

**MARGARET BEAUFORT
INSTITUTE OF
THEOLOGY**

**COURSES AND
EVENTS
2021/2022**

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COVID-19 Information

All our courses can be accessed online. The safety of our students is paramount. We will follow guidelines issued by the University of Cambridge in accordance with government guidance. Should it become possible to allow some courses to run in a dual mode (face-to-face with distance learning access) we will publish this information on our website. We remain committed to providing access to distance learning throughout the entire academic year.



WHO WE ARE

The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology is a Catholic academic community where students from diverse backgrounds are warmly welcomed to study, pray, and grow in friendship together. We are enriched by our membership of the Cambridge Theological Federation; by our outreach to local parishes, schools, prisons, and diocese, and by our links to scholars and academic communities in Britain and abroad. Our students, primarily women, are nurtured and enabled by excellent teaching and research to develop and share their gifts with the Church and the wider world and to become prophetic agents of change.

We offer courses, study days, workshops, seminars and conferences that promote the study of theology, ethics, philosophy, pastoral practice, spirituality and theological reflection in dynamic ways that seek to meet and address twenty-first century global needs.

We hope that our 2021/22 programme will whet your appetite for studying with us – both in terms of your personal interests and your professional, pastoral or voluntary service needs. All our courses will have online facility – providing access to students from all over the world. We very much look forward to welcoming you to the Margaret Beaufort Institute, online, and in the future, in person.

Anna Abram and Sue Price
Co-Principals

The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology Academic Team:

Dr Anna Abram, Co-Principal, aa2008@cam.ac.uk.

Dr Sue Price, Co-Principal and Pastoral Outreach Coordinator, sep56@cam.ac.uk.

Dr Férdia Stone-Davis, Director of Research, fjs23@cam.ac.uk.

Dr Louise Nelstrop, Director of Studies, ln348@cam.ac.uk.

STUDYING WITH US

There is something for everyone.

Our courses range from short study days and entry level certificates, that require no prior knowledge, to undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees. We specialise in five key subject areas.

We offer students the opportunity to study in a small community environment in the heart of Cambridge.

As part of the Cambridge Theological Federation, students have access to world class libraries.

The Cambridge Theological Federation creates a unique ecumenical student body that engenders respect for different perspectives.

On many of our courses, students have an opportunity to study alongside students from a wide range of Christian denominations, as well as those from other faith traditions or none.



SHORT COURSES, STUDY DAYS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration for all short courses opens 1st September 2021. Once registration opens, courses can be booked up to 3 months in advance.

To book a place please visit our Eventbrite site once registration has opened:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-margaret-beaufort-institute-of-theology-33109216441>

For any general enquires please email:
info@mbit.cam.ac.uk

Registration is already open for the Certificate in Catholic Theology and Practice please download the form from our website: <https://www.mbit.cam.ac.uk> and email the completed form to apply@mbit.cam.ac.uk

All courses will take place online via zoom unless otherwise stated

- Our short courses run throughout the year.
- No prior knowledge is required.
- Early bird registration two months before start date (for courses starting in October and November Early Bird registration ends Monday 20th September).
- Unless otherwise indicated, all one day courses cost £50 (early bird £45), all half day courses cost £35 (early bird £30). Some course have been subsidised by the Diocese of East Anglia and cost £20 (early bird £15). Our Women in the Church series costs £10 per lecture.
- Discounts are available to Cambridge Theological Federation and Cambridge University students, religious orders and unwaged. Please contact info@mbit.cam.ac.uk prior to booking.
- For group bookings discounts please contact Sue Price: SEP56@cam.ac.uk
- *Courses may be subject to change.*



Biblical Studies

Study Day joining the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies Module: The New Testament

Join CCRS on a study day that will begin to open up the New Testament to those new to the topic, including its historical, geographical, cultural, political and religious background, the centrality of the Paschal Mystery, the formation of the New Testament, the different types of literature contained in the New Testament (e.g., gospel, letter, parable, miracle story) and the use of the New Testament in the Church today.

