

# *The Australian Church of Antioch*



## *St Michael's Divinity School Esoteric Studies*

©2021 St Michael's Divinity School  
Australian Church of Antioch.  
All Rights Reserved.

### **Editorial Team.**

Most Rev'd Frank Buggé.

Most Rev'd Br Paul Francis Taylor. (eosf)

### **Dean of St. Michael's Divinity school**

The Most Rev'd Br. Paul Francis Taylor (eosf)

### **Board of Bishops & Examiners**

The Most Rev'd Frank Buggé. DD.

The Most Rev'd Chearle Buggé. Hon DD.

The Most Rev'd Br. Paul Francis Taylor. DD. FCMD;  
LCMD; L dip A (Aust); ANZT, ANZM. (eosf)

The Most Rev'd Louissette Larher. Hon DD.

The Most Rev'd Leonie Newman. Dip Min. LSMDS

Monsignor Jack Sweeley, Th.D.(eosf)

## **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 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 School is a non-accredited 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 who 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 candidates 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 by the Synod. Nevertheless, the Synod requests that all clergy under the Australian Church of Antioch's name be

conversant with the recommended liturgy, as it provides the parishes with a universal liturgy if many 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 which has no Bishop within its ranks, but still requires a priest with genuine apostolic succession to be ordained for it, 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 should find another suitable clergy-person to work with, and a faith

community to workshop with, or discuss your position with the Dean or Presiding Archbishop.

**Dean**

(03) 6333 4510 or  
P O Box 474 Launceston 7250

**Presiding Archbishop**

(03) 9499 1681 or  
6 Shiers St. Alphington 3078.

## **Introduction**

### **What Are Esoteric Studies**

The goal of esoteric studies is a practical understanding of the nature of the Cosmos, the Self or Soul, the Soul's relation with the "little self" or personality, and the process of integration and fusion between the Soul and the personality, using well-defined and proven techniques. This fusion enables us to acquire direct knowledge of the spiritual worlds rather than functioning by faith alone.

**We do this by:**

Becoming aware of the forces that constitute the personality equipment.

Becoming sensitive to the impelling energies of the Soul, or Self.

Learning about our higher spiritual center, from which the Soul draws its consciousness.

Recognizing conditioning energies in the environment, seeing them not as events or circumstances but as energy in action.

Esotericism is a practical science, useful not only in daily life, but also in world affairs, as it reveals the workings behind current events. Emphasis is placed on practical

application in order to prevent students from using the teaching as an escape mechanism or withdrawing from responsible action on the plane of human living. We learn to recognize real need and demonstrate service in some field of our own choosing, thus becoming servers of the Divine Plan, which is the emerging pattern lying behind events in the outer world. As we begin to comprehend the meaning underlying all events and to control the forces of our individual nature, we become light bearers and effective servers in the world.

There are many esoteric traditions from which teaching material can be drawn. The St. Michael's Divinity School's Esoteric Studies have been written and prepared for the school by the Presiding Archbishop the Most Rev'd Frank Buggé and the Syllabus prepared by the Most Rev'd Br. Paul Francis (eosf).

### **The Esoteric Studies Course. Degree. (E600)**

The Esoteric Studies is in four levels. Each level must be completed and passed to gain the Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship Diploma and Fellowship Research Diploma certificate.

The Associate of Esoteric Studies must be completed and passed before a candidate can enter the Licentiate Studies. Once the Licentiate is passed the candidate may enter for the Fellowship which is the final level of these courses. The Associate level is equivalent of a Bachelor Degree, the Licentiate is that of the Honours Degree and university



Level and the Fellowship is similar to that of the Masters Degree and university Level.

### **Level 1 (E600) The Associate Esoteric Diploma**

The candidate must complete the entire course E600 series. The requirements set out are basically the esoteric requirements for our Cleric to Acolyte, and is set out in Esoteric Studies 1. This gives a general background and preparations for the Licentiate of Esoteric Studies (Level 2).

### **Level 2 (E700) the Licentiate Esoteric Diploma**

To be eligible to be accepted into the Licentiate Esoteric Diploma the Candidate must first obtain a Pass or Higher in the Associate Diploma. The Candidate must complete the entire course E700 series. The requirements here are from our Clergy training esoteric sections for Sub-Deacon to Priest and are set out in Esoteric Studies 2. These studies will then lead you into the Fellowship of Esoteric Studies.

### **Level 3: (E800) the Fellowship Esoteric Diploma**

To be eligible to be accepted into the Fellowship Esoteric Diploma the Candidate must first obtain a Pass or higher in the Licentiate Diploma. The Fellowship requirements are set out in Esoteric Studies 3 and 4.

### **Level 4: (E900) the Fellowship Esoteric Research Diploma:**

This Level is designed for those who wish to do a research Diploma. To be eligible to be accepted into the Fellowship

Research Diploma the Candidate must first have passed both the Associate and Licentiate Diploma of Esoteric Studies. They will then work through the studies of E800 and E900 and complete the assignments. Once this has been completed, they may then submit their topic of research and they have two years to then submit their thesis of 30,000 words.

