

Participants will be expected to record their reflections and learning in a journal. This will be submitted at the end of each stage as part of course assessment. Attendance and participation in all aspects of the sessions will also be part of assessment.

Upon completion of each stage, there will be a concluding ceremony where certificates will be presented and students may celebrate their achievement in their Ministry.

Upon completion of Stage 3, a final Diploma will be presented as a final certificate.

All stages will be invited to celebrate their achievement at the Diocesan Education Mass.

DATE/COST OF COURSE

See booking form for dates and cost

VENUE

All sessions will be held at:
St Cuthbert's House,
West Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 7PY.

COURSE FACILITATORS

Pat Kennedy MPS
Rev Adrian Dixon
Rev Deacon Derek Gallagher
Patricia Evans

DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**
SPIRITUALITY, FORMATION & EDUCATION SERVICE

THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE CATECHISTS PROGRAMME

A formation programme for Catechists and all those wanting to deepen their faith and spirituality, presented in three stages leading to a Diocesan certificate/diploma

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To help participants articulate the basis of our faith and appreciate the challenges of sharing our beliefs and experience to others who have not yet experienced God in a similar way
- To help participants clarify what they believe
- To reflect on our own understanding of who God is in our lives
- To aid our own practice
- To fire our own spirituality into an enthusiasm to share our faith

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Three separate stages, each of which builds upon the former to equip catechists with greater confidence and resources to lead and deliver courses and discussion groups within their own parish communities. Weekly presentations will be followed by opportunities to share in groups and offer feedback. All sessions will be underpinned by prayer and reflection. The final session will be focused on our vision for the future and what help we need to attain this.

Stage 1 – Vocation and Identity

6 x 2 hour evening sessions to be held weekly.

Topics:

- Who is God to me?
- Who am I to God?
- Who am I and what are my gifts?
- Where am I going?
- Who am I sent to serve?
- Where do I go from here

Stage 2 – Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation

7 x 2 hours evening sessions and 4 full days. Participants will need to attend all sessions to gain an holistic perspective that will help them become more confident in their subject and lead others in their parish communities to

forge stronger links between home, school and parish.

Topics:

- What is catechesis? (evening)
- The spirituality of Baptism and Confirmation and how they are linked (evening)
- Baptism (full day – interactive)
- Confirmation (full day – interactive)
- Feedback (evening)
- The spirituality of Reconciliation and the Eucharist and the links between them (evening)
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation (full day- interactive)
- The Sacrament of the Eucharist (full day – interactive)
- Feedback (evening)
- Marriage
- Reflection and Feedback (evening on total input and learning)

Stage 3 – Called and Sent

This stage will build on what has gone before to equip a catechist to lead formation teams in a parish or cluster.

Topics:

- Christology – understanding Jesus within the context of His Jewish faith; Jesus' humanity and divinity; contemporary presentations of Jesus and the gospel
- Church History – a potted version
- Church documents – exciting extracts to inform and shape our practice
- Self-awareness – Myers Briggs; how adaptable am I? How can I ensure personal development and lifelong learning
- Team dynamics – travelling with others
- Styles of prayer – how to recharge our batteries while keeping our focus on God.