



Maryvale Institute

Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry

Maryvale is delighted to offer a one-year, distance-learning course for all those interested in formation for collaborative ministry in parishes, starting in January 2018.

Distance-learning

Distance-learning means that most of your study and learning is done at home in your own setting. This is important because the course is designed to help you precisely in *your* family, *your* parish, *your* community, and *your* situation.

The Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry (CPMM) course consists of six modules, with specially prepared course books for you to study and learn at home. There are also three study days, which provide you with interesting seminars, interactive discussions, and opportunities to meet like-minded people from different parishes as well as the staff who will facilitate and support your study.

The course begins with three Mission modules, providing the rationale in scripture and Church teaching for all the baptised to share in the mission and ministry of Christ by fully engaging with their parishes and local communities. Three further Ministry modules consider the various groups that any parish would seek to care for, namely, young people, the elderly, the sick and vulnerable, and families.

The Mission modules give guidelines for being missionary in our time, focusing particularly on *Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel* - Pope Francis' inspiring exhortation to all the People of God.

The Ministry modules give practical advice on methods of engagement and support to enable the parish to be a welcoming, inclusive, caring and supportive faith community of prayer and service to everyone.

Who is the course for?

- All the baptised with a desire to deepen their own faith formation
- Those already involved in parish ministries
- Members of parish groups
- Parents, who have a key role in the catechesis and ministry of their children
- Parishioners who hesitate to volunteer their services without formation

Aims and outcomes of the course

The Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry provides opportunities for you to:

- acquire an understanding of Church teaching on the mission of the Church
- understand the nature and significance of ministry in the Church, together with the range of skills needed for pastoral service in a variety of settings

- develop an understanding and appreciation of the Church's spiritual resources, and reflect sensitively upon the significance of prayer for your own development and for those with whom you are working
- gain the knowledge, understanding, qualities and skills needed to be able to collaborate successfully with clergy in building and developing the parish you are part of.

Module 1: The Mission of the People of God

This presents the Church's overall vision for all pastoral action and mission. It looks especially at the basic proclamation of the Gospel, at the call to holiness which is directed to all the baptised, and at the imperative of evangelisation and ministry. In this module, you will examine some of the documents of the Church, which provide teaching that enables us to gain a fuller understanding of the mission and ministry that is ours as we are the Church, the People of God.

Module 2: The Parish: theological foundations

Within contemporary pastoral theological reflection, ministry is often seen within the dynamic of the methodology of the behavioural sciences, in particular psychology and sociology. In this module the parish is considered as a community that becomes a means of growing in holiness and authentic mission by considering things from God's perspective.

Module 3: The Parish: missionary mandate

In this module we consider the missionary mandate of Christ to all those who choose to follow him. A core text of reference will be the inspiring exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, where Pope Francis makes clear that everything we say, or do, or teach, has to be firmly focused on the person of Jesus Christ.

Module 4: Ministering to Families

This is a challenging and significant time to study the family, a subject you will discover that has engaged the attention of many theologians, primarily since the Second Vatican Council. Pope Francis' inspiring apostolic exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, published in April 2016 is a key reference text for this module providing insights into current magisterial teaching on the family.

Module 5: The Ministry of Compassion

In this module you will reflect on the Christian understanding of suffering, sickness, and death and consider all the aspects of effective pastoral care, both spiritual and sacramental, of those who suffer in any way, whether at home or in hospital.

Module 6: Ministering to Young People

This module has been created as an introduction to youth ministry in a Catholic context. The text draws from a diverse range of sources from within the Catholic tradition, from secular youth work, and from other Christian traditions. By the end of this module you will understand the nature of young people and youth ministry, its importance within our Catholic community, and the key characteristics and considerations needed to minister to young people in your particular context. Many of the principles and insights apply equally well to ministry to adults too!

Books for the course

For each module the course books which are *essential* reading will be provided for you. These will include selections from scripture, Church teaching and other key materials.

Learning methods and student support

The course is carefully designed to give you a high level of support so that, even though you are at a distance, help is always at hand. Support is provided through:

- the course materials, which are written as ‘tutorials in print’
- the FE director, who operates personal email and telephone support
- guidance on written work from academic tutors
- study days where there is opportunity for prayer together as well as opportunities for additional input from seminars and discussions with other students and staff.

The study days are always on Saturdays and include Mass and the provision of lunch. Each year you have the opportunity to join the students from other FE courses at a special Retreat day at Maryvale to ensure study is always balanced by spiritual nourishment.

Assessment

Assessment of each module is through an essay -1500 words - and a practical reflection. Successful completion of the course will result in a Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry - a Level 3 award.

Entry requirements

There are no special entry requirements for the Certificate, other than the filling in of the application form and acceptance by the Institute.

Course costs and dates

Course fees include distance-learning materials, readers; study day costs; tutoring and assessment costs; accreditation fees and certificates.

Current information on fees and study dates can be obtained from feadmin@maryvale.ac.uk

How to apply

Please complete the attached application form. You should also include a non-returnable application fee of £25 (cheques made payable to *Maryvale Institute*).