



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY**

UNIT TITLE	LITURGY OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
UNIT CODE	C52066
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	C
PREREQUISITE/S	C51050 Introduction to Christian Liturgy
INCOMPATIBLES	Nil
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Even Years
PREPARED BY	Rev Dr Tom Elich
UNIT COORDINATOR	Rev Dr Tom Elich
TEACHING STAFF	Rev Dr Tom Elich, Sr Ursula O'Rourke
DATE PREPARED	14 September 2006

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**Rationale**

This unit is one of several which provide students with knowledge and skills pertaining to the theology and practice of liturgy within the Christian church. It assists students to analyse a range of theological issues pertaining to the nature and rites of Christian initiation. The unit is part of a suite of units which enable students to build a specialisation in liturgy.

**Relation to program**

This unit builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in *Introduction to Christian Liturgy* to extend students' awareness of the theology and practice of Christian liturgy. In particular, the unit focuses on the fundamental significance of initiation in the communal life of the Christian church and its mission. The unit is centrally located within the field of systematic theology (Field C) but also has strong links with church history (Field D) through its consideration of the historical dimensions of Christian rites and initiation, and with ministry and mission (Field E) through its consideration of the implications of the nature and rites of Christian initiation for contemporary worship and pastoral care.

## Aims

The unit aims to facilitate growth in understanding of the nature and rites of Christian initiation and to equip students with the historical background and the critical theological skills needed to prepare and celebrate the rites of initiation.

<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Identify and assess the historical shifts and the theological and cultural issues that have impacted on the development of the practice of initiation;
2.	Explain the content and structure of the liturgical books of the Christian churches related to Christian initiation with theological subtlety and pastoral awareness;
3.	Apply liturgical principles to the preparation and celebration of the rites of initiation;
4.	Organize programs for training people in the various ministries involved within the celebration of these liturgical rites;
5.	Educate both participants and the parish community in the structure and meaning of the rites of Christian initiation;
6.	Interpret ideas of faith and conversion as they occur in the rites of Christian initiation

## Content

- 1 Recent Liturgical Reform in the Christian churches and its consequences of reform for the Rites of Initiation — an examination of liturgical changes (including *Sacrosanctum Concilium*) and in particular the shift in ecclesiology of initiation
- 2 The Theological Notion of Conversion – the fundamental significance of discipleship and incorporation into Christ
- 3 Understanding Symbol – the function of the symbol system in the Christian world view and its relation to Christian initiation
- 4 The Sacrament and Ritual of Baptism – exploring the history, theology and structure of the Rite
- 5 The Sacrament and Ritual of Confirmation – exploring the history, theology and structure of the Rite
- 6 The Sacrament and Ritual of Eucharist – exploring the history, theology and structure of the Rite
- 7 The Place of Penance in relation to Christian Initiation and the patterns of initiating children
- 8 The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. – exploring the history, theology and structure of the Rite, particularly the retrieval of the practices of initiation in the early Church

## Organization and Teaching Strategies

The contact time comprises lectures and seminars, including both small group and whole class discussion of issues raised in lectures, the students' own reading and selected primary texts. Students will be required to use the library to access recommended or other reading for each week of class.

## Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Fieldwork: critical assessment of baptism	1500	25	Early semester	2, 3
2	Seminar presentation of “classic” textbook	½ hour	25	Mid-semester	1, 4, 5, 6
3	Major essay	3000	50	End-semester	1, 4, 5, 6

### Notes on Assessment

- Item 1 Will develop the student’s knowledge of theological concepts and terminology as applied to the rites of initiation, by an analysis of and application to baptism from a pastoral perspective.
- Item 2 Will develop the student’s ability to reflect critically on the historical processes involved in the development of the rites of initiation, and to retrieve, evaluate and use relevant information.
- Item 3 Will develop the student’s understanding of the theological foundations of Christian initiation by applying this understanding to the evaluation of particular practices related to initiation, and the ability to evaluate opinions, make decisions and reflect critically on the justifications for decisions, and to convey opinions and ideas clearly and fluently in written form.

### Bibliography

#### Textbooks

- Johnson, Maxwell E. *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation* Collegeville: Pueblo Book, The Liturgical Press, 1999.
- The Rites of the Catholic Church*. Study edition, vols 1, 2; New York: Pueblo, 1990.
- A Prayer Book for Australia*. Anglican Church of Australia; Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995.
- Uniting in Worship 2*. Sydney: Uniting Church Press, 2005.