Course Leader: **Dr Dominic White OP**

Dates: **Saturday 9th October 2021, 10.00am–4.00pm**
(includes lunch and coffee breaks)

COST: £20 (EARLY BIRD £15)

Study Day: Prayer and Thanksgiving in St Paul's Epistle (1 Thessalonians and Ephesians)

The focus of this study day is the centrality of prayer and thanksgiving in the letters of St Paul. Paul's letters were read aloud in the context of worship, when his communities came together enabling Paul to be present with them, whilst absent. Consequently, the letters of St Paul provide some of our earliest glimpses into early Christian prayers and songs of praise to God, and the risen Lord. We will consider Paul's earliest letter (1 Thessalonians), one full to bursting with prayer and thanksgiving to God, and encouraging believers to "pray at all times" despite suffering affliction and bereavement. How is it possible to encourage believers to "rejoice" in such circumstances? As a second step we will consider together the magnificent "blessing" or berakah with which the letter to the Ephesians begins (Eph 1:3-14). We will spend time with this theologically rich prayer, a single sentence in the original Greek, and tease out some of its depths in the context of Jewish and early Christian prayer.

Course Leader: **Dr Sean Ryan**

Dates: **Saturday 7th May 2022, 10.30am-4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)



Spirituality/Theology/Art

Study Day: Prophetic Imagination: A conversation between Thomas Merton and Abraham Joshua Heschel

This study day will explore two of the most influential thinkers and faith leaders of the twentieth century. Merton, a Catholic priest/monk and Heschel, a Jewish rabbi embodied the prophetic imagination in their writing, in their relationships and in their lives. Through them, we will see how the issues of their time – race, technological advances, interfaith relations, failures in the exercise of ethical leadership and the search for authenticity in religious practice – are the self-same issues that challenge us in the twenty-first century. A dialogue of hearts, minds and souls with opportunity for active engagement and reflection.

Course Leaders: **Susanne Jennings & Dr Melanie-Prejean Sullivan**

Date: **Saturday 4th December 2021, 2.00-4.30pm**

COST: £35 (EARLY BIRD £30)



Study Day: Art in a Time of Crisis



In a time of many global crises – the pandemic, economic hardship, climate emergency, oppressive dictatorships – some may ask themselves the same question as Eliot. What good are the arts in times of crisis? Are they not merely re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic? In this interactive course we will look at several ways in which artists – from Picasso to Banksy – have responded to the crises in their lifetime. We will focus in particular on the art of Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei, especially his work Straight in response to the earthquake in Sichuan, in which over 5,300 school children were killed. We will reflect on what role the arts have played for us during the pandemic and finish with the question: How do the arts contribute to the common good and human flourishing and how do they provide us with a better understanding of what it means to be human?

Course leader: **Dr Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin**

Course date: **Wednesday 5th January, 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Study Day: Reading Sacred Images: An introduction to the World of Icons

The study day aims to help participants ‘befriend’ icons and explore them further. Icons are firmly rooted in Orthodox Christian worship and act as witnesses to the Incarnation. This course will explore these topics but also encourage students to appreciate how icons can be used in catechetical work, spiritual retreats, counselling, as well as collective and individual prayer. The course aims to help student better understand how icons can inspire our ‘spiritual imagination’ in surprisingly creative ways.

Course leader: **Dr Joseph Gabor**

Course date: **Saturday 5th March 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)



Mini-Series: Love and Desire: Mystical, Monastic, and Beguine Spirituality

Day 1: Study Day: Love and Desire in English Mysticism

A study day introducing students to way in which English Mystics deal with love and desire. It will focus mostly on medieval writers who are now household names, like Julian of Norwich and the Cloud-Author, but also bring in other writers who are less well-known in the English tradition. The day will focus particularly on imagination, poetry and the arts, bringing these writers and their thoughts on love and desire into conversation with the wider fields of art and poetry.

Course Leaders: **Dr Elizabeth Powell and Dr Louise Nelstrop**

Course date: **Tuesday 31st May 2022, 10.30am-4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)



Day 2: Study Day: Love and Desire from Bernard of Clairvaux to Hadewijch

A study day exploring the importance of love and desire and understood in key twelfth century monastic and beguine spirituality. The course will focus particularly on Bernard of Clairvaux's *Sermons on the Song of Songs*, Hadewijch's Visions and poems and Richard of St Victor's short treatise, *The Four Degrees of Vehement Love*. It will introduce students to the value placed on desire, even erotic desire, within medieval Christian thought and tease out what that is meant by these writers is the same as agapeic love.

