

Course Information:

Scheduling

- This residential course takes place in 2 blocks of 5 days over two consecutive weeks: **Sunday Evening 23rd – Friday 28th August** and **Monday 31st Aug. – Friday 4th Sept.**, with an optional stay for the weekend.

Class Size

- The group will have a maximum of 15 participants per facilitator. This is considered best practice and most conducive to participative learning.

Teaching Style

- The course uses an Adult Education methodology. Participants are encouraged to critically reflect on and engage with the course content through group, plenary and individual exercises and methods.

Further supports

- It is required that all participants be paired with a support person/ mentor from their sponsor or host community. The accompanying role of this person is crucial to process of inculturation. The support person/mentor should be available to attend on the last day of the programme (Friday 4th September). Participants will also have an opportunity to dialogue with others who have completed the course and who will share on their experience of ministry in Ireland. The course provides clear signposting to additional resources relevant to each area of content as required throughout the course (for example support agencies for mental health issues, social welfare issues, housing, health and employment supports and Catholic Education).

Course Location

- The course takes place in **An Tobar, Spiritan Retreat & Spirituality Centre, Ardraccan, Navan, Co. Meath. C15 T884.**
- This attractive venue offers the participants an opportunity to engage fully with the programme in a reflective and peaceful context. (see www.antobar.ie)

Course Fees

- The course fee is €1,650 per participant. This covers full tuition, full board, NBSCCCI certification, and course materials. Participants are responsible for their own transport arrangements. *All participants must be approved by their sponsoring bishop or host congregation.*
- Please Note: A working knowledge of both written and spoken English is important in order to benefit from and participate fully in the course.

Apply before 30th June 2026

- The course requires a minimum of 10 participants. In the event that fewer than 10 people apply the course will not proceed.
- For an Application Form or further information please contact:

Course Co-ordinator:
Peter Conaty C.S.Sp.,
An Tobar, Ardraccan,
Navan, Co. Meath C15 T884

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Course Facilitators include:

Frank Naughton – Facilitator with Partners in Training for Transformation. Frank facilitates the input on acculturation, communication and collaboration.

Fr Willie Purcell – National Co-ordinator of Vocations Ireland, he is a member of the Immigrant Council of the Bishops Conference. Fr Willie facilitates the input on ministry in Ireland.

Patricia Carroll – Patricia is the Director Mission and Ministry office in Dublin Archdiocese. Patricia has also recently published a book entitled *Becoming a Pastoral Parish Council: How to make your PPC really useful for the twenty-first century.*

Augustine Bangalie CSSp – First came to Dublin in 2011, later serving at Blackrock College and Rockwell College. He now serves as a Chaplain in Spiritan schools and as a Community Leader in Ireland. Augustine will share his experience as a missionary in Ireland.

Audry Deane – Consultant and Policy Analyst. Audry facilitates the input on the historical, economic and social introduction to Ireland.

Jane Ferguson – Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Jane facilitates the certified two day training programme from the National Board of Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church.

Sean Goan – Seán is a well-known contributor to courses and retreats on biblical topics. Sean is a co-founder and lead contributor to www.tarsus.ie.

Other support will be offered by the Spiritan Community at An Tobar.



Spiritan Mission Ireland

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Spiritan Mission Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

Orientation Course for Incoming Pastoral Ministry Workers

Autumn 2026



Spiritan Mission Ireland
An Tobar, Ardraccan, Navan, Co. Meath



Orientation Course for Incoming Pastoral Ministry Workers

Spiritan Mission Ireland, in collaboration with Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, has designed a tailor-made course aimed at incoming pastoral ministry workers. **This course seeks to support the integration and orientation process of incoming pastoral workers and to prepare them for ministry in parishes and congregational settings.**

The course is fully residential and takes place in the Spiritan Retreat and Spirituality Centre in Ardbraccan, Navan Co Meath. This beautiful setting affords the participants the opportunity to learn together in a relaxed community atmosphere where there will be opportunity for personal and communal prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of the course participants will have received a holistic introduction into life in Ireland which will help them adjust to their new home, feel confident in fulfilling their pastoral role and ensure that their ministry meets the needs of those they serve. Participants will:

- Gain insights and understanding of approaches to ministry in Ireland
- Explore issues related to liturgy and spirituality in the context of pastoral ministry in Ireland
- Explore various themes of inter and cross-cultural communication (change, conflict, authority, leadership, listening, collaboration and personal wellbeing)
- Have received a broad overview of the socio-economic, political, cultural landscape and history of Ireland
- Be awarded a certificate of training from the National Board of Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and be fully compliant with the protocol for safeguarding training for people in ministry in Ireland

Themes covered on the course:

Working within and across cultures

- Understanding new contexts, responsibilities and relationships.
- Dealing with cultural nuances, attitudes, norms and behaviours.
- Developing and nurturing positive, authentic relationships.
- Awareness and ability to negotiate across cultures.
- Resilience, well-being, self-care and conflict resolution.
- The course includes cultural activities that provide a basic introduction to the Irish Language, music and heritage.

Ministry in Ireland

- Structure of the Catholic Church, Bishops' Conference, Association of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland, diocesan and parish settings.
- Introduction to key liturgical policies and practices from the Bishops' Conference in Ireland related to ministry in Ireland.
- Understanding responsibilities and duties of roles in both parish and congregational settings.
- Scriptural reflection on Mission in Ireland today.

Ministry in Action

- The role of incoming pastoral ministry workers.
- Day to day pastoral work, making the link between the Church's teaching and everyday life.
- How to connect authentically with congregations, communities and individuals.
- The role of women in the Church.
- Synodality and Ministry in Ireland.

Economic & social introduction to Ireland

- Gospel option for the poor.
- Critical social challenges: poverty, exclusion, homelessness, inequalities of access to healthcare, education, work and housing.
- Case studies.

Safeguarding

- A certified 2-day training from the National Board of Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland is included which ensures that participants are in compliance with the safeguarding protocol for those working in pastoral ministry.

