

# *The Australian Church of Antioch*



## *St Michael's Divinity School Curriculum*

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## **An Introduction to St. Michael's Divinity School**

This school was founded in 2006 by the Presiding Archbishop, the Most Rev'd Frank Buggé and the Most Rev'd Br Paul Francis Taylor nee Clark.

That highly esteemed Archbishop Herman Adrian Spruit DD, late Patriarch of the world wide Church of Antioch wrote: "An educational programme initiated by the Church of Antioch must not only be a school, but a movement on spirit that goes beyond the reason of the academy. It must nurture the roots of life with balanced rations of mysticism. Only mysticism sustains the vitality and reality of faith. Education nowadays is often an attempt to serve the status quo. It shall not be so with us. We will lead you into brighter horizons and out into greater fulfilment. We will share many treasures with you that will open new vistas into a better and finer life."

St Michael's Divinity School educates Independent Catholic Clergy. It also enriches the spiritual life of students, enhances their appreciation of the great spiritual traditions of the world, and promotes global awareness of our human family as a spiritual fellowship. When you have read about what St Michael's School of Divinity offers, please write, email or call the school. We are here to help you along your path.

The purpose of St Michael's Divinity School is to provide academic and spiritual resources for the international Independent Catholic Movement and to prepare candidates for Holy Orders, particularly in the Australian

Church of Antioch. The Australian Church of Antioch provides the traditional Catholic Sacraments, maintains a liberal stance, and orients participants towards spiritual development. St Michael's Divinity School is a religious seminary providing professional certification for ministry.

### **The Seminary Program**

St Michael's Divinity is a non-accredited School seminary that prepares participants to be Priests in the Australian Church of Antioch within the Independent Catholic movement. The main mission of the Australian Church of Antioch is to provide the traditional Catholic Sacraments without restrictions to any person for reasons of race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. The Church is characterised by a liberal viewpoint on Doctrine. Thus the seminarian's preparation includes subjects related to the sacraments as well as a broad look at perennial religious issues.

Candidates with prior training or competence may apply for advanced standing. Applications for advanced standing should be submitted to the Dean along with supporting documentation such as transcripts, certificates, or any other pertinent documents.

Our program is predominantly a distance learning program. This means that students can gain experience in their own communities and local churches if desired, and complete the courses through correspondence. As adult learners, students are primarily responsible for their own learning. We believe that through this process, students

not only become theologically prepared for ministry, but achieve initiative, self discipline, and the ability to plan for specific outcomes, all of which we think are good traits and useful skills for Clergy.

The School looks with favour upon those who also supply an official police check of their character, guaranteeing that we are not putting any person in moral danger by ordaining unsuitable candidates.

The Australian Church of Antioch reserves the right to refuse to ordain any person that fails a police check, and reserves the right to refuse any candidate entry into the school without giving any reason for refusal except to guarantee that such refusal is not on the grounds of race, creed, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

While the students wishing to become priests in the Australian Church of Antioch are provided with a very efficient form of liturgy covering most normal services, this does not stop any candidate from using their own forms of liturgy, provided it is vetted by the Synod. The reason for such vetting is that the Church needs to make sure no form of illegal, immoral, unsavoury, satanic, or any other type of such harmful ritual is practiced in the Church's name. The Australian Church of Antioch has no problem with those who wish to use Anglican, Roman, Liberal, or any other recognised religion's rituals. Any Clergy who wish to write their own ritual may do so, but if it is to be used in the Antioch Church's name then it must be sanctioned as above board by the Synod. All the

same the Synod requests that all Clergy under the Australian Church of Antioch name be conversant with the recommended liturgy, as it provides the Parishes with a universal liturgy should any parishes wish to have a common united service for some special function.

### **Eligibility and Admission**

The theological programme of St. Michael's Divinity School is designed for individuals who wish to seek the Priesthood or ministry in any Independent Catholic Church Jurisdiction. Candidates from jurisdictions other than the Australian Church of Antioch must have their local Bishop's, or church committee's approval before registering with the school. Those who wish to study simply for their own satisfaction can discuss their particular situation with the Dean of the school.

