



Catholic Pastoral Leadership

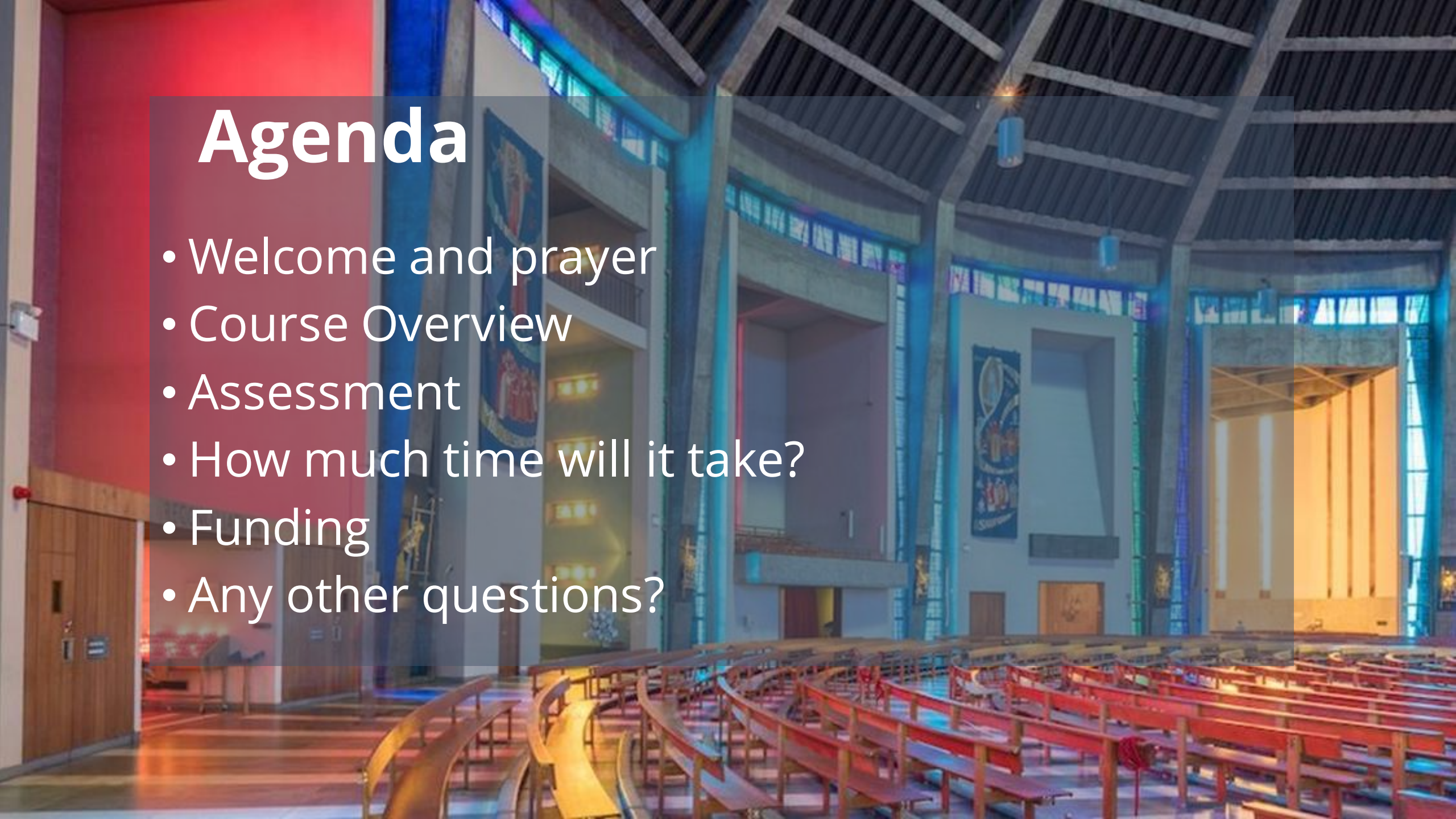




What are we doing today?