Course Leaders: **Dr Eddie Howells and Dr Louise Nelstrop**

Course date: **Tuesday 7th June 2022, 10.30am-4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Day 3: Study Day: Love and Spirituality in the Cistercian Tradition

This study day will focus on spirituality in the Cistercian tradition. It will examine important spiritual and mystical motifs, including friendship, love and union, and think about how these have been developed. Key writers to be discussed include William of St. Thierry, whose writings influenced a number of female authors in the medieval period, including Beatrice of Nazareth. We will consider Beatrice's *Seven Manners of Love* and also explore Aelred of Riveaulx's claim that God is friendship.

Course Leaders: **Dr Eddie Howells and Dr Louise Nelstrop**

Course date: **Tuesday 14th June 2022, 10.30am-4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy / Liturgical Studies

Study Day: 'Unless you change and become like children': theology of childhood in theory and practice

While the Gospel keeps reminding us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must change and become like children, the Church seems to struggle to find a place for children, both in its physical spaces, and its conceptual frameworks. During this study day, we will discuss such theological approaches to childhood and pastoral practices which nourish children's spirituality and help us hear children's voices. We will also look at the ways in which a generationally diverse and inclusive community is a place of spiritual growth for both children and adults



Course leader: **Dr Ela Lazarewicz-Wyrzykowska and Dr Sue Price**

Date: **Thursday May 26th 2022, 9.30-1.30pm**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Mini Series: Death and Dying



Study Day 1: Moving into the Light – What Happens when we Die, what Happens when we Grieve

Short Course Description: Over the past year, the issues of dying, death and grieving have come to the fore. This study afternoon will gently explore these major issues in relation to our Catholic Tradition, using scripture, sacred texts, and the liturgy of the Church.

Course Leaders: **Dr Dominic White OP and Dr Sue Price**

Date: **Wednesday 10th November 2021, 1.30–4.30pm**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Day 2: Study Day: My God, my God, Why?: Exploring the Mystery of Suffering

There is surely nothing more difficult to talk about than suffering and yet surely no subject where it is more necessary that we speak responsibly. This course does not aim to provide an answer to “the problem of pain” – because that is impossible. Rather, it is hoped that it may provide some resources from the Christian tradition to help us to approach our own pain and that of others with confidence and compassion.

Course Leader: **Dr Ann Swailes OP**

Date: **Wednesday 26th January 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Day 4: Study Day: Living well, Ageing Well and Finishing Well: Concept and Practice in Spirituality

The course will explore the deeper meaning of living well, ageing well and finishing well through the experience, concepts and practices of spirituality. Life is a discovery, journey and adventure. We live only once and will bypass this wonderful experience if we are not careful and attentive. How do we live well, age well and finish well when busyness and life burden and suffocate us? The course will explore how spirituality can help us develop a better awareness that we have been ageing every day since we were born, of the rich experiences accumulated that we need to pause over, and the need to taste the gifts and grace of living and ageing, and how this can help us to find meaning, and to finish well in peace rather than fear, loneliness and regret. From a personal experience searching for the meaning of life from midlife struggles to ageing, I have developed a model of spiritual practice for transformation which has been applied and experienced by a group of life seekers and executives in a leading biotechnology company. I will unpack some of my findings and outline the model.

Course Leader: **Dr Christine Lai**

Date: **Wednesday 25th May 2022, 9.00am–1.00pm (includes coffee breaks)**

COST: £35 (EARLY BIRD £30)

Day 3: Study Day: Living, Ageing, Dying: Exploring the Life Course in Dialogue with Gregory of Nyssa's Life of Macrina

This study day will take as its guide the fourth century Cappadocian abbess, Saint Macrina, as she is mediated to us through the writing of Gregory of Nyssa. We will consider especially the interrelation of her living and dying, asking how her living prepares for a distinctive kind of dying, and examine how the particular practices of her life frames the meaning of her death. Her example will help us critically engage with a number of troubling presumptions about ageing and dying in our own era.

Course Leader: **Dr Jessica Scott**

Date: **Wednesday March 16th 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)



Autumn Retreat: A Retreat Day meditating with Icons

Course Leader: **Dr Joseph Gabor**

Date: **Saturday 6th November 2021, 10.00am–4.00pm**
(includes lunch and coffee breaks)

COST: £35 (EARLY BIRD £30)



Historical/Systematic Theology

Study Day: Mary and the Drama of Being

By some lights, the Incarnation of Christ was the central event of history, and the Virgin Mary was not only its preeminent witness but also its main human protagonist.

