

# Australis Certificate of Ministry: Getting Started

## Facilitators

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The Australis Certificate of Ministry empowers you to teach and train your parish members with minimal preparation time. Everything has been prepared for you. The Facilitator Manual will help you to think through your role as a facilitator. These are available on the web site.

Let your congregation know the course will be starting soon. Consider inviting other local churches to participate if you have small numbers from your parish. Alert them to the advantages of this form of study:

- **Parish based.** Working through this course together will support the ministry of your parish by enhancing community and co-operation while building students' confidence in handling the Bible and articulating their faith. A strength of this course is its emphasis on interactive education, hearing other perspectives and participants learning from each other.
- **Solid training** in Bible, church and ministry from a broad Anglican framework.
- **Accessible** education without being too academically challenging. It is for everyone wanting a better grounding in Christian faith and practice. It does not take a specific perspective on theology or churchmanship and will enable each student to appreciate the perspectives of others.
- Used in **Preparation for ministry** in the Anglican Church for lay people ordained local ministers (OLM's). Consult your bishop about OLM training as this varies between dioceses.
- Used throughout **Australia and New Zealand**. More than 1,000 people have enriched their understanding and practice of their faith by studying this course together.

Decide how much time you are able to give to your group of students. Will classes be weekly, fortnightly or monthly? It is up to you. Each unit covers nine sessions (except Unit 5, which has eight). Each session will take about two hours. You will also need to allocate time for marking the assessment tasks.

Decide which unit to begin with. There are advantages to working through the subjects in order, but if your group has a strong interest in studying the New Testament, there is nothing to stop you from starting at Unit 3. You might even decide to run two or three units at once.

Once you have settled on class times and student numbers, contact the academic director about enrolling the students and ordering course books.

## Students

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Talk to your minister or other theologically informed member of your community about the course. Tell them you would love to study the Certificate with them as facilitator. Give them the Facilitator Manual. These are available on the web site.

Talk to your friends and congregation members about your interest in the course. Tell them how much you would love to have them study with you. Invite widely, and don't make assumptions about who might be interested. This course is for everyone!

Consider your ability to commit time to the course. Each lesson requires a few hours of reading and preparation, and an assessment task is to be completed for each Unit. Assessments may be in the form of creative projects, personal reflection papers or academic essays. It will be your choice.

## Contact

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For enrolments, orders, and any questions, contact the Australis Certificate of Ministry Academic Director on [australiscm@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:australiscm@bendigoanglican.org.au).