Syllabus for the Formation of Lay Liturgical Ministers

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**Rationale**

a. To provide a common core of formation for those called to exercise lay liturgical ministry
b. To promote the dignity of these ministries
c. To assist priests in the worthy celebration of the liturgy by the local community

**Overall outcomes**

a. To assist commissioned ministers to fulfil the potential of their ministries
b. The provision of a level of ministerial formation in parishes which will assist communities respond to new needs for differing forms of Church organisation (e.g. clusterings, parishes without resident parish priest.)

**Programme Aims**

1. To assist Dioceses establish internal structures which will enable resourcing of programmes for initial and continuing formation of lay liturgical ministers.
2. To develop a process of formation for lay liturgical ministry that combines theological, liturgical and pastoral perspectives.
3. To foster a learning environment that engages participants in a balance between academic study and reflection on their own practice.
4. To help students to recognise their own formation needs and to help them develop as autonomous learners.

**Modules**

A. Introduction  
B. Liturgy  
C. Ministry  
D. Particular Ministry  
E. Spirituality
Introduction

This Syllabus is designed to support dioceses in their work of liturgical formation. It is intended to provide both initial training for lay liturgical ministers in the introductory and encourage ministers to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the liturgy and their role.

The idea that formation for lay ministry is done by different groups of ministers together is not only practical and suggests that they should be offered a common level of formation but it is also a reminder of the collaborative nature of the liturgy itself.

Though the total number of learning hours comes to 75 it is intended that the Introductory module of 15 hours should provide enough formation for a person to begin to minister in the parish liturgy. It is even recognised that for some ministers that amount of formation is enough but it is hoped that others will go on to the further modules. Module A not only provides this initial formation but also offers an introduction to the further four modules. It is suggested that modules B & C on the liturgy and on ministry will provide a necessary foundation to modules D & E.

What is offered in this document is the core of the Syllabus: a summary of the content and an indication of session plans. Further work is being done to provide a range resources to assist both leaders and participants bring the Syllabus to life. The possibility of formal accreditation is also being explored.

This Syllabus is a project of the Formation Subcommittee of the Department for Christian Life and Worship of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. The Subcommittee acknowledges the assistance of the network of diocesan liturgy contacts in commenting on the Syllabus and in particular the dioceses of Arundel & Brighton, Hexham and Newcastle and Shrewsbury for running the pilot Modules.

The Department for Christian Life and Worship approved Syllabus in September 2009.

Anyone interested in using the Syllabus should contact the Liturgy Office.
Module A: Introduction

Guided Learning Hours: 15
Of which:
- Taught = 9
  (1 day at 4.5 hours; 3 evenings at 1.5 hours/2 days/6 evenings)
- Guided = 6 hours

NFQ Level 2

Summary of Learning Outcomes
To achieve this unit a learner must:
1. Explore the nature of liturgy
2. Investigate the responsibilities of a liturgical minister
3. Develop basic skills applicable to a specific liturgical ministry
4. Explore relationship between liturgy and life.

Content

Nature of Liturgy:
- Nature of Liturgy:
  - Sacramental: ritual, signs and symbols
  - Christic and Ecclesial dimensions
- Patterns of Liturgy:
  - Gathering; Word; Action; Mission
  - Time: Day; Week; Year

Responsibilities of a Liturgical Minister
- Relationships:
  - Church - diocese, parish
  - Ministerial Team - Bishop; Priest; other ministers
- Responsibilities:
  - Authenticity
  - Participation
  - Preparation

Specific Liturgical Ministry
- Preparation:
  - Basic Skills:

Liturgy and Life
- The Gospel:
  - Faith as believed, celebrated and lived
Grading Criteria
To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
• Identify and describe some of the characteristics of liturgy
• Identify and describe the responsibilities of a liturgical minister
• Identify and describe a process of preparation for liturgical ministry
• Describe some of the ways a parish links liturgy and life

To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
• Identify and describe the typical structure of Catholic liturgy
• Explain the implications of liturgical ministry for collaboration
• Demonstrate skills applicable to specific liturgical ministry
• Explain what is meant by ‘source and summit’

To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
• Analyse elements with a part of the structure.
• Analyse the implications of liturgical ministry for participation.
• Evaluate effect on participation of liturgical skills
• Analyse implications of the relationship between liturgy and life for liturgical ministers

Ministries
• Reader
• Commissioned Ministers of Holy Communion
• Musician
• Server
• Liturgy of the Word with Children
• Leader of Prayer
## Session Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Session Aim</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 What is Liturgical Worship?</td>
<td>To help students to recognize the key characteristics of communal worship.</td>
<td>• <em>Nature of Liturgy:</em>&lt;br&gt;  o Christic and Ecclesial dimensions  &lt;br&gt;  o Presences  &lt;br&gt;  • Patterns of Liturgy — Gather, Word, Action, Mission  &lt;br&gt;  • Shape of Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 What is Liturgical Ministry?</td>
<td>To help students locate liturgical ministry within the worshipping assembly</td>
<td>• <em>Nature of Liturgical Ministry</em>  &lt;br&gt;  • <em>Baptism &amp; Confirmation as foundation</em>  &lt;br&gt;  • <em>Relationships:</em>&lt;br&gt;  o Church - diocese, parish  &lt;br&gt;  o Ministerial Team - Bishop; Priest; other ministers  &lt;br&gt;  • Question of “worthiness”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Praying the liturgy</td>
<td>To help students to reflect on the connections between liturgy and life.</td>
<td>• <em>Preparation (before)</em>&lt;br&gt;  o Lectio Divina  &lt;br&gt;  • <em>Responsibilities: (during)</em>&lt;br&gt;  o Authenticity  &lt;br&gt;  o Participation  &lt;br&gt;  • Response (after)&lt;br&gt;  o Individual/Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Particular Ministry in the Liturgical Assembly</td>
<td>To help students recognize and develop the basics skills of their particular ministry (LO1 &amp; 3)</td>
<td>Particular to ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Particular Ministry in the life of the local Church</td>
<td>To help students recognize and develop the basics skills of their particular ministry (LO2 &amp; 3)</td>
<td>Particular to ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Ministry &amp; Spirituality</td>
<td>To help students to recognize that authentic ministry is rooted in prayer and is exercised in a particular place (LO3 &amp; 4)</td>
<td>Particular to ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Common Basic skills &amp; Vocabulary</td>
<td>Readers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4: Liturgy 2</td>
<td>* Liturgical forms &amp; structures in which ministry is exercised (emphasis on Eucharist) * Introduction to Liturgical Books &amp; Ordo (proper to Ministry)</td>
<td>* Communication Skills: proclamation (pitch, pace, volume, breathing), choreography, appropriately conveying meaning * Genre: Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>5: Ministry 2</td>
<td>* Church Documents relating to Ministry * Requirements of Local Church (documentation &amp; CRB) * Pace and dynamic</td>
<td>* Applying communication skills to particular readings. * Preparation skills: praying, understanding, communicating the meaning of the text * Genre: Prophecy &amp; Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>6: Spirituality 2</td>
<td>* Preparation for Ministry * Reflecting &amp; evaluating * Reflective discernment with regard to commitment to ministry and identification of personal ongoing needs/ learning</td>
<td>* Genre: Prayer &amp; Psalms * Local Geography — When to approach, amplification etc. * Questions</td>
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</table>