Successful candidates receive a St Michael's Divinity School Diploma Certificate and can append the post nominal letters of the Degree which is listed below.

Associate: A.Dip.SMDS (Esoteric).

Licentiate: L.Dip.SMDS (Esoteric).

Fellowship: F.Dip.SMDS (Esoteric).

Fellowship in research: F.Dip.SMDS (Esoteric Reas)

### **Academic Rigor and Course Credit**

All courses consist of assignments, and an examination and Thesis. Part one is the assignments worth 30% of the marks. Part Two is the written essay or Thesis on a selected question and has to be the required length for the course level being studied and is worth 40% of the mark and part three is an Examination paper worth 30% of the mark. Students are expected to complete their selected course in their own timespan. No time frame 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, Licentiate or Fellowship). 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.

### **Fees and Official Transcripts**

The Fee for the Associate and Licentiate Diploma is \$20 per assignment and the Examination fee for Associate \$100; for the Licentiate is \$150 and for the Fellowship is \$200 and for the Fellowship research Diploma is \$300. This is to help cover the cost of tuition, marking and writing reports on the assignments, and examinations papers. The Thesis for all three levels of Diplomas is included in the examination Fee. On completion of the course core assignments there may be an Examination or a written paper of the course. If, for some reason of hardship, a candidate cannot either cover the cost of the fees, the candidate should contact the Dean so that further discussion may be entered into, depending upon the circumstances – as we do not wish to prevent a candidate for taking our courses because of the cost, as we are not here to make money but to help educate our students whether it is for “Esoteric Studies” or for our Minor and Major Orders.

Completion of all the courses will not automatically guarantee ordination in the Australian Church of Antioch. This will be up to your Bishop and if you are from another denomination it will be up to the elders or leaders of your specific church. For those in the Australian Church of Antioch it may 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 degree will be awarded upon completion of the academic, requirements. Books and other course materials are not included in the cost of the tuition.

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

In the Australian Church of Antioch, priests undertake responsibility for the ministry they choose. The church does not support them financially, 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.

### **Associate Diploma in Esoteric Studies. ES1. ES600:**

The Associate Esoteric studies are open to any one and there is no prerequisite in entering. This diploma is in three parts. Part One is the Assignments as listed in E601-610. All these need to be passed before part two can be commenced. Part Two is the thesis of 12,000 words and the topic must be selected from the list provided. Part Three is the exam paper. Part one is 30% of the mark, Part two is 40% and Part Three is 30% of the Marks.

### **ESOTERIC 1. (E600) Assignments.**

<b>601</b>	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 Lighting Candles”, and then write a brief outline on each of the topics.
<b>602</b>	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.
<b>603</b>	Read Chapter One “A New Idea of Church Worship”, Pages 1-26 from C. Leadbeater’s book “Science of the Sacraments”, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>604</b>	Read Chapter V “The Lesser Sacraments” pages 415-434 from C. Leadbeater’s book “Science of the Sacraments”, and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>605</b>	Read the “History of Christianity” as per “The Australian Church of Antioch,” and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>606</b>	Read “The Duties for Clergy and Assistants at Mass”, and then give an outline on what it contains.
<b>607</b>	Read the “What are the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hamadi Text,” and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>608</b>	Read “Jesus as a Pagan,” and then write a brief outline of what it contains.
<b>609</b>	Read the “The Purpose of the Eucharist,” and then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>610</b>	Read “The Importance of Both Genders within the Church,” and then write a brief outline on what it contains.

### **Associate Essay Topics**

(One to be selected from the following questions)

The essay is to be 12,000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

<b>600-1</b>	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.
<b>600-2</b>	Discuss the different hand-signs for the various degrees of Minor Orders, and make a chart showing the finger positions.
<b>600-3</b>	Discuss and assess the main features of some religion other than Christianity.
<b>600-4</b>	Common features in all religions, and common problems facing all today.
<b>600-5</b>	“Adherents of other religions should become Christian.” Discuss
<b>600-6</b>	The place of Holy writings in world religions
<b>600-7</b>	The western cult of Oriental religions, e.g. Hare Krishna.
<b>600-8</b>	“The teachings of the Buddha have a place in the Christian faith.” Discuss for or against. Give reference from Scripture and other Holy writings
<b>600-9</b>	Discuss the first 10 chapters of the Aquarian Gospel, giving reference to any New Testament Gospels.
<b>600-10</b>	Discuss how you think the teachings of Buddha may have relevance to our Christian faith today.
<b>600-11</b>	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.

<b>600-12</b>	Discuss the importance of the Ministry of Healing and Exorcism.
<b>600-13</b>	The process by which the Gospels reached their present form.
<b>600-14</b>	Christ as he is portrayed in the Gospel of Matthew and the first fifty chapters of the Aquarian Gospel.
<b>600-15</b>	The beginnings of the Church, and its development in the New Testament period.

