

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Adult Education Certificate in Spirituality and Human Development 2026 - 2027



The Adult Education Certificate in Spirituality and Human Development is a two-year part-time evening programme accredited by Marino Institute of Education, an associate college of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. Participants can also join the programme on a one-year basis if they cannot commit themselves to two years. Those who complete the two years will be awarded an Adult Education Certificate in Spirituality and Human Development.

The programme takes place on Tuesday evenings from 7.00-9.30pm with a 30 minute tea/coffee break, and there are three Saturday workshops during the course of the year from 10.00am-4.00pm.

Each year students are introduced to thirteen modules which deal with major issues in human and spiritual development. Class involves a combination of input from experienced and well-known lecturers and engagement by the participants. Assimilation and integration of course material is facilitated by group discussion and the opportunity for individual journaling. There are no exams or any form of assessment.

Students Comments

I would highly recommend this most eye-opening, challenging and positive course.

A portal of knowledge, inspiration, anticipation and joy has been opened, and in its opening, been gifted to me.

I really loved the two years. The course has changed my life in so many ways. I now stop, look and listen and ponder-on day to day issues within my life.

I am left with a profound gratitude for the learning, for the widening and expansion in my thinking about spirituality in the Christian tradition, for access to the unknowable, to mystery, and the pathways of mystics, poets and artists.

Enlightening... brilliant... enriching... life changing.

Contact Details

Please direct all enquiries to

Dr. Mary Gao
Programme Coordinator
Adult Education Certificate in Spirituality and Human Development
Marino Institute of Education
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Dublin 9

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Email: mary.gao@mie.ie

Or

Admissions Office
Tel: 01 805 7752
Email: admissions@mie.ie



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Modules

Modules for Year One 2026 – 2027

Dates	Topics	Lecturers
22 Sept	Induction	Mary Gao
29 Sept (4 wks)	What is Spirituality? Spirituality & Human Development	Sally Hyland Denis Robinson
3 Nov (5 wks)	Introduction to the Old Testament Lectio Divina	Sean Goan Mary Gao
12 Jan (5 wks)	Dreams & Spiritual Growth Introduction to the New Testament	Anne Hession Sean Goan
23 Feb (4 wks)	What Did Jesus Actually Teach? Windows on Social Spirituality	David Halpin Peter McVerry
23 Mar (5 wks)	What's Love got to do with it ? Towards a Spirituality of Suffering	Denis Robinson Sean Goan
(1 wk)	Creative Personal Integration	Eileen O'Brien
4 May (1 wk)	End of Year Integration/Evaluation	Mary Gao

Saturday Workshops 10.00am – 4.00pm

17 Oct	Spirit Moves through Movies	Conall O'Cuinn
28 Nov	Cosmology, Ecology & Being Human	Niamh Brennan
13 Mar	Dancing in Divine Rhythm	Bernadette Purcell

While this list of modules is correct at the time of printing changes may occur.

PROGRAMME

Who is This Programme For?

- Are you looking for food for the mind and oxygen for the soul?
- Do you want to gain insight into self, human development and lived spirituality?
- Are you searching for the meaning and purpose of your life?
- Do you want to understand the meaning of life, suffering, and the need for hope?
- Do you desire to nurture a sense of wonder and appreciation for everyday lived experience?
- Do you want to engage in the stimulation and camaraderie of a group on a similar quest?

If any of these questions are of interest, then this is the programme for you.

The Programme Aims to

- Provide participants with a broad overview of contemporary human and spiritual issues
- Develop skills of reflection and discernment
- Explore the Christian tradition and how it speaks to our everyday life
- Offers a forum for discussion and reflection in a class setting

Programme Requirements

The principal course requirements are attendance, participation in group discussion, and short reflection papers. Enrichment occurs from sharing and interacting with lecturers and class participants.

APPLICATION

Application

Application to the programme is open to anyone regardless of formal educational background.

Those interested in joining the course will have a pre-application chat to discuss the programme and participant expectations.

Applications should be submitted to Dr. Mary Gao, programme co-ordinator. Early application is advisable, however late applications will be considered. Induction will take place on 22nd September 2026.

Cost

Please see website for programme details and cost: www.mie.ie/spirituality

Or contact Mary for more information.

Directions

Marino Institute of Education is a vibrant campus with several beautiful gardens, a coffee shop and a restaurant. It can be accessed by car or bus. The 73 bus from Parnell Street East in Dublin city centre, stops outside the front gate. The N2 route will connect the Institute with Clontarf Road station, but also the Luas at Broombridge and other rail lines at Heuston Station. There is free ample parking and bicycle shed facilities on the campus grounds.