



St Catherine's Seminary is the name of the internal study and training program of the Old Catholic Apostolic Church

Deacons & Pastors Training Program

This document outlines the study material and course for those training to be pastors in OCAC as well as those training as deacons on the path of Holy Orders. It is envisaged that practical experience be gained during study, by accompanying an experienced deacon or pastor as they take services and with practical assignments.

It is necessary for you to read and become familiar with the material on the OCAC website and Old Catholic Education Society website. There is considerable material on these websites, but you will need to book read extensively too. We do not have a prescribed book list, but give the questions that you will be asked in each study unit. It is up to you where you do the research and get the information you need to complete the study units. There is a large portion of independent learning involved, and you can choose the books or videos to use in addition to any specific ones listed below.

Existing pastors or deacons joining from other churches may be exempted from some or all of this course depending on the circumstances. Those wishing to serve in OCAC in Holy Orders will need to undertake additional study units in this St Catherine's seminary program.

OCAC pastoral training uses the concept of performance based learning. That is to say you progress upon meeting specific performance requirements under your mentor's guidance. If you have difficulty, you don't 'fail' - you just keep working until you meet them - but likewise, you won't get through by merely 'showing up' or sending minimal material. Your mentor will guide and assist you in this progression.

The Path

The path for training in the pastorate at OCAC takes the following steps:

1. Application Form completed and sent (this is the ordination/incardination form as used by OCAC) <http://www.liberalcatholics.co.uk/Ordinationform.pdf>
2. On receipt of the form, we will assess and propose a likely path of progression depending on the circumstances as described on the application. This will be where we decide which previous experience or study can be accepted as prior learning.
3. Interview. All candidates will attend an interview. References will be taken up and background checks done, including verifying qualifications.

4. Upon acceptance which will be by writing or email; the candidate is appointed a mentor who will guide the remaining steps of the process.
5. A study plan will be agreed between the mentor and candidate, based on the material below.
6. A web-page on the OCAC website will be created, carrying credentials and information about the candidate. This is so that churches and nursing homes, hospitals etc have some point of reference for information and as a contact point.
7. Although learning and development is a never ending process, the candidate will be ordained pastor when the required levels of skill and expertise are reached. Those in the diaconate can remain as deacons as they like in perpetuity, or they can proceed to the priesthood as Christ calls.
8. Continue your learning and discovery whilst practicing your pastorate. 'The only way to stay still, is to keep moving forward' *Bishop Adrian, Patriarch, OCAC.*

Reading List

Xyz website

Read the website generally, and specifically the following pages/articles:
(there are many interesting sub-pages to navigate too)

The descriptions and explanations of the different denominations

There are many, and this will take some time

'Help I am new to church'

'We want to get married in church'

Types of minister and Holy Orders

Types of Church buildings

Christian Festivals

Glossary of Religious Terms

Directory of Saints

Website Commentary on Biblical Material

Old Testament

New Testament

The Apocrypha

Writings not in the Bible but should be?

Works that should be scripture?

OCAC website

Read the website generally, and specifically the following pages/articles:
(there are many interesting sub-pages to navigate too)

OCAC Canon Law

<http://www.liberalcatholics.co.uk/canons.html>

Codes of Conduct

<http://www.liberalcatholics.co.uk/codes.html>

Duties of those in Minor Orders

Duties of those in Holy Orders

Duties of Pastors

Our Apostolic Succession

<http://www.liberalcatholics.co.uk/successions.html>

Visit the web pages of the various Religious Orders and Societies in OCAC to identify the charism and intent of each.

Visit the web pages of the various national OCAC churches and Provinces to identify the similarities and differences amongst them.

Practical Assignments

Pastoral Visiting

This will be with your mentor, although if you can organize visits yourself, either alone or with another. These will count, as long as evidence of the visit can be shown and a report from a third party verifies the success of the visit:

Visit Funeral Home and/or Crematorium

Pastoral visit to Old Peoples Home

Accompany OCAC Homeless Support or a Street Pastor for several nights.

Make at least one chaplaincy visit (hospital, prison etc)

Public Reading Skill

You will need to be able to read competently in public, for example to read the Bible in worship. Practice this skill with your mentor, and you will be assessed on this.

Skill at Holding a Service

You will need to be able to competently hold a service of Holy Communion. Practice doing this at home and with your mentor; you will be assessed on this.

Worship Delivery

You will need to hold and be assessed on the delivery of at least five public worship services. Ideally this will be a mixture of services, from a Sunday afternoon prayer service at, say, an old peoples home to morning prayer in a 'parish' type setting. Your mentor will help assign this.

Study Units

You will need to answer all the following questions unless exemption is granted by virtue of prior learning or experience. The preferred method is word-processed document or email as they can be done at any time and sent to your mentor for assessment, however those with special needs may be able to deliver their answers verbally.

Study One - Religion & Theology

Religion

1. Assess the arguments against the descriptive approach to religion.
2. How do you understand myths in religion?
3. In religion ritual is the means of getting things done. Discuss
4. Write an essay on 'The place of Sacred texts in religion'.

Theology

5. What is your understanding of Theology?
6. Argue for and against theology being called a science.
7. What contribution does our present culture have to make to our theology?
8. What some call revelation, others call discovery. Discuss.

Study Two - Christ

1. How would you answer someone who says that Jesus was a good man and teacher, but nothing more?
2. Justify your own view of the Virgin Birth.
3. Do we need the 'Jesus of history' if we have the 'Christ of faith'?
4. Write an essay as a commentary on the following verse from a Methodist hymn:
'Our God contracted to a span, Incomprehensibly made man'.

Study Three - Trinity

1. Give a full outline of a sermon or homily that you might preach on Trinity Sunday.
2. 'To say that God is both one and three is nonsense'. Comment.

Study Four - Church

-in general

1. 'I am a Christian, but I don't go to church.' How would you respond to this statement?
2. How can the church fulfill its role as the 'sign of the Kingdom'?
3. Compare the differences and similarities between 6 denominations of your choice.

-about OCAC

3. How can the theology of the Eucharist be more effectively expressed in its practice?
4. Explain the differences between the various Mass liturgies on the OCAC website and express the merits of each.
5. How can OCAC be 'liberal' and non-dogmatic and yet be governed by canons & codes of conduct?

Study Five - The Pastorate

1. Aren't priests and pastors the same thing? Explain how you would answer this.
2. Give a full outline and service plan of a funeral service.
3. Give a full outline and service plan for a baptism.
4. List and explain the arrangements needed for a pastor to conduct a wedding. Do the same for a wedding blessing.
5. Give an outline of three other pastoral functions: pastoral visit, telephone call from someone distressed and being approached by someone with a need after a worship service.

Upon reaching a suitable point; after prayer and discussion with your mentor and the Pastor General, an appointment to the pastorate will be made. A date will be set for an ordination service and a licence outlining the ministry which will be followed. The mission will then support and encourage that serving, and support the pastor delivering it.

Learning never ends, being a pastor is always a 'work in progress' and you will be no different. 'We never arrive: but the joy is in the journey....' *Bishop Adrian, Presiding Bishop, OCAC*

Old Catholic Apostolic Church– Pastoral Training

Draft A