This short course will examine the Marian dimension of the drama of the Incarnation, for what it may reveal about Mary herself, as well as for humanity in general, in terms of the experience and apprehension of 'truth' in being. It is likely to touch upon a range of relevant issues, including the role of desire in the unfolding of Mary's vocation, the response of love as a fulfilment of divine gratuitousness, and the mediation of matter, from Mary's virginal body to the human body in general. Participants will be invited to consider a range of theological opinions, with particular emphasis upon some works from the Middle Ages.

Course Leader: **Dr Matthew Mills**

Date: **Saturday 21st May 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm** (includes lunch and coffee breaks)

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Study Day: Join the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies Module –The Sacraments

The day will focus on understanding and appreciating the Sacraments in the life of Catholics as a sign of Christ's continuing presence with the Church. You will study the use of signs and symbols in daily life, consider the Church as the sacrament of Christ's presence, receive an overview of the seven sacraments, the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Healing and Service, of Communion and the Mission of the Faithful and consider the sacraments as part of the universal call to holiness and vocation.

Course Leader: **Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ**

Date: **Saturday 20th November 2021, 10am–4.00pm** (includes lunch and coffee breaks)

COST: £20 (EARLY BIRD £15)

Mini-Series on Synodality

The aim of these three talks will be to illustrate, within the theological/ecclesiological background of Vatican II, the significance and potential of the topic chosen for the next synod – for a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission. The talks will take account of Pope Francis' recent decision that a synodal process of three phases – diocesan, continental, and universal – should begin in October 2021 and culminate in the synod of bishops in October 2023.

Course Leader: **Dr Peter Coughlan**

Dates: **6th, 13th and 20th October 2021 , 4.00–6.00pm**

Session One will focus on:

- Synods in Christianity today: synod in first and second millenniums: a rapid contrast.
- The challenges faced by the nineteenth century Catholic Church: impact on Vatican I.
- 'Roman' centralisation, in tension with currents of change up, and into Vatican II.
- Vatican II: major theological/ecclesiological developments: conciliarity.
- Paul VI: establishes the synod of bishops – why? how? papacy in transition.

Session Two will focus on:

- Experiences of the early synods: positives and negatives.
- The 1985 synod called to celebrate 20 years after Vatican II: strengths/weaknesses.
- Underlying theological tensions; synods partly 'on hold', a degree of stagnation.
- Pope Francis: 'collegiality' within 'synodality' central to reform/evangelising agenda.
- Synod/s on family, 2014/2015: Church understood as the holy, faithful people of God.

Session Three will consider Pope Francis' synod vision:

- 50th anniversary of synod of bishops, 17 October 2015
- 'Path of synodality which God expects of the Church in the third millennium'
- Sensus fidei of the baptized; sacramental ministry in service to communion/mission
- Parrhesia, mutual listening, discernment – three phases plan, 2021 to 2023
- What for the future? Developing synodality: witness/dialogue/proclamation in world.

**COST: £50 FOR ALL THREE SESSIONS
(EARLY BIRD £45)**



Philosophy/Ethics

MBIT is pleased to offer a suite of study days, mini-series and seminar series as part of the inauguration of our Centre for Ecclesial Ethics.



Study Day: Ecclesial Ethics

This study day will reflect on some historical shifts and developments in moral thinking and teaching of the Catholic Church. In response to Pope Francis' invitation to become a more discerning and participatory Church, we will attempt to formulate a tentative agenda for contemporary ecclesial ethics. We will explore such questions as 'what does it mean to "get hands dirty" and "look" into the dysfunctional parts of our Church's life?'; 'what are the areas of good practice?'; 'how to handle well tensions and disagreements?'; 'what does it mean to apply Catholic social teaching to the structures of the Church?'; 'how do we ensure that this teaching applied to any and all aspects of ecclesial conduct from "boardroom" strategies (the Vatican, Bishops Conferences, Dioceses, Deaneries, Parishes, etc.) to processes and practices at all levels (appointments of bishops, parish priests, catechists, leaders, etc.)?'; 'how can all members of the Church feel more empowered to make decisions and contribute to the better functioning of the Church?' The day will be a mixture of short interactive lectures and small group workshops.

