



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MINISTRY  
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MINISTRY  
MASTER OF MINISTRY**

UNIT TITLE	<b>PRACTICUM: WORSHIP &amp; PREACHING IV</b>
UNIT CODES	E74897
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	E
PREREQUISITE/S	E74896 Practicum in Worship and Preaching III AND At least one of the following: E52025 E74025 Mission of the Church E52042 E74042 Communication & Processes in Groups
INCOMPATIBLES	No more than two practicums per semester
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	13 hours per week over a 13 week semester
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Each semester as determined by students' needs
PREPARED BY	Mrs Penny Carroll and Revd Dr Neil Sims
UNIT COORDINATOR	Revd Dr Neil Sims
TEACHING STAFF	Revd Dr Neil Sims, Mrs Penny Carroll
DATE PREPARED	18 February 2004

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**Rationale**

Field education is a standard and essential part of professional training. Practicums offer students 'hands-on' opportunities to foster their growth in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ as part of the Christian community. This happens through a continuing conversation between the placement experience and the more formal learning of the classroom. Space is provided for significant reflection with a supervisor and a peer group on one's ministry praxis. This action-reflection model is at the heart of the process. Each of the ten practicums offered within the postgraduate courses gives students a foretaste of what ministry is about.

This unit is the second of two practicums focusing on worship and preaching. Students undertake 169 hours of approved field education comprising approximately 20 hours of preparation, 70 hours of actual field experience, 25 hours of report writing, 13 hours of supervision, and 40 hours of attendance at field education seminars.

The setting for Practicum in Worship and Preaching IV may be similar or identical to the setting for Practicum in Worship and Preaching III e.g., a placement in the same congregation, under the supervision of a suitably qualified minister/priest and an approved BCT lecturer. Wherever the placement, students will be expected to perform with greater competence than in their first practicum in parish ministry. Due to the demanding nature of practicums and the need for adequate reflection and analysis of both performance and observations, students may undertake *no more than two practicums per semester*.

### **Relation to Course**

The practicums are integral to all three of the postgraduate ministry courses. This particular practicum will assist participants to focus further on worship and preaching as two integral aspects of the practice of Christian ministry. At Graduate Certificate of Ministry and Graduate Diploma of Ministry level, students are able to strengthen their competence in worship and preaching. Since the Graduate Diploma is longer, then the learning is more comprehensive. Practicums taken in the Master of Ministry course provide students with the prospect of sharpening their ability to critically reflect on the practice of ministry and draw from the rich resources of the theological disciplines.

### **Aim**

This unit seeks to provide students with additional practical experiences in worship and preaching, along with associated opportunities for personal and shared reflection about their own role in parish ministry, about the contexts of parish ministry, about best practice in parish ministry, and about the relationship between parish ministry and other areas of ministry. It aims to challenge students to a deepening awareness of their own conduct of worship and preaching, their integrity, and their accountability using tools of critical reflection and analysis.

### **Learning Outcomes**

*The following general objectives apply. More specific objectives are finalised with students on an individual basis taking account of their individual learning needs and the nature of their practicum placement.*

1. On the successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:
1. intentionally seek specific and focused feedback when working with others in order to develop an awareness and critique of their own role in leading worship and in preaching within the placement.
2. describe, analyse and develop a framework for approaching worship and preaching in the placement.
3. share with others in developing the quality of their worship and preaching.
4. reflect critically on how the wider ministry context gives shape to the worship and preaching within the placement.
5. identify particular personal strengths and limitations and formulate a plan for their own growth in worship and preaching.

### **Content**

The specific content of this practicum is determined primarily by the Learning Agreement drawn up by the student, after consultation with the Supervisor and the appropriate BCT faculty member of the student's member school. The broad areas of content which are typically covered include:

1. Students' experiences of ministry of worship and preaching and how this "feeds into" their vocational direction;
2. Reflection on the models of worship and preaching being offered in the placement;
3. The specific ministry context and its networks with the wider ministry of the church; and
4. Specifically focused reading dealing with issues in worship and preaching that closely relate to the chosen practicum experience.

Students will lead worship and preach for a variety of occasions. These may include regular Sunday worship with both traditional and contemporary approaches, worship in an aged care complex, special services in a school setting, participation in a public Anzac ceremony or other such multi-faith occasions, and/or preaching at a funeral.

Students will also be involved in training others in the ministry context in the understanding and practice of worship and preaching.

Also, students will reflect broadly on how contextual factors contribute to or hinder the conduct of worship and preaching. For example, how does an outdoor setting influence the shaping of a marriage service? A student may learn about the culture of the congregation and its worship over the last ten years, and consider how that has encouraged the worshipping life of the people of God and how that has hindered it.

### **Organisation and Teaching Strategies**

Each practicum is supervised by a person approved by the member school of the student. This is normally a person who is active within the placement setting and who has received training in the theory and practice of supervision. Supervisors are required to participate in the training opportunities offered by the member school to which they are responsible.