Agenda

- Welcome and prayer
- Course Overview
- Assessment
- How much time will it take?
- Funding
- Any other questions?





Always see the eyes with which you see



Welcome and Introductions





Liz Parsons

– Director of Pastoral Development (Liverpool Archdiocese)

Dominika Kurek-Chomycz

– Associate Professor in New Testament Studies at Liverpool Hope University and Course Coordinator

Greg Ryan

– NDFP Academic Co-Ordinator, Assistant Professor of Ecclesiology and Receptive Ecumenism at Durham University, and Visiting Lecturer at Liverpool Hope University

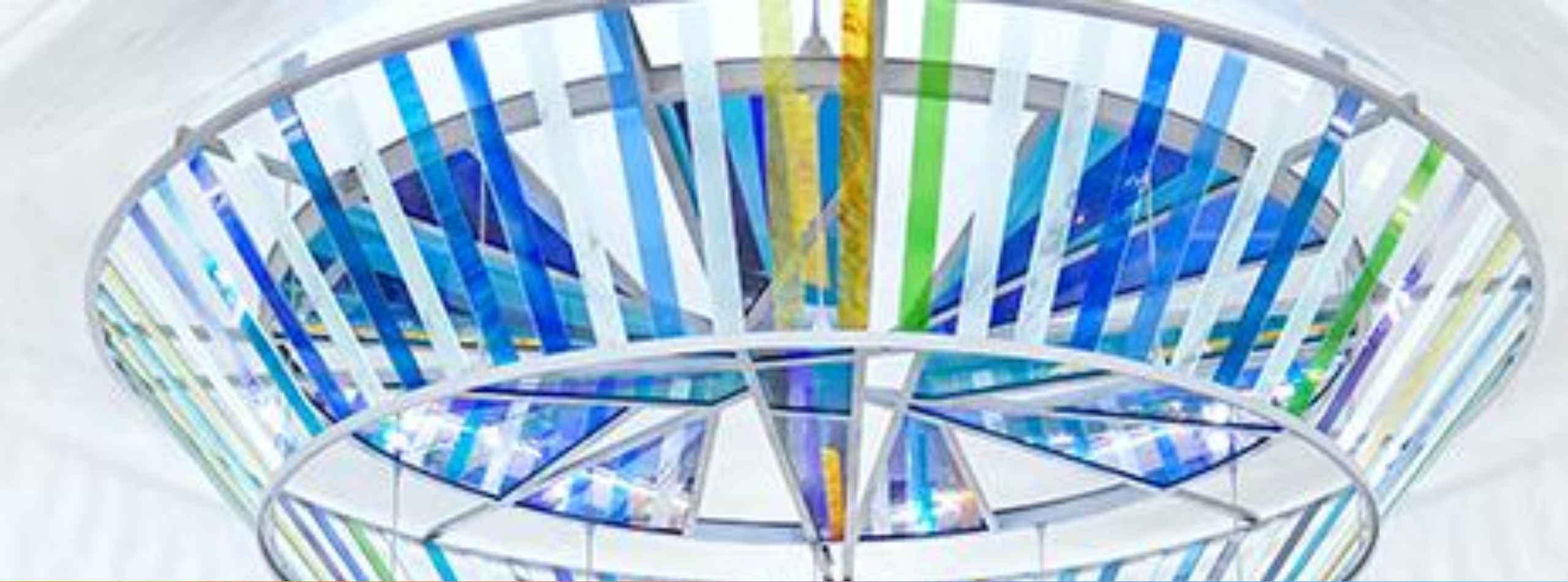
Taras Khomych

– Senior Lecturer in Theology at Liverpool Hope University





Course Overview



“Be who God created you to be and set the world on fire!”

St Catherine of Siena

Catholic Pastoral Leadership

There are two ways you can take this course:

- All students will review the material presented online and do some assessed work to complete the course.
- Or you can take this course as a postgraduate certificate (60 credits) at extra cost and with additional work.



The course content is the same for both cohorts.