**A — Introduction**

**Session Plan — Particular ministry Session 4 -6**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Basic skills &amp; Vocabulary</th>
<th>Musician</th>
<th>Server</th>
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</table>
| **4: Liturgy 2**<br>*Particular Ministry in the Liturgical Assembly*<br>[Aim — To help students recognize and develop the basics skills of their particular ministry] | • Liturgical forms & structures in which ministry is exercised (emphasis on Eucharist)  
• Introduction to Liturgical Books & Ordo (proper to Ministry) | • Working with a piece of music:  
• Start & stopping; Tempo, pulse, time signatures; matching musical performance appropriately to liturgical setting/occasion/action | • Description of the different vestments: priest/deacon/server  
• Posture in general  
• How to walk, around the sanctuary and in procession  
• Carrying objects  
• Genuflecting and bowing Posture & Processing |
| **5: Ministry 2**<br>*Particular Ministry in the life of the local Church*<br>[Aim — To help students recognize and develop the basics skills of their particular ministry] | • Church Documents relating to Ministry  
• Requirements of Local Church (documentation & CRB)  
• Pace and dynamic | • Communication and Musical skills: teaching music to others (congregation + group)  
• Recognizing potential musical problems and responding to them  
• How to plan, and lead music practice | • Introduction to relevant sections of GIRM  
• Description of the different vessels  
• Setting up Mass |
| **6: Spirituality 2**<br>*Ministerial Spirituality*<br>[Aim -To help students to recognize that authentic ministry is rooted in prayer and is exercised in a particular place] | • Preparation for Ministry  
• Reflecting & evaluating  
• Reflective discernment with regard to commitment to ministry and identification of personal ongoing needs/learning | • Choosing music (understanding priorities & suitable to local Church — resources, assembly, space, priest etc.)  
• Questions | • Introduction to Liturgical Books: Missal, Lectionary, Book of the Gospels  
• Server as a person of prayer, not a factotum  
• Importance of being present to what other ministers are doing  
• Prayer through the texts of the Mass  
• Assisting the priest, holding Missal  
• Assisting at the Preparation of Gifts  
• Local Geography |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Common Basic skills &amp; Vocabulary</th>
<th>LOWC</th>
<th>Leaders of Prayer</th>
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</table>
| **4: Liturgy 2** | *Particular Ministry in the Liturgical Assembly*  
[Aim – To help students recognize and develop the basics skills of their particular ministry]  
Liturgical forms & structures in which ministry is exercised (emphasis on Eucharist)  
Introduction to Liturgical Books & Ordo (proper to Ministry) | *Proclaiming Word of God with Children:*  
*Scripture Resources; Proclamation Skills;*  
*Communication skills with children: respecting different stages of cognitive development* | *The relationship (theological & structural) between Eucharist and Celebrations in the absence of priest*  
*Leading prayer: posture, gesture, voice, movement, body language* |
| **5: Ministry 2** | *Particular Ministry in the life of the local Church*  
[Aim – To help students recognize and develop the basics skills of their particular ministry]  
*Church Documents relating to Ministry*  
*Requirements of Local Church (documentation & CRB)*  
*Pace and dynamic* | *Helping Children to reflect on Word of God:*  
*At basic level what are most appropriate types of activity*  
*Safe environment* | *Preparing & working with the liturgical text.*  
*Communication skills: use of voice, structure and proclamation of prayers – particularly the Collect* |
| **6: Spirituality 2** | *Ministerial Spirituality*  
[Aim – To help students to recognize that authentic ministry is rooted in prayer and is exercised in a particular place]  
*Preparation for Ministry*  
*Reflecting & evaluating*  
*Reflective discernment with regard to commitment to ministry and identification of personal ongoing needs/ learning* | *Praying with children:*  
*Local Geography: amplification*  
*Questions* | *Preparing & leading intercessory prayer.*  
*Local geography amplification*  
*Questions* |
Module B:   Understanding Liturgy

Guided Learning Hours:  15
Of which:  Taught = 9
           (1 day at 4.5 hours; 3 evenings at 1.5 hours/2 days/6 evenings)
           Guided = 6 hours

NFQ Level 2

Summary of Learning Outcomes
To achieve this unit a learner must:
1. Explore the **Church’s teaching on the presence and action of Christ** in Christian worship
2. Investigate the **role of the assembly** in Christian liturgy
3. Explore the **sources** of the Church’s liturgy for preparation and celebration

Content

**Presence and Action of Christ**

*The Paschal Mystery in the divine economy:* The Paschal Mystery in the Scriptures; The Paschal Mystery in the teaching of Vatican II; relationship to the life of the believer; the role of Sunday; the Liturgical year.

