

DIOCESE OF DOWN & DROMORE

DIOCESAN BIBLE TEACHERS & CATECHISTS 2025-2026





‘AND THE THINGS YOU
HAVE HEARD ME SAY IN
THE PRESENCE OF MANY
WITNESSES ENTRUST TO
RELIABLE PEOPLE WHO
WILL ALSO BE QUALIFIED
TO TEACH OTHERS’.

2 TIM 2:2

DIOCESAN BIBLE TEACHERS & CATECHISTS

Diocese of Down and Dromore is seeking to recruit and train Diocesan Bible Teachers & Catechists who will help teach the essentials of the Christian faith in our churches. These men and women will be commissioned to teach and instruct (catechise) the Bible and the key doctrines of Christianity at Sunday services, mid-week gatherings, home groups and other ministries in our parishes. Their role will be to act primarily as a teaching support to the parish and Diocesan Lay Bible Teachers/Catechists will be commissioned and authorised by the bishop to exercise this role in their local parish under the supervision of the minister.

This opportunity is open to adults of any age who have a passion, knowledge, and commitment to teach and instruct others in the Christian faith. Potential candidates must have the support of their minister and at least a 1-year course in biblical studies (e.g. Diocesan Bible Course) or be able to demonstrate an equivalent experience of biblical study (if you are unsure of what this might be please get in touch). Applicants will also be asked to attend a short informal interview before being awarded a place the course.

The course will be delivered in Belfast, Hillsborough and Banbridge over 15 evening sessions (7:30pm start) on a weekly basis. Candidates should also be prepared to commit another 15 sessions to personal study.

Cost for the course is £75 and this includes key course texts.

Application deadline: Friday 10th October 2025

Interview date: Monday evening 13th October 2025

Course begins: Thursday 16th October 2025

COURSE DETAILS

WHAT IS CATECHISM?

Historically, the church's ministry of grounding believers in the rudiments of Christianity has been known as catechesis (from the Greek for 'instruction'). This instruction or teaching, also known as doctrine, was a crucial part of the New Testament church with leaders such as Timothy exhorted to *'Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.'* (1 Tim 4:16)

Jesus instructed the Church in the Great Commission to disciple the nations. To see people repent and turn away from their old life and turn towards a new life in Christ; to be taught to obey everything Christ commanded (Matt. 28:20) and to see them transformed as they grow into the fullness of Christ (John 10:10).

CATECHESIS, PUT SIMPLY, IS THE DISCIPLING PROCESS OF ENABLING GOD'S PEOPLE TO BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST.

Catechesis is and always has been rooted in Scripture. From Gospel narrative as introduction to the faith, to creeds as summaries of biblical theology, to traditional teaching on moral living, the Church disciplines her children on a foundation of Scripture.

However, in recent decades this instruction of Christians in the basic beliefs, practices and ethics of the faith has declined (for a variety of reasons) to the great detriment of the church. This short course will seek to equip Christians with the basics of teaching and catechising others; to walk in the 'ancient paths' and the 'good way' of Jeremiah 6:16; to disciple and nourish them so that they may 'daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until they come to your everlasting kingdom' (BCP).





WHAT'S IN THE ANGLICAN CATECHISM?

Anglicans are heirs of a rich tradition of Christian faith and life that stretches back centuries. Throughout this time Anglicans have articulated their faith in reference to classic sources of doctrine and worship. All true doctrine, Anglicans believe, is derived from Holy Scripture, which is the wellspring and ground for testing all that is taught in the Church. Key sources Anglicanism has used for explaining and interpreting scripture include:

THE CREEDS - Anglicans have always held in high regard 'such teachings of the ancient Fathers and Councils of the Church as are agreeable to the Scriptures,' and which are summarized in the Apostles' Creed, Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, and Athanasian Creed.

THE ARTICLES OF RELIGION (1571) - The Articles, also known as the "Thirty-Nine Articles," summarise the biblical faith recovered at the Reformation and have become the doctrinal norm for Anglicans around the world.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (1549-1662) - The Anglican Prayer Book is known worldwide as one of the finest expressions of Christian prayer and worship. The 1662 Prayer Book is predominantly composed of Scriptures formulated into prayer. It has been the standard for Anglican doctrine, discipline, and worship, and for subsequent revisions in many languages.





The Anglican Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer (p.766) is used for the instruction of persons before being brought for confirmation and contains the following essential building blocks of the Christian faith:

1. *A turning away from sin; a turning to Christ and confession of faith; and a commitment to keep God's Will and Commandments.*
2. *A declaration of faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the Apostles' Creed.*
3. *An understanding of our duty to God and our neighbour through the 10 Commandments.*
4. *A continual call for the grace of God through prayer, particularly knowing and reciting the Lord's Prayer.*
5. *An understanding of the two sacraments in Anglicanism; namely Baptism and Holy Communion.*

While this catechism was intended chiefly for young people coming up for Confirmation this course will expand on these essentials to use a longer catechism that will provide a more comprehensive set of teaching for adult inquirers and all Christians seeking a deeper grounding in the full reality of Christian faith and life.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT TO CATECHISE?

You will learn the fundamentals of the 'To be a Christian' Anglican catechism by J. I. Packer through a series of lectures and your own supplemental reading.

In addition, you will be taught and refreshed on some of the key disciplines and practices of Christian leadership and given practical instruction and resource ideas on how to pass on the essentials of Christianity through Bible studies, home groups and one to one meetings. Finally, there will be significant time spent on how to teach and preach the Scriptures in groups and in church services. This will finish with two assessed teaching assignments/talks of around 10-15 minutes that will need to be of a satisfactory standard before you are permitted to teach in a church setting. There will be support provided to you in preparing these talks as well as constructive feedback after they are delivered.

Note: this is a short course that will introduce you to the basic requirements for this ministry role as a lay Bible teacher and catechist. You will be encouraged to grow further in the role through continued reading and on-going experience in your local church.

Over a series of 15 evenings, you will be taught at a basic level the following elements of teaching and catechising:

CATECHISM:

1. The Gospel, Salvation and Holy Scripture. (16/10/25)
2. The Creeds and Sacraments. (23/10/25)
3. The Lord's Prayer and the Christian life. (6/11/25)
4. Becoming like Christ: The 10 Commandments, Justification and Sanctification. (13/11/25)

THE ROLE OF A CATECHIST:

5. The disciplines and spirituality of a Christian leader (1). (20/11/25)
6. The disciplines and spirituality of a Christian leader (2). (27/11/25)
7. Leading a group Bible study or discipleship course on the essentials of Christian faith. (4/12/25)
8. Discipleship materials and how to use them to hand on the faith. (11/12/25)

TEACHING AND PREACHING THE BIBLE:

9. Standing with Scripture. (8/1/26)
10. Models of preaching. (15/1/26)
11. Teaching the Bible in context. (22/1/26)
12. Crafting the message. (29/1/26)
13. Applying the message. (5/2/26)
14. Teaching assessment part 1. (12/2/26)
15. Teaching assessment part 2. (19/2/26)

The key course books will be provided but additional reading suggestions will also be made.



Apply



For further information please contact:

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