



The Parramatta Certificate in Ecumenics and Interreligious Dialogue

For people of all denominations and faiths

Learn more about the history of the different Christian Churches and how they are working together to restore Christian unity. Study the challenges and opportunities for interreligious dialogue.

Develop greater understanding of, and empathy for, religions like Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Aboriginal Spirituality. Learn how religions are working towards respect and understanding for each other and promoting peace among all peoples.

Ecumenics

Ecumenics is the study of the movement among Christian Churches – Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant – towards Christian unity.

“Promoting the restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the chief concerns of the Second Vatican Council”.

Decree on Ecumenism, #1. Documents of Vatican II (1962-65)

“The primary purpose of the fellowship of churches in the World Council of Churches is to call one another to visible unity in one faith and in one eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and common life in Christ, through witness and service to the world, and to advance towards that unity in order that the world may believe.”

Constitution of the World Council of Churches, Section III, (1998)

Interreligious Dialogue

Interreligious Dialogue is the movement among faiths or religions towards better understanding of each other, towards promoting acceptance and respect, and promoting world peace and justice.

“Today the church is continually called upon to enable its members to relate to persons of other faith traditions and to live as witnesses with others”

World Council of Churches, Ecumenical Considerations for Dialogue and Relations with People of Other Religions. (2002)

The Catholic Church exhorts her followers, “through dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions, and in witness of Christian faith and life, to acknowledge, preserve, and promote the spiritual and moral goods found among these men

and women, as well as the values in their society and culture.”

Declaration on Non-Christian Religions, #2, Documents of Vatican II (1962-65)

This certificate is for those who want to learn more about Ecumenics and Interfaith Dialogue. No previous study or work is required. The course is open to Christians of all denominations and to people of all faiths.

Mode of offering

- By attendance.
- Saturdays (9.30am-3.30pm) at the Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion Street., Blacktown, NSW.
- Some evenings may be offered as well.

The certificate course consists of four units:

1. Interreligious Dialogue
2. History and Theology of Ecumenism
3. Church: A Community of Believers (2 Units)

Each unit consists of 12 contact hours. Two Saturdays, for example, would constitute one unit. Each unit will have an assignment. All assignments must be completed to qualify for the certificate.

Presenters

The presenters will be persons with particular expertise in given areas of knowledge and experience approved by the Bishop.

Cost of course

Check the website for the cost of each unit: www.instituteformission.com.au

Applicants should approach their parishes to enquire if financial assistance is available for such courses.

Further enquiries

The Director, Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown, NSW.

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