- **Presence of Christ in Assembly:** assembly, Word, Sacrament, Priest; Christ as primary agent in the Church’s liturgy
- **The Liturgy as Trinitarian Event:** Christ’s worship during his earthly ministry; the concept of the worship of heaven; the role of the Spirit in the Liturgy

**Role of the assembly**

- **Fundamental Christian (baptismal) vocation:** to live as Christ
- **Sacramental identity of the Assembly:** Concept of the Church as ‘Body of Christ in the New Testament’; concept of the Church as ‘body of Christ’ in the teaching of Vatican II (Lumen Gentium 7); application of the concept to the liturgical community
- **Full active conscious participation:** meaning; challenges and opportunities; ministry of and to the assembly

**Sources**

- **The Liturgical Books in general:** post Vatican II revision; primary liturgical source
- **The following specific liturgical books:** Missal, Lectionary, Rite of Christian Initiation of adults, Order of Baptism of Children, Order of Christian Funerals;
- **Structure of Ritual books:** Elements - Fixed and variable. Eg. Ordinary of Mass; Sunday Cycle; Sanctoral
Other (Secondary) Sources: Resource books and liturgical guides; the Ordo. Assembly Aids: eg. peoples’ missals; Mass leaflets; music books. Pastoral effectiveness, strengths, weaknesses.

Grading Criteria
To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:

- Identify and describe the modalities of Christ’s presence in the liturgy
- Explain what is meant by ‘full, active, conscious participation’ in the liturgy
- Identify and describe the various liturgical books used in the preparation and celebration of worship.

To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:

- Explain how liturgical action can express the different modalities of Christ’s presence
- Explain how the participation of the assembly can be fostered or hindered
- Explain the interplay of fixed and variable elements within the liturgical books.

To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:

- Analyse the effectiveness of local practice in expressing the modalities of Christ’s presence in the liturgical assembly.
- Evaluate the impact of recent developments in parish and ministerial structures upon the preparation and celebration of the worship of the liturgical assembly.
- Analyse the effectiveness of participants’ books in the celebration of the liturgy
# Session Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
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</table>
| 1 Liturgy as Action                               | To enable students to reflect on liturgical symbols                        | • Explain what a symbol is and does *(cf. compare with a literal metaphor)*  
• Identify symbols that have a particular meaning for people in the group and reflect on why they work as symbols  
• Identify the difference between a corporate and a personal symbol. Explain what makes a good corporate symbol.  
• Help students to explore the nature of liturgical symbols  
• Establish the link between symbol and symbolic action and place of music |
| 2 Liturgical Participation                       | To help students to understand the concept of ‘full active, conscious participation’ in the liturgy. (LO 2 & 3) | • Meaning of the concept  
• Practical challenges and opportunities  
• ‘Ite, missa est’: The relationship between the Liturgy and the mission of the Christian community |
| 3 The Liturgical Assembly and the Baptismal Priesthood | To help students to recognise that their liturgical vocation and ministry flows form their Baptism (LO 2) | • Concept of the Church as ‘Body of Christ’ (New Testament; Vatican II)  
• Baptism as incorporation into the Body of Christ  
• Concept of the baptismal priesthood of all believers  
• Relationship between the participation of the ordained and non-ordained in the priesthood of Christ  
• Liturgical Implications: the Christian Assembly  
• Broader implications - to live as Christ |
| 4   | The Paschal Mystery: the heart of the Liturgy | To help students to understand the Paschal mystery as the theological nucleus of the liturgy (LO 3) | • The Paschal Mystery in the divine economy  
• The paschal Mystery in the scriptures  
• The Paschal Mystery in Vatican II  
• The paschal Mystery in the life of the believer  
• The Paschal Mystery and Sunday - the Liturgical year |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5   | Christ: present and active in the liturgical assembly | To help students to recognise the various ways in which Christ is present and acts within the liturgy. (LO 2) | • Christ as the primary agent in the Church’s liturgy  
• Consideration of the various modalities of the presence of Christ, and their implications in terms of liturgical ministry and celebration:  
  o Assembly  
  o Word  
  o Sacrament  
  o Ordained ministry |
| 6   | Christian worship and the life of the Trinity | To help students to recognise that Christian worship is rooted in the life of the Trinity (LOs 1 & 2) | • Christ’s worship during his earthly ministry: incarnation, prayer, self-offering  
• The concept of the worship of heaven - in eschatological perspective  
• The role of the Spirit - in the divine economy and in worship |
Module C: Understanding Ministry

Guided Learning Hours: 15
Of which: Taught = 9
(1 day at 4.5 hours; 3 evenings at 1.5 hours)
Guided = 6 hours
NFQ Level 2

Summary of Learning Outcomes
To achieve this unit a learner must:
1. Explore the Church’s teaching on the ministry of Christ
2. Investigate the role of ministry in the Church today.
3. Explore the range of different liturgical ministries

Content
The Ministry of Christ
- *The Ministry of Christ in the Church Today*: Christ’s ministry between Ascension and Eschaton; The mission of the Church.
- *The Liturgical Ministry of Christ*: Christ as High Priest (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 7)

Ministry in the Church Today
- *The Role of the Holy Spirit*: The activity of the Spirit in the Church (*Lumen Gentium* 4); charismata and liturgical ministry
- *Kingdom of Priests*: Concept (*Lumen Gentium* 10); Relationship to the mission of Christ (priest, prophet, king); relationship to the mission of the Church in the world (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*; *Christifideles Laici*)
- *Ministerial Priesthood & the Ordained Ministry*: Historical Overview of Development; Role in the Church of each of the following - Bishop, Presbyter, Deacon. Relationship to the universal priesthood.