Catholic Pastoral Leadership

You will take 4 modules over 2 years:

- The Synodal Church (w/c 14th September 2025)
- The Word of God (w/c 25th January 2026)
- Dimensions of Christian Life (w/c 13th September 2026)
- The Church's Mission in the World (w/c 24th January 2027)



Module structure



14 weeks consisting of:

- 3 x 4 'teaching' weeks (when new material is uploaded and students are expected to post responses to questions related to a specific topic) AND
- 2 'reflective' weeks (to give students time to catch up and an opportunity to meet via zoom with tutors; students taking the course for credit will also have additional online tutorials during the reflective weeks).



Module structure



For example, for the Synodal Church module the timeline will look as follows:

- Teaching weeks 1-4: w/c 14th September to w/c 11th October 2025
- Reflective week 1: w/c 13th October
- Teaching weeks 5-8: w/c 19th October to 15th November
- Reflective week 2: w/c 17th November
- Teaching weeks 9-12: w/c 23rd November to 20th December



Module 1: The Synodal Church

What is a synodal Church?

The Church in the first millennium: culture, contexts, and theology

The Church as Sacrament

The Church as Communion/The Body of Christ

The Church as the People of God

Ecumenism

The Church as Teacher

The role and ministry of women in the Church.

Ordained ministry in the Church

Mary and the Saints

Putting synodality into practice

Consolidation session



Module 2: The Word of God

The person of Christ
as the unique
revelation of God

Engaging with,
interpreting, and
sharing the scriptures

Biblical canons and
their development

Creation in scripture
and in relation to
contemporary
ecological challenges

Exodus, covenants
and migration

Prophecy, discomfort,
and normativity of
the future

Paul, his letters, and
the beginnings of
Christian theology

The Synoptic Gospels:
different perspectives
on the person of
Jesus

John's Gospel: the
relationship of the
spiritual and the
physical

The Book of Acts, the
Catholic letters, and
the origins of
Christian ministries

The Book of
Revelation and
Apocalypticism

Consolidation session



Module 3: The Dimensions of Christian Life

Introduction to the Catholic understanding of Liturgy, ministry in prayer and liturgy

Prayer and spirituality

Sacramental theology

The Eucharist - what is it?

The Eucharist - so what (Eucharist & mission)?

Scripture as prayer: the psalms

Forgiveness and reconciliation (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Body and liturgy/the liturgical body 1 (Disability).

Body and liturgy/the liturgical body 2 (The challenged and ageing body; eschatology; Sacrament of the Sick)

Marriage (the Sacrament of Marriage)

Beginning and end of life issues

Consolidation session



Module 4: The Church's Mission in the World

Introduction to Catholic
Understanding of
anthropology - Christ,
the human person and
society

The Church's
engagement with the
world

Catholic Social
Teaching (1)

Catholic Social
Teaching (2)

Gender and
sexuality

Care for creation

War and peace

Art and
literature/culture

Global Christianity

Interfaith and
inter-religious
dialogue

Evangelisation

Consolidation session



Mode of delivery

- The default teaching mode: online, using Moodle and zoom.
- Lectures to be pre-recorded, and made available to students together with additional learning resources ahead of each week.
- In addition to watching the lecture and following the assigned reading, students expected to enter into a structured weekly process of online engagement with each other and the tutor. Student participation in this regular weekly pattern is a pre-requisite for completion of each module.
- Students doing the course on a for-credit basis to be offered additional tutorials focused on postgraduate research and critical thinking skills as well as preparing for assessments.



Assessment

The image shows the interior of a modern church. The architecture features a high, vaulted ceiling with a series of dark, horizontal wooden beams. The walls are primarily light-colored, with some sections in a vibrant red. Large, colorful stained-glass windows are integrated into the design, casting light in various hues. The pews are made of light-colored wood and are arranged in a semi-circular pattern, facing towards the front of the church. A prominent blue banner with religious imagery hangs on the left wall. The overall atmosphere is one of contemporary religious architecture.