Course Leaders: **Dr Liam Hayes and Dr Anna Abram**
 Date: **Saturday 27th November 2021, 9.30am-4.00pm**
(includes lunch and coffee breaks)

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

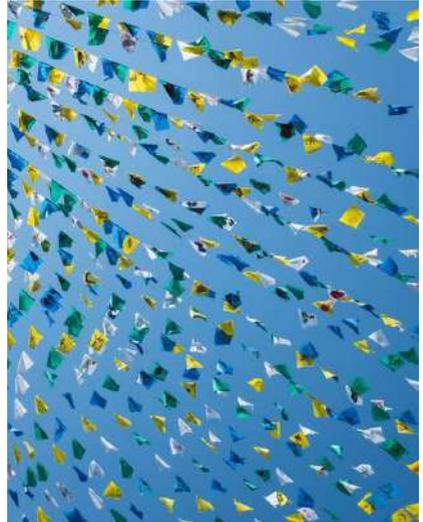
Study Day: 'Bold Speech in Theology and Beyond'

Where does Abraham get the right to bargain with God at Sodom? On what basis does Paul dare to 'speak boldly for the Lord' (Acts 14:3)? And why does Pope Francis encourage bishops to air their disagreements in public? The answers to these questions have to do with '*parrhesia*'- the ancient right to 'say anything'. This short course will consider *parrhesia* in its various historical iterations and will seek to distinguish Christian *parrhesia* as a particular form of 'bold speech'. We will also consider the possibilities for a contemporary 'theology of protest' built upon the notion *parrhesia* and ask what such a theology has to contribute to the Church and to the world today.

Course Leader: **Dr Travis LeCouter, 1.00–5.00pm**

Dates: **Thursday 9th June 2022**

COST: £35 (EARLY BIRD £30)



Seminar Series: Women Who Changed the Church (also part of our CTP programme)

From the women of scripture, to Catholic Women Speak, women have consistently changed church practice, communities and ideas. This eight-lecture series will explore inspirational women whose lives and actions have been transformational within the Church.

The series is open to women and men, but by focusing on women in the historical and contemporary church is designed to open discussion spaces to celebrate, uncover, and critique the contributions of women to and through the Church's history.

Speakers include: **Prof Shannen Dee Williams (Mary Ward Lecture), Prof Jeana DelRosso, Dr Sue Price, Dr Phyllis Zagano, Dr Carmen M. Mangion, Prof Charlotte Methuen, Sr Pavlína Kašparová, Sr Jo Robson**

Dates: **Thursdays 20th January–10th March 2022, 2.00–3.30pm.**

The lectures will online via zoom. If conditions permit for any lectures to be given in person at MBIT, they will also be livestreamed (see website for more details)

COST: £10 PER LECTURE

Margaret Beaufort Association Study Day on Ethical Leadership and Management for Catholic Women within Ecclesial and Secular Settings

This interactive day features presentations from seminal lay and religious speakers in the field, including Anna Abram (Margaret Beaufort Institute), Charles Wookey (Blueprint for Business), Laurentia Johns OSB (Stanbrook Abbey), Adrian Porter SJ (London Jesuit Centre), Gemma Simmonds CJ (Religious Life Institute) & Catherine Arnold OBE (St Edmund's College, Cambridge). Topics covered include sessions on Catholic social teaching and thought; Benedictine and Ignatian spiritualities of moral and ethical leadership; and ways in which the Church's teaching on the dignity of the individual can and must be met 'on the ground' both within an ecclesial and secular setting. This will be a mutually thoughtful and dynamic study day with opportunity to engage, question and explore a topic of huge impact and importance upon individual lives within and without the Church.

Course Leader: **Susanne Jennings**

Date: **Saturday 23rd October 2021, 10am-4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

This is alumni event but is open to non-alumni. All enquiries to: info@mbit.cam.ac.uk

COST: £20



Study Day: Join the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies Module—Christian Morality

Join CCRS Students on a study day that will consider what it means to be a moral person, and moral decision-making as a universal human activity, discuss the basic principles of Christian morality and the formation of Christian conscience, review the role of the Catholic Church as moral teacher and guide, and examine contemporary moral issues: e.g., environmental, medical, sexual, social.

Course Leader: **Dr Anna Abram**

Dates: **Saturday 22nd January 2022, 10am-4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £20 (EARLY BIRD £15)

Study Day: 'Male and Female he Created them' – a Perspective on Transgender in the Catholic Church

This interactive workshop will give participants the opportunity to explore a range of issues concerning transgender and develop an understanding of how transgender people's bodies, lives and identities cause controversy within families and raises many ethical and foundational concerns for the church. The aim of this exploration by participants is to arrive at a position where these issues might be held in tension with discerning the pastoral care of all those intimately involved.