Liturgical Ministries
- *Relationship between Liturgical Ministry and Assembly*: Minister is member of the assembly; ministry at the service of the assembly.
- *Ordained Ministry in the Liturgy*: Bishop; Presbyter; Deacon - roles, obligations, qualities and responsibilities
- *Other (non-ordained) Ministry in the Liturgy*: Formally instituted (Acolyte and Lector); lay commissioned liturgical ministries (eg. Minister of Communion, Server, Reader, Musician; leader of LOWC) - for all, roles, obligations, qualities and responsibilities
C - Ministry

Grading Criteria
To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
- Identify and describe the ministry of Christ as described in the New Testament
- Identify and describe the mission of the Church in the world
- Identify and describe the different ministries involved in the celebration of the liturgy in the student’s own setting

To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
- Explain the ministry of Christ in the Church today
- Explain the development of historical development of ordained ministries
- Explain the ministry of the liturgical assembly

To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
- Analyse the manner in which current liturgical texts refer to the liturgical ministry of Christ in the Church today.
- Evaluate the relationship between the priesthood of all believers and the ministry of the ordained as expressed in the student’s own setting
- Evaluate the core qualities required in liturgical ministers.
## Session Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Session Aim</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Ministry in the New Testament</strong></td>
<td>To help students to understand the Church’s teaching on the ministry of Christ (LO 1)</td>
<td>• The image of the Servant of God in the Old Testament</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Jesus’ self understanding in Luke 3</td>
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<td>• Christ’s Public ministry</td>
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<td>• the Washing of Feet in John’s Gospel</td>
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<td>• <em>The ministry of the First followers of Christ - in the Gospels; in the Pauline letters</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Ministry in the church today</strong></td>
<td>To help students to understand ministry as the necessary action of the Body of Christ (LO 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td>• The Liturgical Ministry of Christ: <em>Christ as High Priest</em> (Sacrosanctum Concilium 7)</td>
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<td>• Concept of the Church as Body of Christ - implications for ministry.</td>
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<td>• The Role of the Holy Spirit: <em>The activity of the Spirit in the Church</em> (Lumen Gentium 4); <em>charismata and liturgical ministry</em></td>
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<td>• Kingdom of Priests: Concept (Lumen Gentium 10); <em>Relationship to the mission of Christ (priest, prophet, king)</em></td>
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<td>• The Ministerial dimensions of gathering, intercession, and dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3 The Ministry of the Liturgical assembly</strong></td>
<td>To help students to understand the circular relationship between their ministries within the Liturgical Assembly and in the broader world. (LO 2)</td>
<td>• The notion of the Liturgical Assembly - its relationship to theology of the church as Body of Christ (1 Cor)</td>
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<td>• relationship to the mission of the Church in the world (Evangelii Nuntiandi; Christifideles Laici)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• The Ministerial dimensions of gathering, intercession, and dismissal</td>
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|   | Liturgical Ministry | To help students understand the nature and role of the ordained ministry, and to appreciate the its significance for their own ministry (Los 2 & 3) | • Historical Overview of Development;  
  • Role in the Church of each of the following - Bishop, Presbyter, Deacon.  
  • Relationship to the universal priesthood.  
  • Distinction between ‘ordinary’ and ‘extraordinary’ ministries |
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<td>4</td>
<td>(1) The Ordained ministry</td>
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</table>
| 5 | (2) Other ministries | To help students to appreciate the responsibilities of a broad range of lay ministries (LO3) | • Ministry in the Liturgy: Formally instituted (Acolyte and Lector);  
  • Lay commissioned liturgical ministries (eg. Minister of Communion)  
  • Other ministers - eg. Server, Reader, Musician; leader of LOWC)  
  • For all, roles, obligations, and responsibilities |
| 6 | in practice | To help students to recognise the fundamentally collaborative nature of liturgical ministry. (Los 2 & 3) | • Understanding the liturgy as involving a network of inter-dependent ministries.  
  • Importance of consultation, consensus and shared preparation - how?  
  • Exercising ministry within a responsible community - eg. with regard to procedures for the protection of children and vulnerable adults and health and safety  
  • Implications of changing patterns of church life |
Module D: Developing the Particular Ministry

Guided Learning Hours: 15
Of which: Taught = 9
(1 day at 4.5 hours; 3 evenings at 1.5 hours/2 days/6 evenings)
Guided = 6 hours

NFQ Level 2

Summary of Learning Outcomes
To achieve this unit a learner must:
1. Reflect on local practice in the light of relevant Church documents
2. Explore what ongoing formation is necessary for the exercise of this ministry
3. Recognise the interpersonal dimensions of liturgical ministry
4. Explore, acquire and demonstrate a broad range of skills appropriate to the particular ministry

Content

Reflection on individual and local practice

Instructions concerning the Ministry/Rite of Commissioning
- The Ritual Books
- Roman Instructions
- Diocesan/Parish guidelines

Preparation
- Overview
- Specific tasks
- Review

Collaboration
- Range of ministers
- Preparation
- Liturgy
- Broader pastoral context

Participation
- The principal ways in which the congregation receives and participates in the particular aspect of the liturgy
- Interpersonal skills

Spirituality
- Relationship between ministry & Paschal Mystery
Grading Criteria

To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
• Describe their particular ministry and the range of other ministers with whom they properly collaborate in exercising it
• Identify and describe the stages in preparing for exercising ministry
• Explain how the congregation is expected to participate in the part of the liturgy for which the minister shares responsibility.

To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
• Describe the variety of circumstances in which their ministry may be exercised outside of Sunday Mass
• Explain how collaboration between the variety of liturgical ministers can foster or hinder the participation of the assembly
• Explain how active participation in the part of the liturgy for which the minister shares responsibility fosters faithful Christian living.

