

For some time now the Diocese of Willochra has been using the Trinity Certificate in Theology and Ministry material so that people in parishes and ministry districts can grow in faith and enhance their understanding of Scripture, Theology and Ministry. The Diocese of Lichfield Board of Ministry developed the material in collaboration with the members of the Local Ministry Scheme. The material used in Australia has been edited and contextualized by staff of Trinity College Theological School in Melbourne. Several study groups in the Diocese of Willochra have completed the course, and others are in progress.

"The studies have been a highlight of my spiritual journey"

"I haven't done any study since I left school, but the group approach made it easy for me. I've even attempted some essays"

"I was so inspired that I researched eagles in the library and designed my own tapestry pattern and did that as my creative assignment"

"The group decided to do some research in the congregation and then we designed a quiet time before the morning service. Our priest was happy to co-operate and most people appreciated what we were trying to do."

"I really look forward to our group. We have become so supportive of each other. I wish other people in the congregation could have the same experience."

"Some of the reading really challenged me to think about what I really believe."

Diocese of Willochra
Anglican Church of
Australia
2005

Diocese of Willochra

Trinity College Certificate in Theology and Ministry



For a learning community

Getting Started

People in a local area form a group and agree on the meeting place and time. For example one group meets every fortnight during school terms from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. They take turns to provide a simple meal to eat as they work. When circumstances prevent meeting for some time due to illness or holidays of group members, they will suspend the study till they can get back to a regular pattern. Local arrangements can be very flexible, however, a group wishing to work quickly can cover the material in two years.

It is best if the group has a designated leader. It might be the District priest or Parish Priest. However, one group meets without anyone trained in theology but invites the Ministry Development Officer to one meeting a unit to ask questions, discuss difficulties, and talk over the approach to take to the assignments.

There needs to be a contact person who arranges, through the Ministry Development Officer, or Archdeacon Prue O'Donovan for materials to be posted from Trinity College. The account will be sent to Church Office where an account will then be forwarded to the group, less the diocesan discount of \$10:00 per person per unit.

Six Units

There are six units of study, most of which have eight sessions. Some groups have found some sessions so interesting that they have discussed them over several meetings.

The Six Units are:

- 1. Experiencing Faith**
- 2. Understanding the Old Testament**
- 3. Understanding the New Testament**
- 4. The Story of the Church**
- 5. This We Believe**
- 6. Serving Christ Today**

Home Preparation

Students read the session at home and do some preliminary thinking about the subject.

Group Meeting

The group meets to follow a process which involves sharing experiences, discussing faith and learning together. Ideas for further reading are suggested.

Audit

You can take the course by audit which means that you do not do any assignments. If you complete the course you will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Bishop.

Assessment

There are several assessment options: academic essay, informal essays, group activities, creative work. The assessment is not marked, but it is sent to the Ministry Development Officer or an outside facilitator for comment. Those who complete the six assignments will be awarded the Trinity Certificate in Theology and Ministry. If students would like to study further they can do three more units for an Advanced Certificate or transfer to the Diploma in Ministry course online with Trinity College

Fees

Each unit costs \$40:00 plus postage. The Diocese subsidizes each unit by \$10:00.

Support

The Ministry Development Officer or Archdeacon Prue O'Donovan would be happy to come to you to explain the program and to get you started. Ongoing support is just a phone call away

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Contact

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Archdeacon Prue O'Donovan
Chair, Education Committee
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or
Ministry Development Officer
(currently vacant)