



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA THEOLOGY**

UNIT TITLE	CHURCH & MINISTRY (CATHOLIC)
UNIT CODE	C52030
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	C
PREREQUISITE/S	C51013 / C73113 Introducing Theology
INCOMPATIBLES	C74030 is incompatible with C52030
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Every year – Semester 1
PREPARED BY	Rev Dr David Pascoe
UNIT COORDINATOR	Rev Dr David Pascoe
TEACHING STAFF	Rev Dr David Pascoe
DATE PREPARED	12 January 2004

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**Rationale**

This elective unit teaches specialist knowledge and skills in systematic theology by focusing on the Catholic Church's self-understanding. The unit is an appropriate focus for study in the Graduate Diploma in Theology, because of the necessity of the church as the matrix of Christian faith for which the academic discipline of systematic theology is exercised. This unit provides a general study of the major issues in a contemporary ecclesiology in the light of the authentic teaching and ecclesial event of the Second Vatican Council. The unit is relevant for study of the church's self understanding at depth.

**Relation to the Program**

A general study of the church's self-understanding is both one with other elective units in systematic theology and is integral to them. How the church understands itself is both dependent upon and formative of theological reflection in all its various dimensions. In accordance with the goals of the program particular doctrines and themes are studied with a view to presenting those doctrines and themes in a systematic and coherent way.

## Aims

The unit aims to develop student learning in an understanding of the church and its ministry that is—

- in continuity with the church's understanding of its being founded in Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God as a communion of persons in history
- in accord with the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church, particularly as this is developed and articulated by the Second Vatican Council
- relevant to the contemporary world

Further, the unit aims to enable students to study the church in a systematic way so as to provide them with an introduction to a comprehensive Roman Catholic ecclesiology.

<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Identify various contemporary theological methods for the ecclesial self-understanding;
2.	Analyse the theological issues that impact on a contemporary Catholic ecclesiology, for example, the theological principals at the foundation of the ecumenical imperative of the church's nature, the theological relationship between the church and the world, and the theological nature of the church's authority in the world;
3.	Critically examine and explain the theological foundations of the church and various theological models for understanding the church, for example as it is understood in the Christian Creed as one, holy, catholic and apostolic;
4.	Articulate the relationship between the theological notions of communion and mission for understanding the church;
5.	Examine the origins and significance of the church's structures of ministry for the church's contemporary context.

## Content

- Week 1: Introduction: Studying the Church Today  
This lecture focuses on the question, how is the church today? At issue is an opening to an awareness of the church's self understanding in its contemporary context.
- Week 2: Lecture: Vatican II and the Church's Self-Understanding  
Critical to the authentic ecclesial self-understanding of the Roman Catholic Church is the even and the documents of the Second Vatican Council. The council is situated in the modern historical context.
- Week 3: Lecture: The Imperative for Unity in the Church  
The church names itself as one and so unified. However, historically this is not the case: how does the church justify this stance theologically?
- Week 4: Scriptural Foundations of the Church – *Taken in common with Anglican and Uniting Church units in ecclesiology*  
This is the first of three occasions when the three ecclesiology units of the BCT come together for a joint session. This lecture/discussion looks at the relationship between each church's use of the scriptures for their self-understanding.
- Week 5: Lecture: The Marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic  
The marks of the church, taken from the common Christian creed, are the traditional theological notions for ecclesial self-understanding. This lecture offers an introduction to the meaning of these marks in their history and significance today.

