

# Postgraduate Certificate in Theology (PGCertTh)

level 8, 60 credits



## Flexible Study Options

Students can study towards the PGCertTh on campus in Henderson or by distance learning. Courses are typically offered in block-mode, allowing for students outside of the Auckland region to take part.

## The PGCertTh caters for:

- Those who have successfully completed a recognised undergraduate degree in theology or Christian ministries or have qualifications which, in the judgement of the Postgraduate Committee (PGC), are of an equivalent standard. A grade point average of 7.0 (B) in courses of the qualifying undergraduate programme equivalent to NZQA Levels 6 and 7 is required.
- Those who hold a recognised Bachelor's level degree in a discipline other than theology who have successfully completed a bridging programme of theological study such as those provided by Laidlaw College and other theological institutions or as approved by the PGC. Bridging requirements may be satisfied wholly or partly by credit transfer and/or recognition of prior learning.

## Programme Requirements

The PGCertTh is a one semester full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate certificate programme. It is made up of two Level 8 courses of 30 credits each.

## Courses

Any two 30-credit taught courses at Level 8.  
(Except R351.830 Postgraduate Research and Writing)

## 2023 Fees

\$1,900.50 per 30-credit course

\$3,801 for the full programme (2 courses, 60 credits)

*A Student Services fee of \$4 per credit is charged for on-campus courses or \$60 per semester for distance learning. Please see the Fees Schedule for more details ([www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees)).*

On completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Theology Laidlaw College graduates will:

1. Evaluate critically a wide spectrum of literature in each of the coursework areas and in the areas of the research undertaken.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the issues of debate in each of these areas.
3. Give a fair and informed account of representative points of view in each subject area.
4. Utilise sound hermeneutical principles in contextualising biblical theology within the subject area studies.
5. Demonstrate advanced skills of research, critical analysis and constructive synthesis and application so as to make a significant contribution to knowledge in their area of specialisation.
6. Reflect on the professional, ethical, and relational implications of their study for ministry in the modern world.

UPDATED 4 NOVEMBER 2022

**READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?**  
**0800 999 777**

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# Laidlaw Postgraduate Courses 2023

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## Semester One 2023

### **R140.830 THE GOSPEL AND ITS PROCLAMATION**

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**Dr Mark Keown**

**22 – 26 May** | 9am – 4pm

Our everyday world is an increasingly dynamic mix of faiths, philosophies, cultures, and ideologies in both local and global contexts. In such a world, Christians and their communities still have the imperative to share Christ but often struggle with traditional paradigms of the gospel and its effective proclamation. This course goes deeply into New Testament exploring diverse understandings of the gospel to strengthen our capacity to present the gospel today. It also explores patterns of its proclamation, providing a basis for sharing the gospel in posture, proclamation, and praxis in the complex cultural landscapes that exist within Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

### **R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING**

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**Dr Greg Liston and Dr Terry Pouono**

**21-24 February** | 9am - 5pm

**22-24 March** | Wed-Thurs 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 1:30pm

**Writer's Workshop (Optional but highly recommended)**

**24-25 March** | 9am - 5pm

Postgraduate Research and Writing introduces you to the wonder and joy of research. It is a course designed to inspire students with the vast breadth of cutting-edge investigations that are being done by the lecturers at Laidlaw, and then to teach them how to research themselves by partnering with one of these lecturers. Students will develop and hone the skills of research and writing by designing and implementing a short research project in their own area of interest.

### **R405.830 MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN FLOURISHING**

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**Dr Maja Whittaker and Dr Sarah Penwarden**

**27 – 31 March** | 9:30am - 4:30pm

Mental distress can be a common but challenging aspect of human experience. In this course, students will explore how to understand mental distress from within the framework of practical theology. Students will learn how to articulate a theology of mental distress as well as human flourishing and shalom, through a focus on mental health in general and particular experiences such as anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder. Students will gain an understanding of issues of stigma surrounding mental distress in society. Students will evaluate pastoral responses to mental distress, and will articulate an understanding of what a wise, compassionate, and informed pastoral response might involve within the varied cultural contexts of Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

### **R507.830 ANOINTED MINISTRY**

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**Dr Myk Habets**

**1-5 May** | Mon-Fri 9:30am - 4:30pm, Fri 9:30am-1pm

This course examines the doctrine of the Trinity and applies this to pastoral practices in order to allow the doctrine of the Trinity to have a controlling influence over such practices. This course addresses key concerns related to the practice of ministry. By grounding the course in a robust trinitarianism, students will receive a clear biblical and theological foundation for ministry as participation in the ongoing ministry of Christ in the world in the power of the Spirit, thus preparing them for effective Christocentric pastoral and missional leadership. The course develops historical, theological, and ministerial themes, and seeks to enable students to develop convictions for ministry and reflect on ecclesial practices such as administration of the sacraments, pastoral care, preaching, prayer, and worship.

