



THE DIOCESE OF
CYPRUS AND THE GULF
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

PART 2: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES



Introduction to the Course

Aim

This module explores a range of issues which face and challenge the contemporary practice of Christian spirituality. We live in an age where there is new openness to the whole field of spirituality. But this is also a time when we need to think and re-imagine many aspects of our inherited practice and ideas.

Practicalities

The module consists of between seven and ten sessions (the group can decide how many beyond the seven core sessions to do) and each lasts approximately 90 minutes concluding with a suggested prayer exercise. There will be a group leader to guide you through the material, and plenty of questions to get you thinking!

Commitment

Apart from attending and playing a full part in the sessions themselves, the only other commitment is to do some preparation prior to each meeting. This will normally be something to think about or read. There will also be additional resources recommended – such as books – but there is no requirement to make use of these.

I hope that this course will both support you as you grapple with contemporary questions about spirituality, and also equip you as you seek to respond to the spiritual thirsts of our time.

Canon Dr Andrew Mayes, Diocesan Spirituality Adviser

Contents

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY : contemporary questions

This module explores contemporary approaches to spirituality and its impact on various dimensions of our life today.

CORE UNITS

1 What trends are taking place in Christian spirituality?

Getting up to speed with developments

2 What is 'spiritual formation'?

Examining a fresh paradigm for spiritual development

3 What impact does personality, gender and sexuality have on spirituality?

Exploring 'the human side of prayer'

4 What is the relationship between meditation and vocation?

Looking at how spirituality relates to mission through Ignatian approaches

5 What is the link between spirituality and the search for justice?

Exploring spiritualities of liberation in the third world and in the first

6 How can we respond to people's contemporary search for spirituality?

Supporting spiritual seekers in a post-modern world

7 How can spirituality connect creatively to ecology and the care of the planet?

Looking at the ecological dimensions and implications of spirituality

OPTIONAL UNITS

8 What is the meaning of intercession in a violent world?

Taking a fresh look intercession and encountering the Cross in today's world

9 What language can we use to express spirituality?

Exploring the role of metaphor and image in spirituality

10 What place does liminality play in spirituality?

Considering the concept of crossing thresholds in prayer and mission