Assessment

- Each module will carry an assessed activity, besides the required Moodle forum posts;
- Both students on the for-credit and non-credit-bearing version will be expected to complete assessments, but only those taking the for-credit route will these be marked at M-Level.
- There is a full range of assessments that allow students to draw upon and develop a variety of skills, with a clear distinction between the two routes.



Assessment: The Synodal Church Module

FOR EVERYONE

Outline on a single page of A4 a 45-minute **catechetical session** for use in your own pastoral setting that explores the relationship between the baptismal priesthood and the ordained ministry,' including your reasons for selecting the resources that you have chosen.

FOR-CREDIT VERSION

1. Outline on a single page of A4 a 45-minute **catechetical session** for use in your own pastoral setting that explores the relationship between the baptismal priesthood and the ordained ministry (500-word equivalent), including your reasons for selecting the resources that you have chosen. Include **a fully referenced critical analysis** of the pastoral and theological issues at play in relation to the catechetical session (1500 words).
2. A 10-minute **PowerPoint presentation** analysing in critical depth the theological foundations of synodality in the Church.

Assessment: Word of God Module

FOR EVERYONE

With reference to a text chosen from the list determined by the tutors, prepare and present a **Poster Presentation** that you could use in your local context on Catholic approaches to the interpretation of scripture.

FOR-CREDIT VERSION

1. With reference to a text chosen from the list determined by the tutors, prepare and present a **Poster Presentation** that you could use in your local context on Catholic approaches to the interpretation of scripture. The presentation should include **a fully referenced script (ca. 500 words) and a bibliography**.
2. Using two hermeneutical lenses of your choice, carry out a **textual analysis** of a text chosen from the list determined by the tutors (2,000 words).

Assessment: Dimensions of Christian Life

FOR EVERYONE

Plan and present (5 minutes) a **prayer service** to address a pastoral situation of your choice in agreement with the tutor.

FOR-CREDIT VERSION

1. Plan and present (5 minutes) a **prayer service** as above, accompanied by a fully referenced **critical reflection** providing the rationale for the decisions taken (2000-word equiv.).
2. **Analyse** in critical detail the relationship between 'full, active conscious participation in the Eucharist' and the mission of the local Catholic community (1,000 words).

Assessment: The Church's Mission in the World Module

FOR EVERYONE

A 5-minute **viva** discussion, using CST as a lens, focusing on one of the following social issues facing the UK today: migration; social care crisis; ecology; military conflict.

FOR-CREDIT VERSION

Using CST as a lens, **analyse** one of the following social issues facing the UK today: migration; social care crisis; ecology; military conflict (2500-word essay, followed by a 5-minute **viva**).

The image shows the interior of a modern church. The architecture features a high, vaulted ceiling with a series of dark, horizontal wooden beams. The walls are primarily light-colored, with some sections in a vibrant red. Large, colorful stained-glass windows are integrated into the design, casting a mix of blue, green, and red light throughout the space. The pews are made of light-colored wood and are arranged in a semi-circular pattern, facing towards the front of the church. A prominent blue banner with religious imagery hangs on the left wall. In the background, a wooden door is visible, and the word "RECONCILIATION" is inscribed above it. The overall atmosphere is one of contemporary spirituality and architectural innovation.

How much time will it take?

The weekly routine

Sunday

Monday

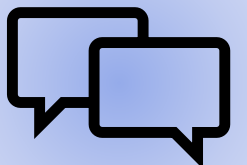
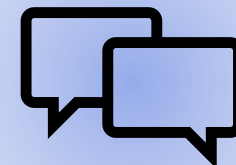
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Week begins:
Content
uploaded and
available for
Participants

Submit your
responses to
Moodle forum
questions by
Thursday night

Comment on
2 other posts
before
Saturday
night



Catholic Pastoral Leadership - Time

Not for credit –
Hope Certificate of
Attendance
Approximately 4-7
hours per week

For credit –
Postgraduate
Certificate (60 credits)
Approximately 5-10
hours per week

For guidance only!





Catholic Pastoral Leadership - Time

There is a considerable amount of time built in for rest, reading and assessments

A hand holding a pen over a tablet with a city skyline silhouette at the bottom.