To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:
• Analyse the effectiveness of current processes of induction and continuing formation for ministers
• Evaluate the impact of recent developments in parish and ministerial structures upon the preparation and celebration of the Liturgy by ministers and assembly
• Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of current opportunities for formation for participants in the liturgy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ministries for which detailed content will be developed</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Content</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ministers of the Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Commissioned Ministers of Holy Communion</td>
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<td>• Musicians: Leaders of Cong. Song</td>
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<td>• Leaders of Liturgy of the Word with children</td>
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<td>• Leaders of Prayer</td>
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<td>• Lead Server</td>
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### Session Plan — Readers

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<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Session Aim</th>
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</table>
| 1 Minister of the Word            | To help students to understand the specific nature of the ministry of the Word, within the context of duties and ministries exercised collaboratively in the Liturgy (LO 1 & 3) | • Reflection on own ministry (1st session)  
• The sacred significance of role of the minister of the Word  
• Church Documents: DV, CCC, ILM, GIRM, CTM, DMC, GoS  
• Skills: review spiritual preparation, basic proclamation skills. Develop choreography/physical presence, and technical skills (sound system, acoustics, matching delivery and genre).  
• Identify needs |
| 2 The Scripture Texts             | To help students to understand the different types of readings in the bible/lectionary and the challenges in communicating these to others (LO 4) | • Explore breadth of genres: *Poetry, prose, narrative, prophecy, theological discourse*  
• Identify specific challenges/approaches in communicating these  
• Practical Preparation: an example from each genre to be prepared & presented at this and 3 subsequent session* (Suggest use of individual ‘portfolio’ of reflections...’How would I read this?’) |
| 3 The Lectionary                  | To help students to understand the nature of the lectionary and how it is used (LO 1) | • Use of Scripture in the Liturgy (SC, DV, IL)  
• How the Lectionary has been compiled: temporary canon of Scripture  
• Structure of Lectionary: 3 volumes, Season, Sunday, Feast, and Weekday cycles, and text selection  
• *Practical preparation - group work* |
| 4 Structure of the Liturgy of the Word: *Proclamation* | To help students to understand the modes of proclamation in the Liturgy of the Word (LO 1, 3, 4) | • Liturgy of the Word as Event: *Proclamation: Listen, Receive,*  
• Collaborative  
• Role of Silence, Role of Music  
• *Practical preparation - group work* |
| **5** | **Structure of the Liturgy of the Word: Response** | **To help students understand the *response* to the Word in the Liturgy, and in life, as individuals and as a community, including structure and nature of the Prayer of the Faithful (LO 4)** | **• Liturgy of the Word: *Response***  
**• Immediate response in individual**  
**• Prayer of the Faithful - exercise of priestly function (& how to write and lead PotF).**  
**• Relationship of Liturgy of the Word to Liturgy of Eucharist**  
**• Community response in life**  
**• *Practical preparation - group work*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **6** | **Evaluative** | **To help students to appreciate the need for ongoing reflection and continuing formation in the exercise of this ministry (LO 1, 2, 3)** | **• How do you continue & sustain ministry (Session 6)**  
**• how has what you have learnt affected how you exercise ministry?*** |
# Session Plan — Commissioned Ministers of Communion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Session Aim</th>
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</table>
| 1 Ministry in the life of the Church              | To help students to understand that ministry is about what you do, not who you are. To reflect on students' experience of Eucharistic ministry if already a minister. (LO 1, 4) | • Reflection on own ministry (1st session)  
• Church Documents: CTM, GIRM, CCC + scripture  
• Skills: review basic  
• Identify needs |
| 2 The Liturgy of the Eucharist in the Mass        | To help students recognise the nature of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the relationship of its component parts to each other (LO 1) | • Notions of Eucharist: as sacrifice, as thanksgiving, as communion, as celebration of service, as public worship, as sacrament of initiation, as pointer towards mission...  
• The fourfold shape: take - bless - break - share  
• The entire Eucharistic Prayer is consecratory; what is transformed is not only the elements but also what they signify (ourselves), as expressed and symbolised in the presentation of the gifts; sharing in Holy Communion is the culmination of the Eucharistic action  
• Distributing Holy Communion makes present the Body of Christ in the assembly in a tangible and sacramental way  
• collaboration (LO 3 & 4) |
| 3 Distributing Holy Communion in the Mass         | To enable students to be recognise different pastoral situations and to respond appropriately. (LO 3, 4) | • Importance of taking time and respect for Blessed Sacrament  
• Communion to those with disabilities, to children, to those with allergies...  
• Disabled ministers of Holy Communion - e.g. in wheelchairs |
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<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Holy Communion outside Mass</td>
<td>To develop student’s understanding of Holy Communion outside Mass and the appropriate practical approaches to be taken (LO 1 &amp; 4)</td>
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<td>• The distribution of Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass</td>
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<td>• Celebrations in the absence of a priest: Church documents &amp; diocesan guidance</td>
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<td>• Liturgical Pattern: Word &amp; Communion; Hours &amp; Communion</td>
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<td>o Team ministry on these occasions</td>
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<td>o Minister of Communion fulfils the same function as at Mass - i.e. is not the leader of the service (if the minister is the leader, then does not also act as the Minister of Communion)</td>
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<td>o Differences in procedure if a deacon is present</td>
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<td>• Exposition and reposition of the Blessed Sacrament</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Communion to the sick and housebound</td>
<td>To develop students understanding of the ministry of Holy Communion to sick and housebound (LO 3, 4)</td>
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<td>• Collaborative ministry with priest as part of his overall pastoral ministry exercised in parish</td>
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<td>• Relationship between Communion to sick and the celebration of the Eucharist</td>
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<td>• Using the Rite to different circumstances: house, hospital or residential home</td>
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<td>• Difficulties and accidents</td>
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<td>• Importance of apprenticeship with an experienced minister</td>
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<td>• Those who cannot take solids</td>
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<td>• Communion as viaticum</td>
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<td>• Accompanying the terminally ill</td>
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<td>• CRB disclosures and associated topics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Evaluative</td>
<td>To help students to appreciate the need for ongoing reflection and continuing formation in the exercise of this ministry (LO 1, 2, 3)</td>
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<td>• How do you continue &amp; sustain ministry (LO 2)- 6)</td>
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<td>• How has what you have learnt affected how you exercise ministry</td>
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## Session Plan — Ministers of Music