Course Leader: **Dr Clare Jenkins**

Dates: **Saturday 19th February 2022, 10.30-4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £50 (EARLY BIRD £45)

Study Day: Join the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies Module—Catholic Social Teaching

Join CCRS students for this study day that will introduce students to what has been called the best kept secret in the Catholic Church – that of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Students will consider the historical origins and documents of CST and discuss and explore the implications of CST for the Catholic Church today.

Course Leader: **Dr Frances Image**

Dates: **Saturday 19th March 2022, 10.00–4.00pm (includes lunch and coffee breaks)**

COST: £20 (EARLY BIRD £15)



'Flourishing Inside' Training Events for Prison Chaplains

As part of the Plater Trust grant-awarded project, 'Flourishing Inside'—which is developing theological and ethical resources for pastoral work in prisons—we will be offering training for prison chaplains in 2021/22. Further details will be published on our website and social media. To register your interest, email: info@mbit.cam.ac.uk

Attending MA Modules

Suitably qualified students can also be admitted as affiliate students (for credit) or as paying guests (for interest only)

Price per module:
Current ARU MA Students: free
Affiliate Students (for credit): £800
Paying Guests: £230

The following modules are scheduled to run in the academic year 2021-2022:

Christian Spirituality in Context
Wesleyan Theology and Spirituality
Spiritual Direction in the Ignatian Tradition
Orthodox Spirituality: Life in Liturgy
Interfaith Relations from Theory to Encounter
Moral Development, Reasoning and Decision-Making
Christianity and Ecology
Ethics in Professional Context
Secularisation in the Christian World
Mystery of Love
Theology and Practice of Mission
Philosophical Theology
Themes in Pastoral Theology
Models of Chaplaincy

For more details about these modules please see our website and/or our Higher Education Course brochure.

If you are interested in attending any of these modules as an affiliate student or guest, please contact: info@mbit.cam.ac.uk



CERTIFICATES



DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC STUDIES

We plan to run the full course online over three afternoons:
8th June 2022,
15th June 2022,
22nd June 2022
3.00-6.00pm

COST: £120 (FULL COURSE)
£60 FOR ACCREDITATION

It is also possible to run the course in schools as in-service training, or in a parish.

To make informal enquires, or to apply get in touch with Sue
Price: sep56@cam.ac.uk.

The Diocesan Certificate of Catholic Studies offers an informal opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith. The course was commissioned by Bishop Alan Hopes and the Margaret Beaufort Institute runs it on behalf of the Diocese of East Anglia.

It is an entry level theology course. We explore topics such as the overall structure of the Bible, how the Bible is used within the liturgy and who the person of Christ might be for us as individuals and as a group, as well as the Church, the sacraments and moral theology.

"I've enjoyed the structure and depth of the course. The content has been relevant and has sharpened my ideas regarding things I already felt I understood. (Very thought provoking)."

Student 2020

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies is a blended-learning course that introduces students to the basics of the Catholic faith. It runs through a series of intensive study days combined with online classroom teaching. It is a little more demanding than the Diocesan Certificate of Catholic Studies.

Further enquiries to Sue Price:
sep56@cam.ac.uk.

COST: £60 PER MODULE FOR ACCREDITATION (INCLUDES 1500-WORD ASSIGNMENT)
£45 FOR ATTENDANCE ONLY FOR COMPLETE MODULE
£20 FOR ATTENDANCE AT FULL STUDY DAY ONLY

MODULES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

The New Testament

This module explores the variety of literature used in the Bible. It will consider how we came to have the Bible in the current format and will explore the interconnection between the Old and the New Testaments. The course will:

- Introduce the historical, geographical, cultural, political and religious background to the New Testament
- Consider the centrality of the Paschal Mystery
- Consider the formation of the New Testament
- Review the different types of literature contained in the New Testament (e.g. gospel, letter, parable, miracle story)
- Discuss the use of the New Testament in the Church today.

Course Leader: **Dr Dominic White OP**
 Dates: **Saturday 9th October (study day 10.00 – 4.00pm) plus 11th and 18th Oct 2021, 4.00–6.00pm**

The Sacraments

This module focuses on understanding and appreciating Sacraments in the life of Catholics as a sign of Christ's continuing presence within the Church. The course will:

- Study of the use of signs and symbols in daily life.
- Consider the Church as the sacrament of Christ's presence.
- Provide an overview of the seven sacraments; the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Healing and Service, of Communion and the Mission of the Faithful.
- Consider the sacraments as part of the universal call to holiness and vocation.