### **Other Independent Churches**

Any Church who has no Bishop within their ranks, but still requires a Priest with genuine Apostolic Succession to be ordained for them, can make arrangements with the Dean of the school for a Bishop from the Australian Church of Antioch to ordain a Priest for that Church. Any request for this service must be accompanied by a written request from the church committee, and the normal police check of their Candidate's character. This is to safeguard all sides from any unwanted and unpleasant consequences.

### **Important Notice**

There are some subjects that are controversial, and may not fit into the candidate's beliefs, but we feel it is important to have a smattering of knowledge on these subjects to understand other religions, and beliefs. The school has no wish to "BRAINWASH" students, and students can feel free to voice their opinions on any subjects without any adverse effect on their tuition or grading, however the school does not enter into any debate to justify the teaching of these subjects.

Candidates should know that Priests and ministers in our Church would be responsible for their own ministries. The Australian Church of Antioch does not provide salaries or stipends for Clergy. Any salaries or stipends are the responsibility of the parish that is under the care of that Priest or minister.

While the School attempts to prepare candidates for ordination, candidates should also know that the final decision about their suitability for ordination to the Priesthood or ministry is made in consultation with the Dean of the school and the Presiding Archbishop, the director of Clergy, and the mentoring Bishop or Apostolic administrator of the diocese where the seminarian resides or attends.

### **Required Practicum**

Before seminarians can be ordained to the Diaconate, they must attend at least three training days and complete the practicum workshop training that is offered. All

seminarians are encouraged to participate and train under an Australian Church of Antioch Priest in their local area. If none is available, we strongly recommend that seminarians find another suitable Clergy person to work with, and a faith community to workshop with, or discuss your position with the Dean or Arch-prime.

**Dean**

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**The Associate of Divinity (A. Div) Degree (100/200)**

The Associate of Divinity is in two levels.

**Level 1:** The candidate must complete all of the course 100 series. However, if they only wish to do a particular 100 course they will receive a certificate of this. On completion of all Minor Orders requirements the candidate will receive an Associate of Divinity Level 1.

**Level 2:** The Candidate must complete all the course 200 series. As in Level 1 those who complete all the Major Orders receive the Associate of Divinity Level 2, and as in Level 1, a seminarian can opt to only do one 200 course and a certificate will be issued certifying this. The Associate of Divinity is a foundation of a professional degree awarded to seminarians prior to ordination to the Priesthood. Its purpose is to give the requisite training for the professional practice of the ministry for those who do not possess an Associate's Degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university. The contents include personal development, liturgical practice and pastoral care.

## **The Bachelor of Divinity (B. Div) Degree (300)** **Major Orders Only**

The Bachelor of Divinity is the primary professional degree awarded to seminarians prior to ordination to the Priesthood. Its purpose is to give the requisite training for the professional practice of the ministry including personal development, liturgical practice, and pastoral care.

## **The Master of Divinity (M. Div) Degree (400)** **Major Orders Only**

The Master of Divinity is an advanced professional degree awarded to seminarians prior to ordination to the Priesthood. Its purpose is to give the requisite training for the professional practice of the ministry including personal development, liturgical practice and pastoral care at the graduate level.

## **Academic Rigor and Course Credit**

All courses consist of assignments, and an examination that is in two parts. Part one is the written essay on a selected question and has to be the required length for the course level being studied and is worth 50% of the mark and an Examination paper worth 50% of the mark. Students are expected to complete their selected course in their own timespan. No timeframe is given, so each candidate can work at his/her own pace and level. Assignments are tailored to the academic level at which the candidate is working (Associate's, Bachelor's, or



Master's). In order to receive credit for the course, the candidate is expected to conform to the customary rigour for the level of the course. The pass mark for each subject and level is 60. The marks of both parts are added together to get an average and that average is the mark.

E.g. Part 1, 85/100, Part 2, 79/100 = 164 = 82 pass with credit.

0-59 Not Satisfactory; 60 - 74 Pass; 75-84 Credit; 85-94 Honours; 95-100 First class Honours.

### **The Continuing Educational Programme for Clergy**

Clergy who wish to continue their studies, whether for their own personal enrichment, enhanced service to others, and/or preparation for further ordination, may enrol in the Continuing Education Programme.