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<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Session Aim</th>
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</table>
| 1 Music within the liturgy                   | To enable students to reflect on their experience of music ministry and to understand the musicians’ role in the liturgy (LO 1, 2) | ▪ Explore and reflect on own experience of music ministry  
▪ Identify differences between pastoral music ministry and secular music practice.  
▪ Identify qualities that a pastoral musician requires  
▪ Spirituality for music ministers: praying *through* your ministry.  
▪ Revise GIRM and SC as important documents for pastoral ministry highlighting key paragraphs  
▪ Identify needs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2 Understanding the Liturgy                  | To help students understand the shape of the Mass and music’s related function.  
(LO 1, 3, 4)                                                                 | ▪ Reflect on the recent experiences of Mass  
▪ Revisit priorities for singing  
▪ Consider at concept of ‘hard’ & ‘soft’ points in the Mass. Identify examples of each moment.  
▪ Identify moments in the liturgy which invite silence and how musicians and other ministers can create/facilitate this silence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3 Criteria for making musical choices in the liturgy | To help students consider the criteria for the appropriate selection of music for the liturgy.  
(LO 3, 4)                                                                 | ▪ 3 judgements: liturgical, pastoral, musical (aesthetic).  
▪ How these criteria are balanced in individual choices  
▪ Creating balance and flow across a celebration  
▪ Consider different musical structures and forms and discuss their appropriateness for different liturgical moments (*i.e.*  
*Acclamations & Dialogues*, *Responsorial Psalms*, *Lord have mercy and Lamb of God litanies*, *Processionals*, *Hymns of Glory* etc.)  
▪ The importance of collaboration with other liturgical ministers, in particular the priest celebrant  

4 & Musical Skills & To explore and develop basic musical skills proficiency required by a leader of congregational song (LO 4) & • Discuss / practically illustrate (where possible) musical techniques. These may include: dynamics, introductions & endings, arrangements, accompaniment, range & tessitura.  
• Techniques for introducing and teaching music to congregations.  
• Ways of varying and adapting music to fit different liturgical contexts  

5 & Music through the Liturgical Year & To help the musician to understand the role of music across the Liturgical Year (LO 4) & • Identify how different Seasons and Celebrations call for different musical approaches.  
• Progressive Solemnity  
• Discuss Liturgical music requirements and opportunities for each Season.  

6 & Evaluative & To help students to appreciate the need for ongoing reflection and continuing formation in the exercise of this ministry (LO 1, 2, 3) & • How do you continue & sustain ministry (LO 2- 6)  
• How has what you have learnt affected how you exercise ministry
# Session Plan — Altar Servers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
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</table>
| 1       | Ministry in the life of the Church                | To help students to understand that ministry is about what you do, not who you are. To reflect on students' experience of serving if already a server. (LO 1, 4)                                          | • Reflection on own ministry (1st session)  
• Church Documents: GIRM, CB, RS 43-47, scripture  
• Identify difficult questions  
• Skills: review basic  
• Identify needs |
| 2       | Comportment                                       | To help students recognise that their body language has an effect on the entire celebration - their role as members of the assembly. To explore posture and gesture in greater depth (LO 1, 3, 4) | • Posture in general, standing  
• How to walk, around the sanctuary and in procession  
• Position of the head, where to look  
• Carrying objects  
• Genuflecting and bowing  
• Posture when seated  
• Speaking and singing |
| 3       | Further exploration                               | To enable students to be comfortable with various more specialised tasks and equipment, and to act appropriately. (LO 3, 4)                                                                                     | • Candles: lighting, carrying, extinguishing  
• Bells  
• Book-bearing  
• Thuribles and incensing  
• Washing hands  
• Mitre, crosier, other pastoral issues that may arise |
| 4       | Other liturgies other than Mass                   | To develop student’s understanding of other liturgies they may be asked to assist at. Associated practicalities. (LO 4)                                                                                     | • Sacramental celebrations: baptisms, marriage, ordinations  
• Miscellaneous: funerals, the Divine Office, Benediction, exposition  
• Celebrations in the absence of a priest: Church documents & diocesan guidance  
• Team ministry on these occasions |
### D - Particular Ministry

|   | Master of Ceremonies | To introduce students to the particular ministry of the MC (LO 2, 3, 4) | Enabling ministry with priest/deacon: responsibilities and ways of assisting  
• Supervision of other servers  
• Preparation of other servers  
• Behaviour during the celebration itself  
• Lessons from manuals in the past  
• Liturgical choreography |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | Evaluative          | To help students to appreciate the need for ongoing reflection and continuing formation in the exercise of this ministry (LO 1, 2, 3) | How has what you have learnt affected how you exercise ministry?  
• How do you continue and sustain ministry?  
• What help and resources do you need? |
## Session Plan — Leaders of Liturgy of the Word with Children