Course Leader: **Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ**
 Dates: **Saturday 20th November (study day 10.00am–4.00pm) plus 22nd and 29th Nov 2021, 4.00–6.00 pm**

Christian Morality

This module introduces students to Christian moral theology. The course will:

- Consider what it means to be a moral person.
- Consider moral decision-making as a universal human activity
- Discuss the basic principles of Christian morality
- Review the role of the Catholic Church as moral teacher and guide
- Discuss the formation of Christian conscience

Course Leader: **Dr Anna Abram**

Dates: **Saturday 22nd January 2022 (study day 10.00am–4.00pm) plus 24th and 31st January 2022, 4.00–6.00pm**

Specialist Module: Catholic Social Teaching

The course will:

Introduce students to what has been called the best kept secret in the Catholic Church

- Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
- Consider the historical origins and documents of CST
- Discuss and explore the implications of CST for the Catholic Church today.

Course Leader: **Dr Francis Image**

Dates: **19th March 2022 (study day 10.00 – 4.00pm) plus 21st and 28th March 2022 4.00–6.00pm**



MARGARET BEAUFORT CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGY

Catholic Teaching and Practice for women

This course comprises a minimum of 60 hrs study. It aims to be an introduction to Catholic Teaching and Practice. The certificate and three of this year's modules are only open to women.

COST: £180 PER MODULE.

Commitment to attending five modules will entitle the student to one free module (i.e., attend five, pay for four). Bursaries are available.



Enquires please email:
info@mbit.cam.ac.uk **To apply**
[email apply@mbit.cam.ac.uk](mailto:apply@mbit.cam.ac.uk)
 Places will be confirmed once application and fees have been processed.

This course operates primary through women-only learning spaces. Three modules are reserved only for women.* All run on a Thursday afternoon, with the exception of the final course which runs over three full Tuesdays and one half-day Tuesday. Modules on Thursday are followed by an online optional liturgy.

**Men may attend the seminar series - Women Who Changed the Church - and the mini-series study days - Love and Desire: Mystical, Monastic and Beguine Spirituality - but may not take the certificate study sessions that accompany these.*

Women are welcome to attend the course following an initial online application and interview. They are able to attend a single module, or may choose to follow the Margaret Beaufort Certificate of Theology route.

The Certificate will be awarded to students who complete five modules over a one- or two-year period. They will be expected to cover three of the five study areas (listed below). Attendance at five modules will lead to a Certificate of Attendance. Accreditation can be awarded if two essays or presentations are submitted.

The five subject areas are:

Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy/Liturgical Studies

Biblical Studies

Philosophy/Ethics

Spirituality/Theology/Arts

Church History/Systematic Theology

Modules for academic year 2021/22

Module 1 (online)

Jesus through the Centuries

This course will explore how the person of Jesus has been understood across history. It will explore treatments of Jesus from the Early Church to the modern day, including representations of Jesus in film and the arts.

Course leader: **Dr. Louise Nelstrop**

Dates: **Thursday afternoons, 7th–28th October 2021, 2.00–5.30pm.**



Module 2 (online)

The Nameless Women of the Bible: From Potiphar's Wife to the Samaritan Woman

One calculation of named individuals in the Bible records 2,900 men and only 170 women. But what of the hundreds of nameless women who flit across the pages of the Old and New Testaments? This course will explore the plight and personalities of some of those women, from the well-known (Samaritan woman) to the relatively unknown (Wise Woman of Tekoa). While doing so it will cast light on the faith stories and socio-economic circumstances of a great variety of women and deepen your knowledge of books as diverse as Deuteronomy and 1 Timothy. You will also be introduced to parallel versions of certain stories from the synoptic gospels, and to a wide range of biblical genres, from narrative and law to parable and epistle. The primary focus will be on the biblical texts which recount their fates, but their stories will also be discussed with reference to art, literature, and informative commentary. By the end of the course you will still not know the names of these women, but you will know them.

Course leader: **Dr Rosalie Moloney**

Dates: **Thursdays 4th–25th November 2021, 2.00–5.30pm**



Our Zoom discussions, based around the readings, the lectures and questions for reflection, were lively and stimulating. Student 2020



Module 3: Sacramental Theology

This module focuses on understanding and appreciating Sacraments in the life of Catholics as a sign of Christ's continuing presence with the Church. It will offer an in-depth consideration of the use of signs and symbols in daily life, the Church as the sacrament of Christ's presence, the seven sacraments; the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Healing and Service of Communion and the Mission of the Faithful and the role that the sacraments play as part of the universal call to holiness and vocation. (N.B. this course is a more advanced study than the CCRS course on the same topic).

