

# What is involved in doing a Pastoral Care Course with the Academy?

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*Multifaith Academy for Chaplaincy and  
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# Multifaith Academy for Chaplaincy & Community Ministries

- 13 years old
- Established with the Archbishop's approval
- Has trained:
  - over 200 chaplains for hospitals, aged care, & prisons
  - Over 400 people for community ministries
    - Eucharist Ministers
    - Pastoral Visitors
- Provides pastoral care training for the Anglican Church's ordinands doing their Anglican Orders course at St. Mark's National Theological Centre

# Academy cont'd

- Offers courses to Heads of Mission, Deaneries, Congregations, Institutions, and Individuals
- Offers six levels of training:
  - Eucharist Minister's course
  - Pastoral Visitor's course
  - Certificate of Pastoral Care Praxis course
  - Certificate of Chaplaincy course
  - Diploma of Chaplaincy
  - Supervising Chaplain course

# Academy cont'd

- Our pastoral care training combines and integrates the following six elements:
    - Spiritual formation
    - Assessment tools\* from the Human Sciences (e.g., Needs, Developmental Stages, Loss & Grief, and Stages of Faith Development)
    - Assessment tools\* for identifying spiritual issues
    - Theological reflection\* on praxis
    - Understanding other Christian denominations and non-Christian faiths
    - Ethics
- \* *Students critically evaluate their praxis using these tools within the Verbatim method.*

# Your Course

- This course is an affordable training program designed specifically for laity to help them function effectively as Christians in the world offering pastoral care to others in a range of settings
- the Academy's Certificate of Pastoral Care Praxis course with includes:
  - Spiritual formation specifically for laity
  - Pastoral care skills for laity
  - Supervised praxis for laity

# Duration

- The Academy normally conducts its courses over 20 weeks (one semester) but a more intensive program is offered e.g., seven three hours sessions for the two face-to-face subjects (spiritual formation and pastoral care praxis). The other subject entails doing pastoral visits and writing them up as Verbatims. Trainee pastoral carers need at least ten weeks to do sufficient pastoral visits.

# Spiritual formation

- This subject comprises six elements:
  - Spiritual journaling (using a particular sequence of set exercises designed by a Jesuit priest)
  - Scripture reading in a group exploring the hermeneutical principles promulgated by mainstream Churches
  - Theological reflection on the relevance of Scripture to the type of pastoral care offered by laity to others
  - Theological reflection on the Church's documents on the role of the laity in the world
  - Designing and presenting lay-led liturgies

# Pastoral Care Skills

This subject comprises four elements:

1. Introduction to advanced empathetic listening techniques
2. Introduction to the tools developed by the Human Sciences to identify:
  - Needs
  - Development stages
  - Loss and grief
  - Faith development stages
3. Group evaluation of Verbatims, Case Studies, and Critical Incidents
4. Group identification of the spiritual issues that typically arise for segments of the population (e.g., widows, widowers, working mothers, middle-aged people, grandparents, young men, young women, prisoners, residents in aged care facilities, the house-bound, and patients in palliative care).

# Supervised Praxis for Laity

This subject comprises:

1. pastoral visits to an institution such as a hospital, or nursing home, or prison OR pastoral visits to parishioners such as the home-bound
2. writing up and critically evaluating some of your visits (or those of others) using the Verbatim method
3. One-to-one meetings with a designated supervising chaplain

# Your Obligations

- Obtain a Blue Card
- Do your pastoral visits
- Write up your Verbatims according to the proforma provided
- Participate in group-work in Class
- Revise and apply what you learn in Class (or via Open Learning)
- Keep up your spiritual formation (prayer, scripture reading, and spiritual journalling)