- Week 6: Lecture: The Catholicity of the Church  
This lecture examines the theological history of catholicity and meaning for the church today. It deals particularly with the critical issue of the local-universal church relationship.
- Week 7: Lecture: The Church as Apostolic  
This lecture examines the theological history of apostolicity and meaning for the church today. It deals particularly with the authority of the church in the world
- Week 8: “Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry” - *Taken in common with Anglican and Uniting Church units in ecclesiology*  
The BEM document was a landmark achievement of the modern ecumenical movement and provides the foundation for this lecture/discussion between the three student groups. It looks particularly at the various church responses to the document.
- Week 9: Lecture: The Ministry of the Ordained  
This lecture examines the integral nature of the church ordained ministry with particular reference to ordained ministry. It offers a foundational response to the nature and purpose of the church’s ministry in today’s church.
- Week 10: Lecture: Lay Ministry: In the Church and In the World  
The issue of lay ministry is critical for the self-understanding of the contemporary Catholic Church. Its emergence in the wake of Vatican II has changed the face of the church. The nature and purpose of this form of ministry is examined in this lecture.
- Week 11: Lecture: The Church is Holy  
The holiness of the church is one of its four marks and it is examined in this lecture understood in terms of the notion of spirituality.
- Week 12: Lecture: The Worship of the Church  
Worship of God is the first response by people in recognition that they have experienced God. The essential ecclesial nature of Christian worship is examined in this lecture.
- Week 13: The Church is a Mission - *Taken in common with Anglican and Uniting Church units in ecclesiology*  
The lecture/discussion of this final week deals with theological notion of mission and how the three church’s of BCT understand this concept and its relationship to the church’s self-understanding.

### **Organisation and Teaching Strategies**

This unit of study consists principally in readings, discussions, and lectures. Two hours per week is allotted for lectures on specific topics of study in the unit. Every three weeks, i.e., four times during the semester, postgraduate students will gather with the lecturer in dedicated discussion groups on the particular readings allotted to them that are sequential with the topics of study in the unit, but different from the undergraduate readings. The readings and discussions are related to the assessment topics of the unit.

The first week of the unit is set aside as a basic orientation to the entire unit of study. The focus of this orientation is to come to a common understanding of the content and procedure of the unit. It also opens up the group to an understanding of the cotemporary issues that impact on what it is to be the church. Each subsequent week of the semester has two periods set aside as lecture time.

## Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	<p>Essay 1</p> <p>The first essay engages with the shift in the church's self-understanding and is assessed in regard to the following objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ identify various contemporary theological methods for the ecclesial self-understanding.</li> </ul>	1500 – 1800 words	25%	Week 4	
2.	<p>Essay 2</p> <p>The second essay engages with the nature and foundations of the church and is assessed in regard to the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ analyse the theological issues that impact on a contemporary Catholic ecclesiology, for example, the theological principals at the foundation of the ecumenical imperative of the church's nature, the theological relationship between the church and the world, and the theological nature of the church's authority in the world</li> </ul> <p>critically examine and explain the theological foundations of the church and various theological models for understanding the church, for example as it is understood in the Christian Creed as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.</p>	1500 – 1800 words	25%	Week 8	
3.	<p>Essay 3</p> <p>The third essay engages with the nature and structure of ministry in the church and is assessed in regard to the following objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ examine the origins and significance of the church's structures of ministry for the church's contemporary context.</li> </ul>	1500 – 1800 words	25%	Week 11	
4.	<p>Essay 4</p> <p>The fourth essay due at the conclusion of the unit engages with church as a communion and its missionary nature and is assessed in regard to the following objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ articulate the relationship between the theological notions of communion and mission for understanding the church</li> </ul>	1500 – 1800 words	25%	Assessment Week	

## Generic Attributes

- The ability to define and analyse problems.
- The ability to apply critical reasoning to issues through independent thought and informed judgement.
- The ability to collect, analyse and organise information and ideas and to convey those ideas clearly and fluently, in both written and spoken forms.

## Bibliography

### Academic & General Resource Requirements

#### References – Books

Along with the material listed below the documents of the Second Vatican Council and major post-conciliar documents will be referred to throughout the unit. These texts will often be key material in both the weekly readings and lecture presentations. Students will need to have ready access to such documents. A good collection is the two volumes edited by Austin Flannery: *Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*; and *More Post Conciliar Documents*.

Other reference texts that are helpful in the field of ecclesiology are the following:

Avery Dulles and Patrick Granfield, eds. *The Church: A Bibliography*. Wilmington, Delaware: Michael Glazier. 1985.

Christopher O'Donnell. *Ecclesia: A Theological Encyclopaedia of the Church*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press. 1966.