### **Fees and Official Transcripts**

A teaching fee of \$40 per month for 2 years is set for students, payable monthly to the Australian Church of Antioch. If a seminarian goes on to further studies after ordination to Priest, a fee of \$75 per course is payable to the Australian Church of Antioch. This is to cover cost of tuition and marking and writing a written report on the assignments. On completion of the course core assignment there may be an examination or a written paper of the course. If for some reason of hardship, a candidate cannot finish in two years, then further discussion with the Dean may be entered into depending upon the circumstances. Completion of all the courses

will not automatically guarantee ordination. This will be granted if and when the examiners agree that the student is ready for the responsibility of the level studied for. Excessive illegal uncontrolled use of alcohol or drugs, or an illegal or immoral source of income shall be an absolute bar to ordination.

A student will be expected to attend the Mass on a regular basis for hands on training and enlightenment if he/she has any wish to become Clergy in the Australian Church of Antioch.

A person registering with the Church for tuition to attain the Priesthood with the intention of starting a parish under The Australian Church of Antioch, may be granted the authority to hold prayer meetings and such, in effect starting their own parish during their training, but a Mass cannot be performed by anyone below the rank of Priest.

A Degree will be awarded and ordination recommended upon completion of the academic requirements. Books and other course materials are not included in the cost of the tuition.

### **A More Detailed Discussion of Holy Orders**

Holy Orders is one of the Sacraments of the Church, a special initiation into the service of Our Lord Jesus Christ. They are available to qualified candidates who feel a calling to devote themselves to Christ in this intimate way.

Candidates in Holy Orders receive a transmission or ordination, which empowers them with the authority to perform sacred duties. The ritual of ordination is an outward act of an inner reality. Each order is an initiation in itself with its own values. Once a person has been spiritually prepared, then he or she is ready to advance to another stage of development. These ordinations link the candidate with Christ. It is said that Holy Orders were instituted by Christ, and that the first Bishops were consecrated by the Apostles to act as instruments through which Christ performs his work.

There are two groups of orders - the Minor and the Major. In the Australian Church of Antioch, candidates for orders receive an initiation to serve as a beginning, which carries an immense blessing, preparing the aspirant for entry into the sanctuary of the Altar. After this acceptance, the Minor Orders begin: Cleric, Doorkeeper, Reader, Healer-Exorcist and Acolyte. The Major orders are: Sub-Deacon, Deacon and Priest. Each order emphasises a special attribute and an intention to produce a precise effect. With each succeeding order, the candidate makes a determined effort towards the unfoldment of the characteristics in each stage of development.

### **The Order of Cleric**

The Cleric dedicates him or herself to God and to the service of Christ. In manner and speech, the Cleric strives to show beauty, and to remember that the physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Self-control with regard to

the physical body is one of the attributes stressed in this step, and the candidate endeavours to live for the soul.

### **The Order of Doorkeeper**

In former times, it was the duty of the Doorkeeper to ring the Church bells and to open the Church doors at the appointed time. In our time, the ordination to Doorkeeper relates to transforming the emotions and passions. When the emotions come under control, tranquillity follows. The Doorkeeper learns devotion to God and humanity, giving love and throwing open the doors to his or her heart in service, summoning all to the service of God.

### **The Order of Reader**

In the order of Reader, the candidate works to control the powers of the mind and to devote those to God's service. The transformation of the intellect is the purpose of this step in Holy Orders. After having worked to control both the body and the emotions, the candidate now enters a higher phase of the work. In former times the Reader read for the preacher, intoned the lessons, blessed bread and all first fruits. Now the Reader is asked to dedicate all of his/her mind to the glory of God, to train and develop the mind to influence others for good, and cultivate the power of concentration.

### **The Order of Healer/Exorcist**

In this order, the power of the will is more definitely developed. The Healer heals through his or her intention,

and intention is an operation of the will. The Healer focuses the will on producing wholeness of life in others, for to heal means to make whole. Transformation of the will involves culturing the heart in order to assist others in healing themselves of separateness. The gift of healing will be strengthened by the initiation to the order of Healer.