Course leader: **Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ**

Dates: **Thursdays 28th April– 19th May 2022, 2.00– 5.30pm.**

Module 4: Women Who Changed the Church

From the women of scripture, to Catholic Women Speak, women have consistently changed church practice, communities and ideas. This eight-lecture series, including this year's Mary Ward lecture, will explore inspirational women whose lives and actions have been transformational within the Church. By focusing on women in the historical and contemporary church the course is designed to open discussion spaces to celebrate, uncover, and critique the contributions of women to and through the Church's history.

Speakers include: Prof Shannen Dee Williams (Mary Ward Lecture), Prof Jeana Del Rosso, Dr Sue Price, Dr Phyllis Zagano, Prof Charlotte Methuen, Pavlína Kašparová, and Dr Carmen M. Mangion.



*The lectures are open to women and men, but only women may attend the supplementary study sessions.

Course Leaders: **Dr Louise Nelstrop and Dr Férdia Stone Davis**

Dates: **Thursdays 20th January–10th March 2022, 2.00–3.30pm (for the lectures)**

Those taking the course will have supplementary reading in their course booklet and three workshops from 4.00–5.30pm in weeks 3, 5 and 7 in which we discuss key readings associated with the lectures.

Module 5: Module 5: Love and Desire: Mystical, Monastic and Beguine Spirituality (online)

**The classes will be spread over 3 full Tuesdays rather than 4 Thursday afternoons.

Course Leader: **Dr Louise Nelstrop**

Course Dates: **Tuesdays 31st May, 7th and 14th June 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm plus a half-day workshop on Tuesday 21st June 2022, 2.00–4.00pm.**

*The study days are open to men and women as part of our short course series. However, only female students taking the CTP will have the opportunity to attend a reading group that will explore three short key texts relating to each the topics courses over the three study days.

Day 1: Study Day: Love and Desire in English Mysticism

The first day will introduce students to the way in which English Mystics deal with love and desire. It will focus mostly on medieval writers who are now household names, like Julian of Norwich and the Cloud-Author, but also bring in other writers who are less well-known in the English tradition. The day will focus particularly on imagination, poetry and the arts, bringing these writers and their thoughts on love and desire into conversation with the wider fields of art and poetry.

Course Leaders: **Dr Elizabeth Powell and Dr Louise Nelstrop**

Date: **Tuesday 31st May 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm (including lunch and coffee breaks)**



Day 2: Study Day: Love and Desire from Bernard of Clairvaux to Hadewijch

The second day will explore the importance of love and desire and understood in key twelfth century monastic and beguine spirituality. The course will focus particularly on Bernard of Clairvaux's *Sermons on the Song of Songs*, Hadewijch's Visions and poems and Richard of St Victor's short treatise, *The Four Degrees of Vehement Love*. It will introduce students to the value placed on desire, even erotic desire, within medieval Christian thought and tease out what is meant by these writers is the same as agapeic love.

Course Leaders: **Dr Edward Howells and Dr Louise Nelstrop**

Date: **Tuesday 7th June 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm (including lunch and coffee breaks)**

Day 3: Study Day: Love and Spirituality in the Cistercian Tradition

The final day will focus on spirituality in the Cistercian tradition. It will examine important spiritual and mystical motifs, including friendship, love and union, and think about how these have been developed. Key writers to be discussed include William of St. Thierry, whose writings influenced a number of female authors in the medieval period, including Beatrice of Nazareth. We will consider Beatrice's *Seven Manners of Love* and also explore Aelred of Riveaulx's claim that God is friendship.

Course Leaders: **Dr Edward Howells and Dr Louise Nelstrop**

Date: **Tuesday 14th June 2022, 10.30am–4.00pm (including lunch and coffee breaks)**

Day 4 Half-day workshop: Texts on Love – Ancient Thoughts, Contemporary Relevance

This workshop will be a chance for students to reflect on the materials covered in the course. We will examine key texts, discuss their attitude to love and whether these ancient understands of love have something to teach use today and watch an award-winning short film, co-directed by Louise Nelstrop, about contemporary artists engaging with this material.



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