#### Recommended

- Austin , Gerard. *Anointing with the Spirit: The Rite of Confirmation, the Use of Oil and Chrism*. New York: Pueblo, 1985.
- Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy*. Oxford: OUP, 1992.
- Chupungco, Anscar J. *Handbook for Liturgical Studies: vol. IV, Sacraments and Sacramentals*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2000.
- Davis, JG. *The Architectural Setting of Baptism*. London: Barrie & Rockliff, 1962.
- Duffy, Regis A. *On Becoming Catholic: The Challenge of Christian Initiation*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984.
- Duggan, Robert. *Conversion and the Catechumenate*. New York: Paulist, 1984.
- Dunning, James B. *New Wine: New Wineskins*. New York: William Sadlier, 1981.
- Faith and Order WCC. *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1982.
- Fisher, JDC. *Christian Initiation: Baptism in the Medieval West*. London: SPCK 1965; reprinted: Chicago: Liturgical Training Publications (Hillenbrand Books), 2004.
- Fisher, JDC. *Christian Initiation: Confirmation Then and Now*. Chicago: LTP, 1978; Hillenbrand reprint, 2005.
- Johnson, Maxwell E. *Living Water, Sealing Spirit: Readings on Christian Initiation*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1995.
- Jones, Cheslyn et al. *The Study of Liturgy*. Rev ed; London: SPCK, 1992.

- Kavanagh, Aidan. *The Shape of Baptism: The Rite of Christian Initiation*. New York: Pueblo Publishing Company, 1978.
- Kuehn, Regina. *A Place for Baptism*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1992.
- Kunzler, Michael. *The Church's Liturgy*. Amateca Handbooks of Catholic Theology; London: Continuum, 2001.
- Martimort, AG (ed). *The Church at Prayer: vol. 3, The Sacraments*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1988.
- Mitchell, Leonel L. *Worship: Initiation and the Churches*. Washington: Pastoral Press, 1991.
- Mitchell, Nathan. *Eucharist as Sacrament of Initiation*. Forum Essays 2; Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.
- Osborne, Kenan. *The Christian Sacraments of Initiation*. New York: Paulist, 1987.
- Searle, Mark (ed). *Christening: The Making of Christians*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1980.
- Searle, Mark (ed). *The Church Speaks about Sacraments with Children*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1990.
- Thurian, Max & Geoffrey Wainwright (eds). *Baptism and Eucharist: Ecumenical Convergence in Celebration*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1983.
- Turner, Paul. *Confirmation: The Baby in Solomon's Court*. New York: Paulist, 1993.
- Turner, Paul. *Sources of Confirmation: From the Fathers Through the Reformers*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1993.
- Turner, Paul. *Ages of Initiation: The First Two Christian Millennia*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2000.
- Wade, Terry (ed). *The Parish Companion to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed; Melbourne: James Goold House Publications, 2005.
- Whitaker, EC. *Documents of the Baptismal Liturgy*. London: SPCK, 2003.
- White, James. *Documents of Christian Worship: Descriptive and Interpretative Sources*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.
- Yarnold, Edward. *The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation*. Middlegreen: St. Paul, 1971.

### References - Journals

- Paul Bradshaw. "Christian Initiation" in *The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship*. Ed Peter E Fink sj; Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1990, 601-612.
- Conroy, Peter. "The Catechumenate and Today's Church". *Catechumenate* Vol 18/4, July 1996.
- Conroy, Peter. "The Catechumenate: A Matter of Initiation". *Catechumenate* Vol 19/5, September 1997.
- Dunning, James B. "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Model of Adult Growth". *Worship* 53, 1979.
- McKenna, John H. "Infant Baptism: Theological Reflections". *Worship* Vol 70/3, May 1996.
- Oakman, Ron. "Bridge-Building: Is the RCIA a Liturgical Document". *Catechumenate* Vol 10/5, September 1988.
- Searle, Mark. "Baptism and Confirmation" in *Alternative Futures for Worship*. Vol 2; Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1987.

### References - Online and Other IT resources

- Vatican. The Holy See. [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)
- The Liturgical Commission. [www.litcom.net.au](http://www.litcom.net.au)
- New Life: A Parish Celebrates Infant Baptism* [VHS] USA Liturgy Training Publications, 1995.
- This is the Night: A Parish Welcomes New Catholics* [VHS] USA: Liturgy Training Publications, 1992.