### **The Order of Acolyte**

The Acolyte's task is to quicken the intuition and open the self to spiritual influence. This opening requires the transformation of the ego. Through spiritual discipline, the boundaries of the ego are rolled back and the ego is purified or its egocentricity through obedience to a higher authority. The Acolyte bears the spiritual light of Christ and strives to enkindle the sense of God's Presence within the hearts of others. The Order of Acolyte is intended to help the candidate quicken his or her spiritual faculties and understanding.

### **The Order of Sub-Deacon**

The Sub-Deacon is a preparatory grade of the greater orders of Deacon and Priest. Ordination gives greater strength and steadfastness of purpose, and begins the transformation of the candidate into the Major Orders. Purified by previous initiations, the stage is set for more profound transformations. Formerly, the Sub-Deacon was responsible for providing water for the service of the altar, to wash the altar linens, and to guard the gates of the sanctuary. This is the start of one taking his or her place

at the altar and assisting in the performance of the rites. The Sub-Deacon learns control of speech, love of service, and diligence at the altar while tasting the joyful spirit of the Major Orders.

### **The Order of Deacon**

The Deacon is an apprentice to the Priest and is sufficiently empowered by the initiation to administer the sacrament of Baptism and marriage (should the nominating Bishop so approve), to handle the sacred vessels, and to help in the care of the sick and poor. The Deacon ministers at the altar, reads the Gospel, and takes a speaking part in the performance of the rites. In the absence of the Priest, the Deacon dispenses the reserved sacrament and conducts final rites. The candidate is expected to spend at least six months serving as a Deacon before being ordained to the Priesthood. Exceptional qualities shown by a Deacon can shorten this time if the Bishop sanctions this.

### **The Order of Priest**

Ordination to the Priesthood effects a most profound transformation. The candidate is empowered by the Holy Spirit to perform sacred rites in Christ's name. The Priest grows stronger spiritually as this initiation deepens his/her connection with higher spiritual energy, unified with the Lord Christ. The conferring of the Priesthood is, above all things the granting of a wonderful, colossal opportunity, and no effort is spared to help the recipient to take advantage of it. In addition to the powers conferred upon

the candidate in the Diaconate, the Priest has the power to bless objects, to bless people in the Name of The Christ, to give unction, to pronounce the forgiveness of sins, and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. This ministry is the essence of the perpetuation of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Here lies the centre and the core of the Priesthood. This is not a task one can relinquish whenever so moved. The invitation to service is forever. Priests are called to spend their lives as servants and lovers of God and God's people. This is a costly call, as the Priest forsakes being master of his or her talents and time; however, the gifts are well worth the effort.

### **Additional Comments about the Non-stipendiary Nature of our Ministry**

In the Australian Church of Antioch, Priests undertake responsibility for the ministry they choose. They are not supported financially by the Church, and since they do not directly charge for religious services, few are able to support themselves through their ministries alone. We are typical Worker-Priests who support ourselves with other occupations and offer our service of love as a gift to God and humankind. Any financial donations are most appreciated to assist its members in their Ministry.

In an endeavour to save students money, a login to the school website will be issued to students upon enrolment, where you will find most of the material necessary for the student to learn. If a Student has no way to access the internet, then please contact the Dean to make other arrangements for hard copies.

## **MINOR ORDERS**

The Minor Order course is only an Associate Level 1 Course. Those going on to Major Orders and have passed the Associate Course for Minor Orders may continue on either with the Associate Level 2 or may decide to do the Bachelor of Divinity (B Div). If you hold a Bachelor degree from an accredited University you may do the Master of Divinity (M Div).

### **Preparation for Cleric** **Associate Divinity - 101**

*The following Assignments must be completed before ordination to Cleric can proceed.*

#### **Part 1 – Bible Study**

1. Read the Book of Genesis and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
2. Read the Book of Samuel 1 and 2 and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read the Book of Kings 1 and 2 and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read the Book of Joshua and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

#### **Part 2 – Antioch Text**

5. Read the “Principles of the Church about Women”, “Dispensing Host and Sacraments”, “Gays,” “Minors under 7 years of age”, “Hand Signs” and learn the



“Order of Candle Lighting“ and then write a brief outline on each of the topics.