Catholic Pastoral Leadership - Feedback from students

"On a personal note, I am very grateful to you and Father Peter for the wonderful learning experience that you have provided so far. As someone who came from a non-theological background, the way that the course has been delivered has been exactly what I need and it has inspired me to continue with the study of theology."

Diaconal Student

A hand holding a pen over a tablet with a city skyline silhouette at the bottom.

Catholic Pastoral Leadership - Feedback from students

"As an aside can I just say that the course to date is brilliant. I'm really really enjoying it, it's well thought out and refreshingly different, even if it's hard work and has taken over my life."

For-credit Student 

A blue silhouette of a city skyline with a church steeple.

The image shows the interior of a modern church. The architecture features a high, vaulted ceiling with a series of parallel wooden beams. The walls are light-colored, and there are several large, colorful stained glass windows. A large mural is visible on the left wall. The floor is made of polished wood. In the foreground, there are rows of curved wooden pews. The word "Funding" is written in large white letters across the center of the image.

Funding

Catholic Pastoral Leadership - Total Cost

Not for credit –
Hope Certificate of
Attendance
£1900

For credit –
Postgraduate
Certificate (60 credits)
£2400



Catholic Pastoral Leadership – Funding from Dioceses



<https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/catholic-pastoral-leadership>



Catholic Pastoral Leadership – Funding from Dioceses

Liverpool	Moses	Mui	m.mui@rcaol.org.uk
Hexham and Newcastle	Amy	Cameron	amy.cameron@diocesehn.org.uk
Salford	Paul	Daly	paul.daly@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Hallam	Kevan	Grady	kgrady@hallam-diocese.com
Leeds	Jessica	Wilkinson	jessica.wilkinson@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



Please be aware, different dioceses may have different requirements and conditions. No funding is guaranteed

Where to apply for the course:

<https://www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/postgraduatecourses/catholicpastoralleadershippgcert/>

Postgraduate Courses

Postgraduate Courses

Life at Hope

Fees and funding

How to apply

Visit us

Contact us

Book an Open Day

How to Apply

Catholic Pastoral Leadership (PG Cert online)

Duration: **2 years** | **Hope Park** | Start month: **October**
International students can apply

Overview

Curriculum

Entry Requirements

Teaching & Research

Careers

Finance

About the Course

Are you involved in any ministry in the Church? Are you interested in doing more for the Church? Do you want to expand your skills in pastoral leadership? A new online course in Catholic Pastoral Leadership might be what you are looking for.

Liverpool Hope University has partnered with several Catholic dioceses across England and Wales to help people like you to gain fresh perspectives on Scripture and Church teaching. You will look at real-world issues in the light of our tradition and consider the best ways of exploring Christian faith and life with others.

Your tutors will be drawn from Liverpool Hope's own academic staff and from experts working in pastoral settings. This will give you a rich and rounded knowledge of the field.

You will follow the course online. You will do most of the work at a time to suit yourself - with occasional synchronous sessions.

There are two ways you can take this course. All students will review the material presented online and do some assessed work to complete the course. Or you can take this course as a postgraduate certificate (60 credits) at extra cost and with additional work.

Where to apply for the course:

Course Applying For

Course Title *

CATHOLIC PASTORAL LEADERSHIP (PG Cert online)



Course Start Date *

OCTOBER 2025



Part-time or Full-time *

PART-TIME



Where to apply for the course:

Documents Required

Based on what you have told us, after you submit this form, you will need to send the following documents to postgraduate@hope.ac.uk in order for your application to be processed.

Proof of Qualifications

Two references or sponsorship by a diocese or NDFP

<https://your.hope.ac.uk/form/postgraduateappform>





Next steps

Induction event: Saturday, 6 September

In-person (with an option of joining via zoom), at Liverpool Hope (Childwall campus)



Any Questions?





To apply for the on the Liverpool Hope University website

<https://your.hope.ac.uk/form/postgraduateappform>



Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do
good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all
the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St Theresa of Avila



Thank you