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<tr>
<th>Session title</th>
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| **1** Overview of Celebration of the Liturgy with Children | To explore the celebration of the liturgy with Children with particular reference to LOWC (LO 1, 2) | • Explore and reflect on own experience of this ministry  
• Revisit understanding ministry  
• Revisit rationale  
• Revisit basic skills  
• Welcoming the children into the parish liturgy: DMC, EPC & LOWC  
• Identify needs |
| **2** Liturgy of the WORD with Children | To understand the Word of God as living and active (LO1, 4) | • Explore and reflect on own relationship with Scripture and the Liturgy of the Word  
• Familiarisation with Liturgical Year (including Ordos, Calendars, Diocesan Year Books) and Lectionary  
• Experience of time - to child  
• Find and explore readings for the coming Sunday in Lectionary and evaluate how these are adapted in LOWC resources  
• The role of music in LOWC |
| **3** LITURGY of the Word with Children | To apply general principles of liturgy to LOWC (LO 1, 3, 4) | • Explore own experience of memorable liturgy (LOWC?)  
• Revisit general principles of liturgy from Module B  
• How the Liturgy of the Word may be adapted when celebrated with Children  
• Specific nature of liturgy in LOWC referring to Directory on Masses with Children and Bishops’ Conference Guidelines  
• Use of ritual, symbol, silence, movement, proclamation, engaging the senses (in children's experience) - relate these to readings explored in Session 2  
• Relationship with assembly (i.e. dismissal and returning)  
• Relationship with priest |
| **4** Liturgy of the Word WITH (and not ‘for’) Children | To understand the role of leadership within an LOWC (LO 3, 4) | • Own experience of human and faith development of children  
• Fowler etc - stages of faith  
• Qualities of a leader of LOWC (nb not catechist)  
• Working with a team  
• Child Protection issues |
| 5 | Planning and evaluating a LOWC | To help students develop the confidence to plan and lead a LOWC (LO 4) | • Drawing together previous sessions  
• Reflection and preparation of Sunday scripture with reference to both the particular assembly and the liturgical year  
• Scenarios of groups of children of varying sizes, ages and needs with different needs - what would you need to bear in mind when planning a liturgy for these different groups?  
• Effective use of time (and how indicated) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Evaluate | To help students to appreciate the need for ongoing reflection and continuing formation in the exercise of this ministry (LO 1, 2, 3) | • Evaluation and learning points  
• Using resources and trusting the Spirit  
• How do you continue & sustain ministry  
• How has what you have learnt affected how you exercise ministry |
### Session Plan — Leaders of Prayer

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session title</th>
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| **1** Beginnings                      | To enable students to reflect on their experience of ministry and their specific role in gathering a community of prayer (LO 1, 2) | • Explore and reflect on own experience of this ministry  
• Revisit understanding ministry  
• Revisit rationale  
• Revisit basic skills  
• Explore the elements and purpose of Introductory Rite and the role of the leader  
• Identify needs  
• Variety of forms of prayer: Office, Lectio, Rosary |
| **2** Structure of the Liturgy of the Word: *Proclamation* Word              | To help students to understand the modes of proclamation in the Liturgy of the Word (LO 1, 3, 4) | • Explore and reflect on own relationship with Scripture and the Liturgy of the Word  
• Liturgy of the Word as Event: *Proclamation: Listen, Receive,*  
• Collaborative  
• Role of Silence, Role of Music |
| **3** Structure of the Liturgy of the Word: *Response*                       | To help students understand the response to the Word in the Liturgy, and in life, as individuals and as a community, including structure and nature of the Prayer of the Faithful (LO 4) | • Liturgy of the Word: *Response*  
• Immediate response in individual  
• Prayer of the Faithful - exercise of priestly function (& how to write and lead PotF).  
• Relationship of Liturgy of the Word to Liturgy of Eucharist in Mass  
• Community response in life  
• *Practical preparation - group work* |
| 4 | Liturgy of Holy Communion | To enable students to recognise and articulate the key differences between the Mass and Celebrations of Word and Communion (LO 1, 3, 4) | • The distribution of Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass  
• Celebrations in the absence of a priest: Church documents & diocesan guidance  
• Liturgical Pattern: Word & Communion; Hours & Communion  
  o Team ministry on these occasions  
  o Minister of Communion fulfils the same function as at Mass - i.e. is not the leader of the service (if the minister is the leader, then does not also act as the Minister of Communion)  
• Differences in procedure if a deacon is present |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Preparing | To enable students to prepare appropriate liturgies for their given setting (LO 1,4) | • Familiarisation with Liturgical Year (including Ordos, Calendars, Diocesan Year Books) and Lectionary  
• Relationship between Sunday and Weekday  
• Progressive Solemnity  
• Understanding the range of choices and selecting appropriately |
| 6 | Evaluative | To help students to appreciate the need for ongoing reflection and continuing formation in the exercise of this ministry (LO 1, 2, 3) | • How do you continue & sustain ministry  
• How has what you have learnt affected how you exercise ministry |
Module E: Understanding and Developing Spirituality

Guided Learning Hours: 15
Of which: Taught = 9
(1 day at 4.5 hours; 3 evenings at 1.5 hours/2 days/6 evenings)
Guided = 6 hours

NFQ Level 2

Summary of Learning Outcomes
To achieve this unit a learner must:
1. Explore the Concept of liturgical spirituality
2. Investigate the potential for elements drawn from the liturgy to act as Sources for prayer and reflection.
3. Explore different methods of individual and group prayer

Content

Liturgical Spirituality:
- *Spirituality*: Overview of the concept; Introduction to a range of ‘classic’ historic spiritualities in the Church (e.g. Benedictine; Jesuit; Carmelite); Overview of popular spiritual practices (e.g. Devotion to the Sacred Heart; the Rosary; The ‘Little Way’ of St. Therese); More recent Spiritual practices (e.g. Charismatic Renewal; Padre Pio; ‘Celtic’)
- *Spirituality and Liturgy*: The historical relationship between liturgy and popular spirituality; Popular devotions and Liturgical celebration - tensions and points of contact (e.g. Sanctoral & devotion to Saints); The Liturgical Movement as a renewal of spirituality; the vision of Vatican Two; Liturgy and Spirituality in the Teaching of John Paul II.
- *Liturgy in the life of Individuals and Communities*: Liturgy as Source and Summit of the entire Christian Life;

Liturgical Sources for Prayer and Reflection
- *Ritual and Life*: The role of story, symbolic action and ritual in human experience; Relation between the liturgical use of story, symbolic action and ritual and their non-religious usage; Praying with symbols and religious images.
- *Scripture and Spirituality*: The Bible in the life of the individual Christian; Issues around interpretation and application to life; Use of appropriate secondary resources (Commentaries, scripture notes, etc)
- *Mystagogy*: The concept of Mystagogy in RCIA; the extension of the principle to broader liturgical experiences; the application of this extension to the life of the individual and of the community; practical means of facilitating liturgical mystagogy at parish level.
E - Spirituality

Methods of Individual and Group Prayer

• *Lectionary-Based Prayer*: Different methods of proclamation outside the liturgical assembly; use of music - live and recorded; the role of shared reflection; relationship to intercession; issues in preparation and leadership; relationship to the Divine Office

• *Prayer Using Liturgical Texts and Symbols*: Criteria for selection; relationship to liturgical seasons; use of space; use of silence.