In each practicum, students engage in ministry tasks based on their Learning Agreements. They are required to take time to reflect on those ministry experiences, especially through written reports (according to approved formats provided by the college). Students also meet weekly with their Supervisor for guided learning and participate in field education seminars at which some of the students will present reports and engage with other students as they present their reports. These field education seminars are led by the students and provide them with the opportunity of giving and receiving peer supervision.

### **Assessment**

Postgraduate students will demonstrate throughout their assessment – the Learning Agreement, the reports, the papers, and the evaluation – through their engagement with both the literature and the praxis of ministry, their appreciation of the significance of the ministry context for their praxis of worship and preaching, and how they will train and encourage others in their praxis of worship and preaching.

The only grades awarded for practicums are SS (satisfactory) or NN (fail). The award of a grade of SS will require:

1. Completion as soon as possible (but no later than one month after the commencement of the placement) of a Learning Agreement which has been approved by the Supervisor and the appropriate BCT Faculty member. The Agreement will identify Learning Goals and Objectives, Related Ministry Tasks and Performance Indicators. It will name the Supervisor, times of the supervisory sessions (one hour per week for the 13 weeks), the time of the weekly field education seminars and the weeks of placement. It will be one tabulated page.
2. The submission of 7 field education reports each of 500 words which focus on different aspects of the student's learning and uses a variety of reporting formats.
3. Presentation of two 1500-word papers *or* one 3000-word paper providing the student with an opportunity to research a significant aspect of the practicum. For example, a student conducting the funeral service for a stillborn child may do an intentional reflection on the literature in this field and how it informs one's ministry praxis. A student may design a seminar to introduce lay people to preaching, based on reference to examples from the literature.
4. An evaluation report at the end of the 13 weeks provided by both the student and the supervisor regarding the personal development and ministry practice of the student concerned. The report will include the ministry experiences gained in the placement, giving particular attention to the degree in which the terms of the Learning Agreement have been

fulfilled. The evaluation will also look forward to how the student needs to grow in ministry from this point on.

*Note that in supervision, in written reports and in the evaluations required, students and Supervisors will be looking at the objectives above - the students' learnings about themselves, their ministry context and their practice of ministry.*

### **Generic Attributes**

- Ability to engage in reflective practice within the Church and the community.
- Ability to generate ideas and adapt innovatively to changing environments.
- Ability to identify problems, create solutions, innovate and improve current practices.
- Knowledge and respect of ethics and moral values in relation to Christian ministry and mission.
- Ability to collect, analyse and organise information and ideas and to convey those ideas clearly and fluently, in both written and spoken forms.
- Ability to interact effectively with others in order to work towards a common outcome, whether in the role of team member or of leader.

### **Academic and General Resource Requirements**

*This list of resources is limited for two reasons. The primary learning is from the context rather than from written texts. Students are expected to develop their own bibliographies related to the focus of their Learning Agreement.*

#### **References – Books**

- Allen, R. *Preaching is Believing: The Sermon as Theological Reflection*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Attfield, David G. *Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age: A General Theory of Religious Communication*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2001.
- Clark, Linda *Music in Churches: Nourishing Your Congregation's Musical Life*. Bethesda: Alban, 1994.
- Dyrness, William A. *Visual Faith: Art, Theology and Worship in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Frankforter, A. Daniel *Stones for Bread: A Critique of Contemporary Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Loscalzo, Craig A. *Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.
- Mangan, Louise and Wyse, Nancy *Living the Christ Life: Rediscovering the Seasons of the Christian Year*. Kelowna: Wood Lake Books, 2001.
- Plater, Ormonde *Intercession: A Theological and Practical Guide*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1995.
- Sample, Tex *The Spectacle of Worship in a Wired World: Electronic Culture and the Gathered People of God*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.
- Senn, Frank C. *Christian Liturgy: Catholic and Evangelical*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997.
- Untener, K. *Preaching Better: Practical Suggestions for Homilists*. Mahwah: Paulist, 1999.

#### **References – Journals**

*Celebration.*  
*Interpretation*  
*Journal of Biblical Storytelling*  
*Living Liturgy*  
*Pastoral Liturgy* .  
*Studia Liturgica*

#### **References – Online Resources**

Fairchild, Richard *Sermons and Sermon – Lectionary Resources*.  
<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermon.html>  
Library, Trinity College, Western Australia. <http://library.trinity.wa.edu.au>

LiturgyHelp.com (Liturgical resources designed to assist the key ministries in the parish ).  
<http://www.liturgyhelp.com>  
Living Web Virtual Library. <http://www.livingweb.com>  
Macgregor, David *Together to Celebrate*. [www.dovenetq.net.au/~macgd/songslyrics.htm](http://www.dovenetq.net.au/~macgd/songslyrics.htm)  
Shrowder, Jeff *The Billabong: A Worship Resource Following the Revised Common  
Lectionary*. <http://thebillabong.info/index.html>