### **Part 3 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2. Submit your papers to the Dean, along with your Essay from one of the selected Topics. The Topics are set for all degree levels, however, the requirements for the essay longer. Please refer to each degree level.

#### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. From your knowledge of the Mass discuss the part the following people and items play in the Mass: Incense; Holy Water; Chalice; Ciborium; Tabernacle (or Ombre); Chasuble; Stole; Server; Thurifer; Acolyte; Sub-Deacon; Deacon and Priest.
2. The Books of Samuel 1 and 2 – discuss the importance of the introduction of the monarchy and the first three kings.
3. King David fell from grace because of Sin. Discuss the life of David as both shepherd boy and King of Israel.

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Cleric can now proceed*

## **Preparation for Doorkeeper** **Associate Divinity - 102**

*The following Assignments must be completed before ordination to Doorkeeper can proceed*

### **Part 1 – Bible Study**

1. Read the book of Exodus and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
2. Read the book of Leviticus and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read the book of Numbers and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read the book of Deuteronomy and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 2 – Antioch Text**

5. Read the “Care of the Sacraments” and how they are stored, dispensed and by whom, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
6. Read Chapter 1, “A new Idea of Church Worship”, Page 1-26 from C. Leadbeater’s book “Science of the Sacraments”, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
7. Read Chapter V “The Lesser Sacraments” page 415-434 from C. Leadbeater’s book “Science of the Sacraments”, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 3 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2. Submit your papers to the Dean, along with your Essay from one of the selected Topics. The Topics are set for all degree levels, however, the requirements for the essay longer. Please refer to each degree level.

#### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. The importance of Amos for his own period and for today.
2. An Outstanding individual in the Old Testament: explain why he or she is significant.
3. The People of Israel as God's Chosen People.
4. Discuss the various Minor Orders within the Australian Church of Antioch and their significance for the Church today. Discuss your views for or against, and reasons why other denominations have removed or kept them.
5. Discuss the different hand signs for the various degrees of Minor Orders and make a chart showing the finger positions.
6. Discuss the two version of the commandments found within the book of Deuteronomy.

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Doorkeeper can now proceed.*

## **Preparation for Reader** **Associate Divinity - 103**

*The following Assignments must be completed before ordination to Reader can proceed.*

### **Part 1 – Bible Study**

1. Read the book of Jeremiah and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
2. Read the book of Lamentations and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read the book of Job and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read the book of Psalm 1 to 50 and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 2 – Antioch Text**

5. Read the “History of Christianity” as per “The Australian Church of Antioch.”, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
6. Read “The Duties for Clergy and Assistants at Mass”, and then give a verbal outline on what it contains.

### **Part 3 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2. Submit your papers to the Dean, along with your Essay from one of the selected Topics. The Topics are set for all degree levels, however, the requirements for the essay longer. Please refer to each degree level.

### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. Discuss and assess the main features of some religion other than Christianity.
2. Common features in all religions, and common problems facing all today.
3. “Adherents of other religions should become Christian.” Discuss.
4. The place of Holy writings in world religions.
5. The western cult of Oriental religions, e.g. Hare Krishna.
6. “The teachings of the Buddha have a place in the Christian faith.” Discuss for or against – give reference from Scripture and other Holy writings.
7. Choose one of these Psalms and discuss its significance for today (8, 19, 22, 50).

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Reader can now proceed.*

### **Preparation for Healer/Exorcist** **Associate Divinity - 104**

*The following Assignments must be completed before ordination to Healer/Exorcist can proceed.*

### **Part 1 – Bible Study**

1. Read the book of Isaiah and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
2. Read the book of Zephaniah and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read the book of Malachi and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read the book of Psalm 51 to 100 and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
5. Read Chapter 1-20 of the Aquarian Gospel and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 2 – Antioch Text**

6. Read the ‘What are the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hamadi texts?’, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
7. Read “Jesus as a Pagan” and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 3 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2. Submit your papers to the Dean, along with your Essay from one of the selected Topics. The Topics are set for all degree levels, however, the requirements for the essay longer. Please refer to each degree level.

### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. Choose one of the following Psalms and discuss its significance for today, (51, 78, 100).
2. Discuss the first 10 chapters of the Aquarian Gospel, giving reference to any New Testament Gospels.
3. Discuss how you think the teachings of Buddha may have relevance to our Christian faith today.
4. From your knowledge of the Eucharist – write a form of Service for Mass to be said and explain your reasons for using or deleting sections of the known Mass.
5. Discuss the importance for the Ministry of Healing and Exorcism.

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Healer/Exorcist can now proceed.*

### **Preparation for Acolyte** **Associate Divinity - 105**

*The following Assignments must be completed before ordination to Acolyte can proceed.*

#### **Part 1 – Bible Study**

1. Read the book of Ruth and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

2. Read the book of Judges and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read the book of Psalm 100 to 150 and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read the Gospel of Matthew and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
5. Read Chapter 21-50 of the Aquarian Gospel and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 2 – Antioch Text**

6. Read the ‘The Purpose of the Eucharist’, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
7. Read “The Importance of Both Genders within the Church.”, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 3 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2. Submit your papers to the Dean, along with your Essay from one of the selected Topics. The Topics are set for all degree levels, however, the requirements for the essay longer. Please refer to each degree level.

#### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. The process by which the Gospels reached their present form.



2. Christ as he is portrayed in the Gospel of Matthew and the first 50 chapters of the Aquarian Gospel.
3. The beginnings of the Church and its development in the New Testament period.

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Acolyte can now proceed.*

### **MAJOR ORDERS**

Once you have completed the Associate Level 1 for the Minor Orders, or beginning Major Orders, you may now enter for either the Associate Level 200, or, if you hold a Bachelor degree from an accredited university, you may decide to do the Bachelor of Divinity (B Div 300), or opt for the Master of Divinity (M Div 400). On consultation with your Bishop and the Dean of St Michael's Divinity School you may be able to commence at the Sub-Deacon level without doing the Minor Orders Associate Diploma, however, to do the Master of Divinity level you must hold a Bachelor Degree from an accredited University.

### **Preparation for Sub-Deacon (201/301/401)**

*The following must be completed before ordination to Sub-Deacon can proceed.*

### **Part 1 - Bible Study**

1. Read the Gospel of Mark then write a brief outline on what it contains.
2. Read the Gospel of Luke then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read the Book of the Acts of the Apostles then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read the Aquarian Gospel 51 to 100 then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 2 – Antioch Text**

5. Read “The Origins of the Church and Succession.”, then write a brief outline on what it contains. (In your outline you need not list the Apostolic Succession, as it is there only to show the candidate what the Apostolic Succession of the Church of Antioch is.)
6. Is Apostolic Succession really important? Write a brief outline on this subject.
7. Read Chapter IV “Holy Order” found in C. Leadbeater’s Book “Science of the Sacrament” Page 324 - 414, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
8. Read the notes on the definition of various vessels and robes of the church and in your own words explain them in a short essay.

### **Part 3 - Homily Preparation**

9. Write a homily that would take about 5 minutes to deliver on any selected text from either the Gospel of

Mark, Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Aquarian Gospel.

#### **Part 4 -Training Days**

10. This is a non written section. Those who are able to, are required to attend two study sessions on the duties of the Sub-Deacon at the Bishop's Chapel. These can be arranged through the Bishop's office. Those who can not are required to send a Video or DVD recording of them giving a demonstration of what their duties are during the Mass and what they can and can not do as a Sub-Deacon.

#### **Part 5 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2. Submit your papers to the Dean, along with your Essay from one of the selected Topics. The Topics are set for all degree levels, however, the requirements for the essay longer. Please refer to each degree level.

##### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. The Importance of Paul for Christian Faith today.
2. Contrast and compare two Gospels of your choice with respect to their purpose and method of presenting Jesus Christ.
3. Place the following quotation in its context and comment on its significance in the structure of Mark's Gospel: "And he began to teach them that the Son of

Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31).

4. The Acts of the Apostles should more correctly be entitled the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Discuss in relation to Acts 1-15).
5. Prepare a training programme for assisting in the teaching of Numerology.
6. Select and discuss three sections or the Aquarian Gospel Chapter 51 to 100. Give references and compare these passages to one of the Traditional Gospels.