### **R512.830 FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY SUPERVISION**

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**Dr David Crawley and Karen Kemp**

**13 - 17 March** | Mon-Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm

**31 May - 2 June** | Wed-Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm

This is the first of two courses which together comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). It examines the nature and purpose of professional supervision, including its importance in people-related ministries. Several theoretical approaches to supervision will be evaluated and participants will reflect critically on theological, ethical, and cultural dimensions of offering supervision in their own contexts.

# Semester Two 2023

## R121.830 OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE: ITS MESSAGE AND METHOD

**Dr John de Jong**

14-18 August & 16-20 October | 9.30am - 12.30pm

This course engages in a detailed study of the content and form of Old Testament narrative, and the hermeneutical and theological issues raised by narrative approaches to the Old Testament, illustrated by study of selected Old Testament narrative texts. The significance for preaching and application of the narrative form and content within the various cultural contexts of Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond is also considered.

## R236.830 SPECIAL TOPIC: CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND HISTORY – PATRISTICS PAPER

**Dr Edwina Murphy**

28 August - 1 September | Mon -Thurs 9am - 5pm,  
Fri 9am - 1pm

This course provides an opportunity for students to engage in theological or historical disciplines in an advanced way. The course involves a concentrated study of a theological or historical issue. Critical issues of background and context are explored, and contemporary applications to the complex cultural landscapes that exist within Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond are investigated.

## R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

**Dr Terry Pouono**

**By distance throughout the semester**

Postgraduate Research and Writing introduces you to the wonder and joy of research. It is a course designed to inspire students with the vast breadth of cutting edge investigations that are being done by the lecturers at Laidlaw, and then to teach them how to research themselves by partnering with one of these lecturers. Students will develop and hone the skills of research and writing by designing and implementing a short research project in their own area of interest.

## R505.830 REFLECTIVE PRACTICE FOR MINISTRY

**Dr Maja Whitaker and Graeme Flett**

21-25 August | 9:30am - 4:30pm

This course explores the postures and practices that allow people in ministry to flourish in their ministry context. Students will learn to critically evaluate their ministry environment both culturally and contextually, to develop practices of discernment and habits of mind that produce resilience over the long-term, and to understand what they bring to their ministry role from their own personality, context and as a participant in community.

## R513.830 DEVELOPING A MINISTRY SUPERVISION PRACTICE

**Dr David Crawley and Karen Kemp**

2 - 4 August & 13 - 15 September | 9.30am - 4.30pm

This is the second of two courses which comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). Through the integration of theory, practice, and theology, it enables practitioners to develop a framework for supervision appropriate to their own cultural and professional contexts, and to engage in critically reflective practice.

## R612.830 THE CHURCH FOR OTHERS

**Dr Joe McGarry**

4 - 8 September | Mon - Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm

The church's social advocacy is increasingly recognised as a central aspect of her witness in the world. And yet, a call to social action can often be cast aside or seen as just one priority amongst many. This course presents biblical, theological, and historical investigations into the self-emptying existence for others which rests at the heart of Christian existence. Beginning with the biblical witness regarding the community's posture towards the vulnerable, the course then uses Dietrich Bonhoeffer's theological work to guide our discourse. We will hear Bonhoeffer ask, "Is the church the church if she does not exist for others?" and consider the significance of moving social action from the register of mission (something the church does) into the register of being (something the church is). The course will conclude by investigating historical case studies, illuminating how social action for the other historically and consistently emerges when the church lives from her faithful identity in Christ, and how it can be applied in the varied cultural contexts that exist in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

**READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?**

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# Summer Semester 2023/24

## R540.830 FOUNDATIONS IN VOCATIONAL THEOLOGY

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**Dr Roshan Allpress**

**TBC**

Calling or vocatio is deeply rooted within the Christian tradition as a way of framing the good or faithful life. This course invites students to discern and articulate their vocation, and to frame this within a distinctively Christian theological articulation of hope. Students will engage with integrative theological frameworks, approaches, and their vocational practices in relation to God and the world, to address key questions pertinent to their own vocation, and so to faithfully enhance their own professional well-being and engagement within their own cultural and situational contexts.

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