

Irish School of Ecumenics
(Trinity College Dublin)
Education for Reconciliation

Course Objectives

Main Objectives of The Irish School of Ecumenics (Trinity College Dublin) Education for Reconciliation courses -

- To develop greater understanding between people from the different traditions in local communities
- To raise awareness of and explore key community, religious, cultural, political, social and reconciliation issues
- To empower participants to be actively involved in the practice of reconciliation within local communities
- To promote the practice of equity, diversity and interdependence between the traditions
- To enable participation in the building of an integrated and inclusive civic society through the practice of active citizenship

All of this will take place in a relaxing environment, giving the opportunity to contribute, listen, discuss, learn from others and make new friends.

Revisioning God: Doing Anti Sectarian Theology

A 6 Session Course
from
11th January 2012 –
15th February 2012

from 7.30pm – 9.30pm

in

The Dobbs Room
Town Hall
Carrickfergus

Course Facilitators
Dr Johnston McMaster
Dr Cathy Higgins

Programme

Wednesday 11 January
**Reading the Bible Against
Sectarianism**

Wednesday 18 January
Requiem for a Violent God

Wednesday 25 January
**'Many are called, few are
chosen' - How Odd of God
to Choose!**

Wednesday 1 February
Saved and Satisfied!

Wednesday 8 February
**Sacrament of Exclusion or
Sacrament of Peace**

Wednesday 15 February
**God Beyond Our
Certainties:
Unknowing God for the 21st
Century**

Course Description

There is a general awareness that the big problem in Northern Ireland remains and it is sectarianism. A course offered in 2010 explored in depth the respective theologies which have had divisive and disastrous relational and political consequences. Consequences and not intentions make theologies sectarian. Unearthing the theological roots of sectarianism was a challenging course enabling participants to be more critically aware that theologies and belief systems, however sincerely held, are not innocent. During the course it was realised that explorations were only scratching the surface. Other large theological themes were briefly encountered, and soon a phase two course outline emerged.

At the heart of sectarian theology is a God-image, which has become warped and distorted. It is a violent God-image, which has more to do with the projection of our fear of the other and our fear-driven and violent responses to the other. One does not have to kill to be violent to the other or to make God in our violent, exclusive image. The bible itself has often been a sectarian weapon, highlighting the need to re-read the Bible against sectarianism. How we interpret can be a battlefield! Theologies of salvation and sacraments become exclusion orders, ensuring that the other remains 'other' and outside. These are well-intentioned theologies, which turn out to be far from innocent, with negative and destructive relational consequences. Perhaps we all need to be less sure! The course will attempt to do anti-sectarian theology.

Participants

This course is open to anyone interested in the subject matter and in improving understanding between the churches and within the local community.

Funders

This course is part-financed by Community Relations Council Core Funding.

Tear Off Slip

For registration, please return to:

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Belfast
BT15 4EG

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

For further information, please contact:

Karen Nicholson
Tel: 048 9077 5010
Email: cenisec@tcd.ie

Course Fees:
Unwaged £10
Waged £20

Please make cheques payable to:
Irish School of Ecumenics

For local booking or enquires:

Tel: 07759166421
or
Email: carrickferguschurchforum@hotmail.co.uk