### **The Associate of Divinity (A. Div level 201) Degree**

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

### **The Bachelor of Divinity (B. Div 301) Degree**

The essay is to be 4500 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

### **The Master of Divinity (M. Div 401) Degree**

The essay is to be 7000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Sub-Deacon may proceed.*

## **Preparation for Deacon (202/302/402)**

*The following Assignments must be completed before ordination to Deacon can proceed.*

### **Part 1 - Bible Study**

1. Read the Gospel of John then write a brief outline on what it contains.
2. Read Peter, 1 and 2, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read the book of Romans, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read Corinthians, 1 and 2, then write a brief outline of what it contains.
5. Read the Aquarian Gospel 101 to 150 then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 2 – Antioch text**

6. Read “Freedom of Thought.”, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
7. Read “The Liturgical Year” and give a detailed account of how the Liturgical Seasons came about and how our Liturgical year runs.

### **Part 3 - Homily Preparation**

8. Write a 6 - 7 minute Homily on a selected passage from the Gospel of John. You may submit the written Homily along with a Video or DVD of you presenting the Homily at a service.

9. Select a portion of Scripture from Peter, 1 and 2, and write a short Homily on the text.
10. Give a brief outline of the life of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul. In your outline list some of the Highlights of their life and writings.

#### **Part 4 - Training Days**

11. This is a non written section. Those who are able, are required to attend two study sessions on the duties of the Deacon at the Bishop's Chapel. These can be arranged through the Bishop's office. Those who can not are required to send a Video or DVD recording of them giving a demonstration of what their duties are during the Mass and what they can and can not do as a Deacon.

#### **Part 5 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2. Submit your papers to the Dean, along with your Essay from one of the selected Topics. The Topics are set for all degree levels, however, the requirements for the essay longer. Please refer to each degree level.

#### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. Using illustrations from religions which you have surveyed, discuss the influence of religion on society.

2. Compare and contrast the teaching of John the Baptist and Jesus on the Kingdom of God.
3. Why did the Corinthian Christians cause such concern to Paul?
4. Discuss the importance of “Freedom of Thought” against being bound by the Dogma that most other Christian Churches demand of their clergy.
5. From your reading of Scripture, find as many references to the Church in Antioch you can and discuss any good and bad problems it faced.

### **The Associate of Divinity (A. Div 202) Degree**

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

### **The Bachelor of Divinity (B. Div 302) Degree**

The essay is to be 4500 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

### **The Master of Divinity (M. Div 402) degree**

The essay is to be 7000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Deacon can now proceed.*

### **Preparation for Priest (203/303/403)**

*The following Assignments must be completed before ordination to Priest can proceed.*

### **Part 1 - Bible Study**

1. Read Ephesians, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
2. Read Thessalonians, 1 and 2, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
3. Read Timothy, 1 and 2, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
4. Read John, 1, 2 and 3, then write a brief outline of what it contains.
5. Read the book of Revelations, then write a brief outline of what it contains.
6. Read the Aquarian Gospel 151 to the end, then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Part 2 – Antioch Text**

7. Read “Expectations of a Priest in the Church of Antioch.”, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
8. Read “How important is the Mass” then write a brief outline on what it contains.
9. Read “The Workings of the Mass” then write a brief outline on what it contains.
10. Read only, The “Constitution of the Australian Church of Antioch”. There is no written work to be done on this.

### **Part 3 - Homily Preparation**

11. Write a 10 minute Homily on a selected passage from the book of Ephesians.



12. Present and deliver a short homily based on the Gospel of the day at a Eucharist Service that the Bishop will be the Celebrant. This will be done on one of the training days at the Bishop's Chapel, or may be on Video or DVD showing you delivering the Homily with a congregation present. The written Homily must also be submitted with the Video – DVD.

#### **Part 4 - Training Days**

13. This is a non written section. Those who are able to, are required to attend three study sessions on the duties of the Priest at the Bishop's Chapel. These can be arranged through the Bishop's office. Those who cannot are required to send a Video or DVD recording of them giving a demonstration of saying the Mass. This must be the approved Antioch Mass and either the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Gull Matthews Mass or the Celtic Mass.