### **Licentiate Diploma in Esoteric Studies ES2. ES700**

The Licentiate Esoteric studies are open to any one and there is no prerequisite in entering. This diploma is in three parts. Part One is the Assignments as listed in E701-711. All these need to be passed before Part Two can be commenced. Part two is the thesis of 15,000 words and the topic must be selected from the list provided. Part Three is the exam paper. Part One is 30% of the mark, Part Two is 40% and Part Three is 30% of the Marks. Any section not successful you have a year to resit the exam or essay or the assignment/s to be re-submitted.

<b><u>Esoteric 2 (E700).</u></b>	
<b>701</b>	Read “The Origins of the Church of Antioch,” 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.)
<b>702</b>	Is Apostolic Succession Really Important? Write a brief outline on this subject.
<b>703</b>	Read Chapter IV “Holy Order” found in C. Leadbeater’s Book “Science of the Sacraments” Pages 324 - 414, and then write a brief outline on what it contains

<b>704</b>	Discuss the psychic changes that happen for the ordination of Cleric to Acolyte, give references from “The Science of the Sacraments”. Please be sure to discuss all the Minor Orders here.
<b>705</b>	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.
<b>706</b>	Read “Freedom of Thought”, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>707</b>	Read “The Liturgical Year,” and give a detailed account of how the liturgical seasons came about and how our liturgical year runs.
<b>708</b>	Read “Expectations of a Priest in the Church of Antioch”, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>709</b>	Read, “How important is the Mass?”, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>710</b>	Read “The Workings of the Mass”, then write a brief outline on what it contains.
<b>711</b>	Read only. The “Constitution of the Australian Church of Antioch”. There is no written work to be done on this.

### **Licentiate Essay Topics.**

(One to be selected from the following questions)

The essay is to be 15,000 words in length and must be submitted with the examination paper.

<b>700-1</b>	Prepare a training-programme for assisting in the teaching of Numerology.
<b>700-2</b>	Select three sections from Chapters 51-100 of the Aquarian Gospel, and give references and compare these passages with one of the traditional Gospels.



<b>700-3</b>	Using illustrations from religions, which you have surveyed, discuss the influence of religion on society.
<b>700-4</b>	Discuss the importance of freedom of thought against being bound by the dogma most other Christian churches demand of their clergy.
<b>700-5</b>	From your reading of Scripture, find as many references to the Church in Antioch as you can, and discuss any good and bad problems it faced.
<b>700-6</b>	Examine the view that Jesus' divinity is more conspicuous than his manhood in the fourth Gospel.
<b>700-7</b>	Discuss in depth the expectation that the Church of Antioch has for its priests.
<b>700-8</b>	List all sections of the approved Antioch Mass and discuss the contents of these sections. Give comparisons with the Mass, which you feel comfortable to use. If you have selected to follow the Antioch Mass, then compare it with the Anglican, Celtic, or Roman Catholic Mass. In your Essay make reference to the esoteric happenings by using Leadbeater's "Science of the Sacraments"
<b>700-9</b>	From your reading of the "Science of the Sacraments" by Leadbeater, write what psychic changes happen during the Mass and also the Service of Benediction.
<b>700-10</b>	Discuss the psychic changes that happen for the ordination of Sub-Deacon, Deacon, Priest and Bishop – give references from "The Science of the Sacraments".

## **ESOTERIC 3 E800 and 4 (E900) FELLOWSHIP**

### **Diploma**

#### **Esoteric 3**

ES801: Esoteric Beginnings

ES802: Centres.

ES803: Reincarnation Evolution.

ES804: Corruption of the Bible.

ES805: Atlantis.

ES806: Pyramid Facts.

ES807: The Avataric Cycle.

ES808: Changing of the Avatar.

#### **Esoteric 4.**

ES901: Polarity.

ES902: Heaven, Hell and Purgatory.

ES903: Nostradamus Prediction.

ES904: Numerology.

ES905: Primal Energy.

ES906: Temple Keys.

ES907: Karma.

ES908: The Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Once the assignments of the above Esoteric 3 and 4 courses materials have been completed the Candidate then will prepare a Thesis of 30,000 words on a topic from within these studies, they must then contact the Dean for approval or their chosen topic, and if they feel they wish to attempt a topic not covered this must also be approved. The Fellowship is in two parts only. Part One is the Assignments of E800 and E900 which form 40% of the Marks. Part two is the 30,000 word Thesis which forms the

remaining 60%. The assignments must all receive a Pass or higher, and the Thesis must pass three examiners. The Thesis as in the Associate and Licentiate must be correctly referenced and should be of the standard required for the Masters Degree of any University.

### **Fellowship Research Diploma (F dip SMDS [Esoteric Research]):**

To enter for the Fellowship Research Diploma the candidate must first complete the Associate E600, and Licentiate (E700) diploma. The candidate on entering this Diploma must first submit to the Dean of Studies their area of research within the scope of Esoteric studies. This may be selected from a topic within the studies of the Licentiate level or on a topic within the Fellowship studies. The Thesis must be of a high standard as requires for a Masters degree at the University.

Once the topic selected for research has been approved and the entry form and fees have been received the candidate has three years to complete.