• *Practical issues in Group Prayer*: Group dynamics; Leadership - formation requirements, personal qualities, issues around support and supervision;

Grading Criteria
To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:

• Identify and describe a range of spiritual practices in the Church today
• Identify and describe the liturgical sources for individual and communal prayer
• Identify and describe a range of methods of group and individual prayer

To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:

• Explain the understanding of liturgical spirituality found in the teaching of Vatican II, John Paul II and Benedict XVI
• Explain the relationship between the liturgical use of story, symbolic action and ritual and their non-religious usage
• Explain the role of mystagogy as a link between formal liturgy and the spiritual life of the individual

To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:

• Analyse the relationship between formal liturgy and other spiritual and devotional practices.
• Analyse the concept of mystagogy as applied to liturgical spirituality.
• Evaluate the pastoral appropriateness of different methods of group prayer in a given setting.
## Session Plan

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<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
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| 1 Ritual and Life     | To help students to reflect upon their own experience of the key components of liturgical spirituality. (LO 1) | • The role of story, symbolic action and ritual in human experience;  
• Relation between the liturgical use of story, symbolic action and ritual and their non-religious usage;  
• Praying with symbols and religious images Ritual and Life |
| 2 What is ‘Spirituality’? | To help students to explore the Concept of spirituality (LO 1) | • Overview of the concept;  
• Introduction to a range of ‘classic’ historic spiritualities in the Church (eg. Benedictine; Jesuit; Carmelite);  
• Overview of popular spiritual practices (eg. Devotion to the Sacred Heart; the Rosary; The ‘Little Way’ of St. Therese);  
• More recent Spiritual practices (eg. Charismatic Renewal; Padre Pio; ‘Celtic’)  
• Popular devotions and Liturgical celebration - tensions and points of contact (e.g. Sanctoral & devotion to Saints); |
| 3 Spirituality and the Liturgy | To help students to understand the specific nature of liturgical spirituality (Los 1 & 2) | • Key concept: Liturgy as the primary resource for prayer  
• The Liturgical Movement as a renewal of spirituality;  
• the vision of Vatican II  
• Liturgy and Spirituality in the Teaching of John Paul II and Benedict XVI  
• Liturgy in the life of Individuals and Communities: Liturgy as Source and Summit of the entire Christian Life |
|   | 4 Scripture and Spirituality                      | To help students to understand the role of the Scriptures in spirituality (LOs 2 & 3) | • The Scriptures in the life of the individual Christian  
• Biblical interpretation and application to life  
• Using appropriate secondary resources (Commentaries, scripture notes, etc)  
• Using the Lectionary as a Resource for Prayer: notion of lectio divina  
• Different methods of proclamation outside the liturgical assembly |
|---|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | 5 Prayer Using Liturgical Texts and Symbols      | To help students to recognise the liturgy as the primary resource in leading others in prayer (LOs 2 & 3) | • The importance of structure, flow and pace.  
• Exploring liturgical symbols  
• use of space  
• Criteria for selection or text and symbol;  
• Relationship to liturgical seasons  
• Use of music - live and recorded; use of silence.  
• the role of shared reflection;  
• relationship to intercession; relationship to the Divine Office |
|   | 6 Liturgical Mystagogy at parish level           | To help students to understand the personal issues involved in leading others in prayer (Los 2 & 3) | • RCIA as a paradigm for liturgical spirituality.  
• The concept of liturgical mystagogy  
• Recognising the needs of different groups (eg. Children, young people, adults)  
• Group dynamics and enabling participation  
• Leadership - formation requirements, personal qualities,  
• Personal preparation - the importance of developing one’s own spirituality  
• Recognising the role of support and supervision |
Abbreviations

Abbreviations & Bibliography

CB

CCC

CL

CRB
Criminal Records Bureau.

CIGI

CTM

DD

DMC

DPNE

DPP

DV

EN
Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 8 December 1975.

EPC
Congregation for Divine Worship, Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children and for Masses of Reconciliation, 1 November 1974.

EuchMyst

FC
Congregation for the Disciple of the Sacraments, Instruction, Fidel custos 30 April 1969.

GILH

GIRM
Roman Missal, General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 20 April 2000.

GNLYC
Congregation of Rites, General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, 21 March 1969.

GoS

GS

HCWE

IC

ID

ILM

LG

LO
Learning Outcome.

LOWC
Liturgy of the Word with Children.

LOWC

MD
Congregation for Divine Worship, Instruction, Memoriale.
Abbreviations

- **Domini 29 May 1969**
- **MQ**
  Congregation of Rites, Instruction *Musicam Sacram*, on music in the liturgy, 5 March 1967: AAS 59 (1967)
- **MS**
- **OBOB**
  Vatican Council II, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, *Presbyterorum Ordinis*
- **PO**
  Congregation of Rites, Instruction *Musicam Sacram*, on music in the liturgy, 5 March 1967: AAS 59 (1967)
- **PS**
- **RCIA**
- **RDCA**
- **RM**
  Roman Missal, *Roman Missal*, editio tertia, 20 April 2000
- **RO**
- **RS**
- **SacC**
- **SC**
  Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 4 December 1963
- **SCom**