Bernier, Paul. *Ministry in the Church: A Historical and Pastoral Approach*. Mystic, Connecticut: Twenty-Third Publications. 1992

Boff, Leonardo. *Church: Charism and Power: Liberation Theology and the Institutional Church*. New York: Crossroad. 1992.

Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church: Expanded Version*. New York: Image Books. 1987.

Edwards, Denis. *Called to be Church in Australia: An Approach to the Renewal of Local Churches*. Homebush, Victoria. St Paul Publishing. 1987.

Fullenback, John. *Church: Community of the Kingdom*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books. 2002.

Hamer, Jerome. *The Church is a Communion*. New York: Sheed & Ward. 1964.

Healy, Nicholas M. *Church, World and the Christian Life: Practical – Prophetic Ecclesiology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2000.

Howland Sanks, T. *Salt, Leaven and Light: The Community Called Church*. New York: Crossroad. 1992.

Lafont, Ghislain. *Imagining the Catholic Church: Structured Communion in the Spirit*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press. 2000.

Lakeland, Paul. *The Liberation of the Laity: In Search of an Accountable Church*. New York: Continuum. 2003.

Lawler, Michael & Thomas J. Shanahan. *Church: A Spirited Communion*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press. 1995.

Lennan, Richard. *The Ecclesiology of Karl Rahner*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1995.

O'Meara, Thomas Franklin. *Theology of Ministry*. New York: Paulist Press. 1983.

Russell, Letty M. *Church in the Round: Feminist Interpretation of the Church*. Westminster: John Knox Press. 1993.

Schillebeeckx, Edward. *The Church with a Human Face: A New and Expanded Theology of Ministry*. New York: Crossroad. 1992.

Schussler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. *Discipleship of Equals: A Critical Feminist Ekklesia-logy of Liberation*. New York: Crossroad. 1994.

Sullivan, Francis. *The Church We Believe In: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic*. New York: Paulist Press. 1988.

Tavard, George H. *The Church, Community of Salvation: An Ecumenical Ecclesiology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press. 1992.

Thornhill, John. *Sign and Promise: A Theology of the Church for a Changing World*. Blackburn, Victoria: Collins. 1988.

Tillard, J.-M.-R. *Flesh of the Church, Flesh of Christ: At the Source of the Ecclesiology of Communion*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press. 2001.  
Tunstead Burtchaell, James. *From Synagogue to Church: Public Services and Offices in the Earliest Christian Communities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1992.

### **References – Journals**

Cooke, Bernard. “Fullness of Orders: Theological Reflections,” *Jurist* 41 (1981) 405-421.  
Doyle, Denis. “Henri de Lubac and the Roots of Communion of Ecclesiology,” *Theological Studies* 60 (1999) 209-227.  
Rausch, Thomas. “The Ecclesiology of Communion,” *Chicago Studies* 36 (1997) 282-298.

### **References – Online and Other IT Resources**

Theology Library, Spring Hill College. <http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/>  
Theology Library, Vatican: Official Church Documents.  
<http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/docs.htm>  
Catholic-pages.com. <http://www.catholic-pages.com/>  
Catholic Pages Directory: The Church. <http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/church.asp>  
A list of issues, A-Z addressed from a Catholic point of view. <http://www.silk.net/RelEd/a.htm>  
Documents of Vatican II. <http://www.ecatholicism.org/category.cfm?Category=6>  
Other Church Documents. <http://www.catholicgoldmine.com/documents/index.htm>  
Ecclesiology various – articles. <http://www.silk.net/RelEd/ecclesiology.htm>  
Ecclesiology Links. [http://www.saintjoe.edu/~timm/ecclesiology\\_links.html](http://www.saintjoe.edu/~timm/ecclesiology_links.html)  
The Tablet: Ecclesiology.  
[http://www.thetablet.co.uk/cgi-bin/archive\\_index.cgi?tablet-category-Ecclesiology](http://www.thetablet.co.uk/cgi-bin/archive_index.cgi?tablet-category-Ecclesiology)  
Ecclesiology of LG: Cardinal Ratzinger. <http://www.petersnet.net/browse/3920.htm>  
An annotated bibliography on the church.  
<http://www.northpark.edu/sem/exauditu/bibliographies/church.html>