7th June 2024

Dear colleagues,

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for all the work you are doing in teaching Religious Education in Catholic Schools. Following on from meetings with key stakeholders in Catholic Schools on how we can better support you in your work of teaching Religious Education and with regards to your Continuing Professional Development a Memo with Recommendations for Action was circulated to the Catholic Patrons and Boards of Management for their attention.

A Committee has been established to take on board these recommendations and to implement solutions for CPD. In the interim period and in my capacity as National Director for Catechetics I wish to share with you a number of free online and in person resources that you can immediately start to use for your own CPD and to deepen your knowledge of faith.

The intention is to provide you with a suite of resources for those who wish to avail of them. Those who complete the Post-Primary Learning Track in the Franciscan at Home online platform receive a certificate of completion from the National Catechetical Office and Franciscan University. The step-by-step onboarding details for Franciscan at Home are included below.

I hope you find these resources of benefit for your work. Once additional CPD opportunities and in-person events are organised I will update you on these.

With every blessing and good wishes for your Continuing Professional Development,



Dr Alexander O’Hara

National Director for Catechetics

[www.religiouseducation.ie](http://www.religiouseducation.ie)

1. Franciscan University

The Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University has provided free online courses for the National Catechetical Office of the Irish Episcopal Conference. The courses are tailored for teachers working in Catholic schools in Ireland (both at primary and post-primary level) and for those interested in becoming catechists in their parish. Learners are awarded a digital Certificate of Completion by Franciscan University and the National Catechetical Office of the Irish Episcopal Conference on successfully completing one of the Learning Tracks.

To access the free courses, follow these steps:

1. Click on this link:

<https://franciscanathome.com/national-catechetical-office-irish-episcopal-conference-ireland>

1. Register Online:

Click on ‘My Parish or School is already registered, and I would like to set up my individual free account under that institution.’

1. Create a new account

Fill in User account.

**N.B. For Diocese enter**: National Catechetical Office of the Irish Episcopal Conference, Ireland

1. Click on login account in your email address
2. Click on Choose a Membership
3. Click on Individual Subscriptions
4. Click on Free Sign Up
5. For Country: choose Ireland

For Diocese: choose National Catechetical Office of the Irish Episcopal Conference

For Institution: choose Institution for Learners

1. Click Sign Up
2. You now have access to the Learning Tracks under the National Catechetical Office

You also have access to other Learning Tracks provided by the Franciscan University and to their Workshops

1. All courses are self-paced and learners can request a Mentor (for free) who accompanies their learning. The learning content consists of short videos and reflective writing tasks.

Additional Resources:

Boston College: Online Formation for Catechists and Religious Educators

<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads/find-your-course/faith-formation.html>

Light of Truth: Live Catholic Formation

<https://www.lightoftruth.uk/how>

University of Dallas Online Course for Teachers in RE

<https://catholicfaithandculture.udallas.edu/landing-the-person-action-influence>

Called to More: Online Formation

<https://www.calledtomore.org/living-faith>

YouCat

<https://youcat.org/>

Religious Education.ie

<https://religiouseducation.ie/resources/>

In Person Catechism Study Groups:

<https://www.catechism.ie/>