#### **Part 5 – Examination**

An examination paper will be sent to you where you will be asked questions on the material you have studied in Part 1 and 2.

#### **Essay Topics**

(one to be selected from the following questions)

1. Assess the value of the Thessalonian letters for understanding Paul's apostolic message and ministry

within the context of the mid-first Century Church, and briefly indicate the applicability of this to the present day.

2. Examine the view that Jesus' divinity is more conspicuous than his manhood in the fourth Gospel.
3. Show the relationship of the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel.
4. Discuss in depth the expectations the Church of Antioch has for its Priests.
5. List all sections of the Approved Antioch Mass and discuss the contents of these sections. Give comparisons to the Mass you feel comfortable to use. If you have selected to follow the Antioch Mass then compare it with either that of the Anglican, Celtic, or Roman Catholic Mass.
6. Write a training programme that you would use for a child who is being prepared for confirmation.

### **The Associate of Divinity (A. Div level 203) Degree**

The essay is to be 2000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

### **The Bachelor of Divinity (B. Div 303) Degree**

The essay is to be 4500 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

### **The Master of Divinity (M. Div 403) Degree**

The essay is to be 7000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

*Ordination to Priest can now proceed.*

On completion of all series 100 or 200 Associate Diploma courses or the series 300 or 400 Degree courses, you will receive a certificate for the level of Associate of Divinity or Bachelor or Master of Divinity; and will list the levels sat.

**At the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop a period of Post Ordination Training may be required.**

As part of the Priests ongoing training the following two courses can be obtained from the Dean of the School. These two courses have homework at the end of each study (the course may have 6 to 9 weekly studies with assignments). Once completed you are requested to submit a written report of 3 to 4 pages or more on the course you have selected and how it has or has not helped you in your ministry.

The two courses are:  
Lay people's Theology.  
The Ministry of Caring.

**Doctorate of Divinity (500)**

This level is a research level degree and a Thesis on one of the following topics must be submitted. This must be at least 100 pages plus.

The Candidate entering for this degree has up to four years to submit three copies of the Thesis, one copy is for the

library, and a copy will be sent to three separate examiners.

The Thesis shall be in A4 format and shall be typewritten in double spacing. The three copies shall be bound, with the title, author's name and year of submission in gold-blocked lettering on the spine. These copies shall be deposited with the Dean, accompanied by the specified fee. After the examination, one copy of the Thesis shall be retained by the School. A candidate may restrict access to their thesis for copyright purposes.

Each examiner will either Pass or Fail the paper. The candidate will need to pass by two of the examiners to be awarded the Doctorate of Divinity degree.

The Subjects that you can follow up research on are as follows:

1. History of Christianity (501)
2. Public Ministry (502)
3. Ecclesiology (503)
4. Homiletics (504)
5. Liturgy (505)
6. Ethics (506)
7. Liturgical Year (507)
8. Pastoral Care (508)
9. Theology of the Sacraments (509)
10. The writings that did NOT make the canon within the Bible including the Aquarian Gospel (510)

Other subjects may be approved on application to the Dean and the Board of Bishops.

### **Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa)**

The Board of St. Michael's Divinity School has adopted the following regulations for the award of the degree of Doctor of Divinity (*Honoris Causa*).

1. Any proposed name must be submitted to the board by a member of the school.
2. Save in exceptional cases, a proposal shall not be considered if the person proposed may, in the ordinary course of events, be expected to be a candidate for the award of the certificate by examination.
3. A person proposed for nomination should already hold a doctoral degree from a recognised university, or be the author of a published work which is a substantial contribution to theological learning, or have made a notable contribution to the life and work of the Church.

Upon receipt of a proposal, the Delegates shall determine whether there is a *prima facie* case for the award of the degree using, if desirable, the advice of at least two assessors (one of whom shall be, if appropriate, a distinguished scholar in the field). If the Delegates determine that a *prima facie* case does exist they shall prepare a report to the board which must then decide by an absolute majority of three of the five Bishops whether to nominate the person for the award of the degree.