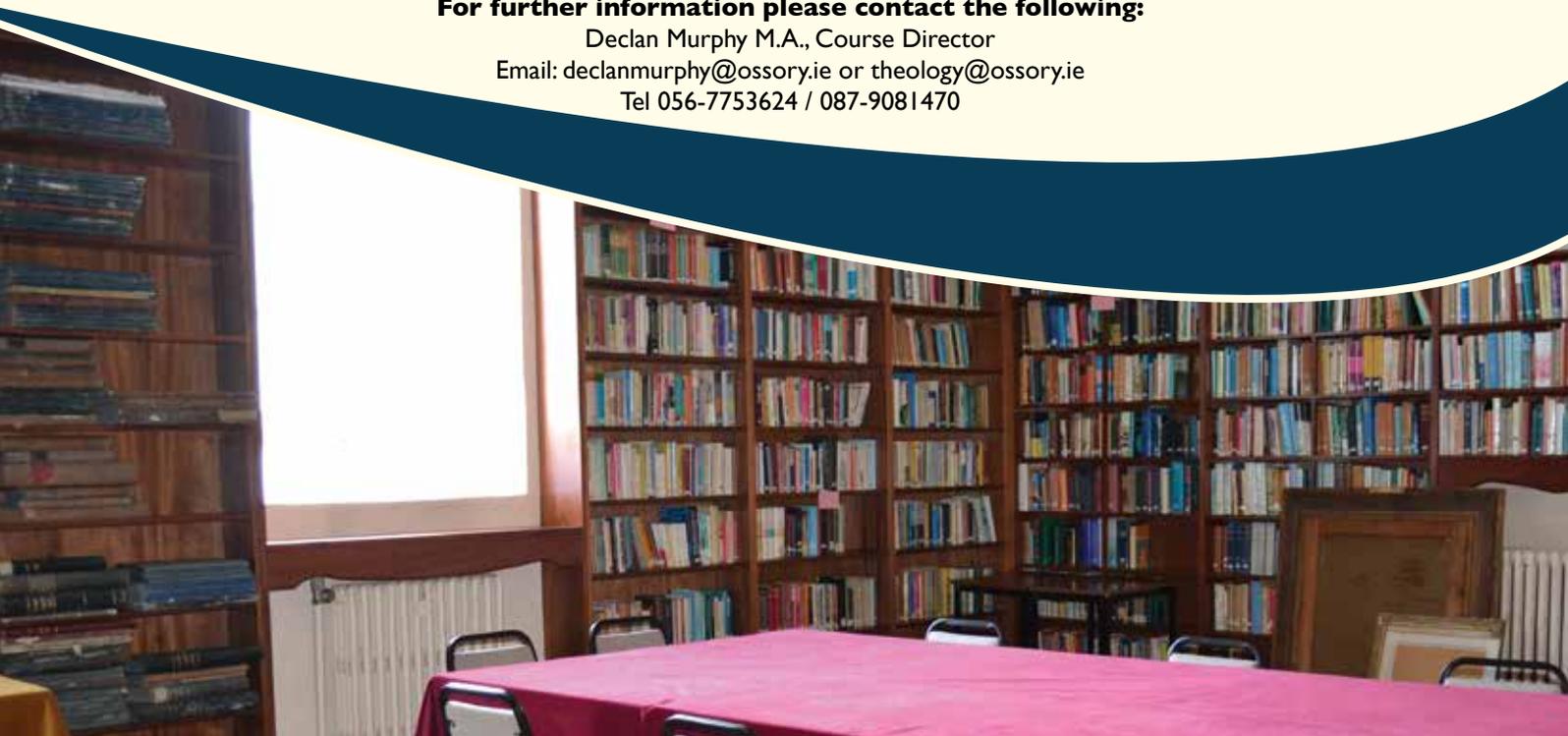
€400 (Parish sponsorship may be available for those who gain a place on the course).

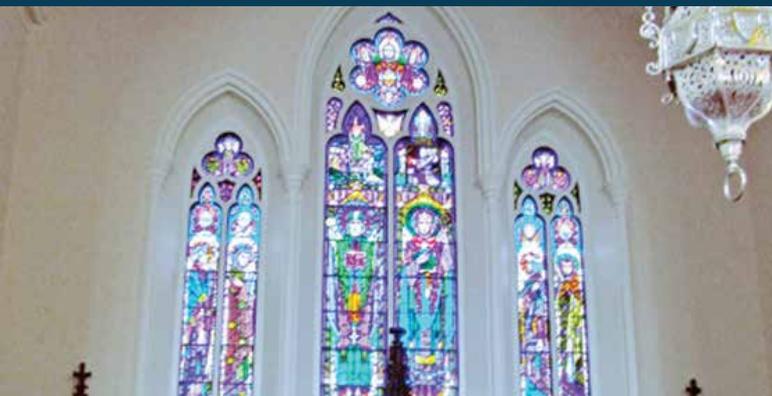
### For further information please contact the following:

Declan Murphy M.A., Course Director

Email: [declanmurphy@ossory.ie](mailto:declanmurphy@ossory.ie) or [theology@ossory.ie](mailto:theology@ossory.ie)

Tel 056-7753624 / 087-9081470





## Introduction

MR DECLAN MURPHY B.A.Th. M.A.

The introduction will include the following:

- Study skills
- Academic Writing
- Accessing the Library

## Module 1 Scripture - New Testament

- Approaching the Bible: Word of God in Human Words
- Introduction to the Gospels: Meeting Matthew
- Matthew and the Kingdom
- One Jesus, Many Portraits: Jesus in Matthew and the Other Gospels
- Paul and the Good News of Christ Crucified
- Corinth and the Challenge of Community

## Module 2 Scripture - Old Testament

- General Introduction to the Old Testament
- The Book of Genesis and other books of the Pentateuch
- The Historical Books
- The Prophets
- The Wisdom Literature
- The use of the Old Testament in the New Testament

## Module 3 Moral Theology

- What are we doing? Reflection on the human desire for meaning and true happiness
- Who are we following? Reflection on Christian morality as discipleship
- Why we need rules? Reflection on the moral codes that direct our lives
- When we go astray? Reflection on dynamic of sin
- How we make it all our own? Reflection on the importance of Conscience
- Where do we get strength? Reflection on the role of community and worship

## Module 4 An Introduction to the History of the Catholic Church through its Ecumenical Councils

- Why Councils? Historical Background to the Rise of Christianity
- Trinitarian Councils: Nicaea and Constantinople
- Christological Councils: Ephesus and Chalcedon
- Byzantine Councils: Christology and Iconoclasm
- Councils of the High Middle Ages: the impact of Lateran IV
- The Great Papal Schism and Conciliarism: Healing the Rift
- Reformation and the Council of Trent
- The Rise of Ultramontanism and Vatican I
- A Changing World and a Changing Church? Vatican II

## Module 5 Introduction to Liturgy & Sacraments

- Principles of Liturgy
- The Liturgy and Time
- Sacraments in General
- Sacraments of Initiation
- The Eucharist
- The Historical Development of the Liturgy
- The Celebration of the Mass Today
- The Sacrament of Penance in crisis
- Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick V Sacrament of Last Anointing
- Sacramentality of marriage
- The changing face of Ministry in the Christian Community
- Prayer

## Module 6 Church: Living Faith Community

- Introduction
- Did Jesus intend to found a Church? The distinction between Church and Kingdom
- Apostolic Succession – its impact on a Catholic understanding of Church today
- The mission of the Early Church
- Our role/mission as laity within the Church today.
- Tutorial Parish Pastoral Councils - Our living as Church community
- Church – broken and living – no different to how it started...
- Conclusion



*Current student's experience of the programme:*

St Kieran's College provides the perfect hallowed setting for the Certificate in Theological Studies which is conducted annually by Ossory's Adult Faith Development team in association with St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Running over one academic year and comprising two night-time lectures per week, it is designed to appeal to people who may be active in Parish ministry, to those who are preparing for a role in Parish work, or for anyone who is merely curious about the provenance, nature and construct of the Catholic faith.

The lecture series ranges over diverse topics such as Moral Theology, Church History, Old Testament, New Testament, Sacraments and Liturgy, and Ecclesiology and presents a useful foundational course in the essential aspects of theology. Each module encapsulates a wide-ranging and informative overview of its subject and provides a useful framework within which to pursue additional study.

The Course is as versatile as it is stimulating and uniquely, participants enjoy the scope and flexibility to pursue their studies with the intensity appropriate to their individual interests and objectives. Experienced and enthusiastic lecturers, who combine both academic and practical expertise, ensure that classes are well-structured and comprehensive. Importantly, they strike the right balance between teaching and encouraging lively discourse

and debate thus promoting an informal and convivial environment in which to interact, and to receive and assimilate knowledge.

Previous Course participants from various disciplines have successfully undertaken the Certificate in Theological Studies. Each has approached the Course from varying perspectives and with different personal requirements. Some have been motivated by a sense of inquisitiveness about their faith and a desire to learn more about the anatomy and evolution of the Catholic faith. Others were propelled to achieve insight and heighten understanding into the theological foundations which underpin the Church whilst many were anxious to trace the historical development of the faith and to assess its position in its contemporary context. There were those who were driven to understand the dynamics of their faith in the parish and pastoral senses and yet more were seeking simply to enrich the personal experience of their faith journey and to deepen their spiritual awareness.

The Certificate in Theological Studies is a compelling, illuminating and life-enhancing feature of the St Kieran's College calendar. For those who are seeking to expand the meaningfulness and understanding of their Catholic faith and to transform the manner in which they experience the living Church, it is indeed a bountiful reservoir.

*Noreen McDonnell*





Ossory  
Adult Faith  
Development



St Kieran's College  
Kilkenny



NUI MAYNOOTH  
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

# St Patrick's College Maynooth

Level 7 (20 credit ECTS)

# Certificate in Theological Studies

Please complete all sections in block capitals and return with a short piece of no more than 100 words on why you want to do this course and a deposit of €100 to:

**Declan Murphy M.A., Course Director,  
Certificate in Theological Studies,  
St Kieran's College, College Road, Kilkenny.**

**Closing date for applications:**

*\*In the event that the programme does not run deposits will be refunded.*

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ PPS \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



More over >>>

How did you hear about this course? (Please tick appropriate box)

Newspaper  Website  Parish  Word of Mouth  Other

Please Specify

---

Please list Educational qualifications and/or experience below:

FOR APPLICANTS UNDER 23 YEARS OF AGE:  
Please include copies of Educational Transcripts (Examination Results)

**Please include with your application form a statement of 100 words outlining why you wish to undertake this programme.**

Return to:  
**Declan Murphy M.A., Course Director**  
**Certificate in Theological Studies,**  
**St Kieran's College, College Road, Kilkenny.**  
**Tel. 056-7753624 / 087-9081470**

***Closing date for applications:***

