

Liturgical studies and sacramental theology at ACU

At ACU, the study of liturgy and sacraments is orthodox, centrist and contemporary – working with the Magisterium and local authority to engage the stable core of the Catholic Christian tradition with a critical edge.

Liturgical principles of the Second Vatican Council ground and inform our learning, teaching and research. At the heart of the MTS (Liturgy) lie the rites approved by the Holy See and Conferences of Bishops and enacted by real worshipping communities, as the approach taken to studying liturgy and sacraments at ACU, recognises the essential interplay between universal principles and local contexts. ACU seeks to facilitate the ongoing renewal of the Church's liturgy with cutting-edge scholarship that engages with the signs of the times, the multiplicity of cultural variation, and what is needed for the human being to flourish in their relationships with God, each other, and all of creation. Through our academic offerings ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, working cooperatively with the ACU Centre for Liturgy, promotes excellent liturgical praxis and the ongoing renewal of the liturgical life of the Church through the work of the liturgical apostolate.



Ethos

ROMAN CATHOLIC

This course is grounded in the Roman Catholic liturgical tradition, exploring and energising Vatican II's vision of liturgical celebration.

AUSTRALIAN FOCUSED

Through this course, Australia's best liturgical scholars form and educate liturgical experts for the benefit of the Australian Church.

INTERNATIONALLY INFORMED

ACU collaborates with international liturgy experts, maintaining currency and contributing to global developments in the field.

INTEGRATED

ACU's approach to liturgical studies and sacramental theology presents a coherent sequence of study, connecting scholarship and practice.

INTERDISCIPLINARY

A variety of disciplines are brought to bear on the most important questions in liturgical studies and sacramental theology.

CONTACT US

Australian Catholic University
Faculty of Theology and Philosophy

E: FTP.PG@acu.edu.au

acu.edu.au/about-acu/faculties-directorates-and-staff/faculty-of-theology-and-philosophy

To apply: acu.edu.au/study-at-acu/how-to-apply/postgraduate-students

SCHOLARSHIP

The ACU Centre for Liturgy offers an annual postgraduate scholarship covering one 600-level unit for students pursuing a specialisation in liturgy.

For more information and to apply, visit:
acu.edu.au/LiturgyScholarship



Master of Theological Studies (Liturgy)



Master of Theological Studies (Liturgy)



In its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963) the Second Vatican Council reiterated the centrality of liturgy within Christian life, proclaiming that “...*the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the source from which all its power flows*” (SC 10).

Vatican II directed that “the study of sacred liturgy is to be ranked among the compulsory and major courses in seminaries and religious houses of studies; in theological faculties it is to rank among the principal courses” (SC 16). ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy has answered the council's call with its MTS (Liturgy) program. This innovative course provides world-class postgraduate study in liturgy and sacramental theology that forms and informs highly trained liturgical leaders and scholars serving across multiple levels of the Catholic Church (dioceses, parishes, schools, health care settings and educational institutions).



CRICOS 00004G | PRV12008
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Programme of study

WHAT

The MTS (Liturgy) comprises 160 credit points, including foundational theology units, a diverse offering of specialised liturgy and sacraments units, research methods, a final research project, and the opportunity to study abroad. Credit for previous study is possible.

WHO

The MTS (Liturgy) is tailored to meet the interests of a diverse student cohort including lay people, ordained clergy, and religious from Australasia, the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Join the next generation of liturgical scholars, sacramental theologians, and well-formed and informed liturgical practitioners undertaking this course.

PATHWAYS

Have a taste of studying liturgy through one of the pathway programs:

- Graduate Certificate Theological Studies (Liturgy) [40cp]
- Graduate Diploma Theological Studies (Liturgy) [80cp]

Each is a possible exit point and stand-alone qualification, but both can be entry points to the MTS (Liturgy).

Top students can also progress to Higher Degree Research in liturgy and sacraments.

MODES

Full-time (two years) or part-time equivalent. Scheduled online, face-to-face, multi-mode, weekend/school holiday intensives.

“I found the course so exciting and helpful as it helped me to see the importance of doing good liturgy as a priest.”

Fr Paul Sireh OCarm (Parish Priest)
ACU graduate of postgraduate liturgy courses:

Units taught as part of this course include:

THLS502 LITURGICAL MUSIC:

Investigate theological principles and contextual issues that impact the music we use in liturgy.

THLS601 EUCHARIST:

Explore Eucharistic history and theology through study of liturgical sources and practice.

THLS603 LITURGY AND PRAYER IN PASTORAL CARE:

Learn about the spiritual support the Church’s liturgical rites can provide for people facing serious illness and death.

THLS602 LITURGICAL HISTORY:

Study the origins and evolution of the Church’s rites and methods of historical interpretation.

THLS620 SPECIAL STUDIES IN LITURGY:

Consider liturgy through diverse lenses like inculturation, Eastern liturgies, funeral rites and OCIA.

OTHER UNITS WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR DEGREE INCLUDE:

- THLS500 Celebrating Feasts and Seasons
- THLS501 Foundations in Liturgy
- THBS501 Biblical Studies
- THCT500 Foundations of Christian Faith
- THEL502/3/4 Latin
- THLS503 Sacraments of Initiation
- THLS504 Directed Study in Liturgy
- THCT602 Sacraments and Sacramentality
- THLS604 Liturgical Theology
- THLS605 Ritual Studies
- THLS606 Celebrating Liturgy Today
- THCT608 Marriage and Holy Orders
- THBS608/09/10 Gospels of the Liturgical Year
- THCT619 Introduction to Research
- THLS621/22 Liturgy Project A/B

N.B. Pre-requisites and incompatibles in unit scheduling impact which units you can choose.

The MTS (Liturgy) degree provides career and professional development opportunities for:

LITURGY PRACTITIONERS

- Ordained liturgical ministers
- Lay liturgical ministers
- Pastoral musicians
- Church architects
- Masters of ceremonies
- Cathedral deans
- Pastoral care workers
- Catholic school leaders (RECs/RELS/APREs)

LITURGICAL FORMATORS

- Liturgy trainers for dioceses
- Pastoral associates
- Catechists
- Campus ministers
- Youth ministers
- Family faith educators

LITURGY ADVISORS

- Liturgy advisor to the local bishop
- Member of diocesan liturgical commission or national liturgy advisory bodies
- Office for worship specialists
- Parish liturgy committee members
- Liturgy specialists in CEOs

LITURGICAL SCHOLARS

- Teachers in university theology faculties and seminaries
- Researchers
- Writers of scholarly and pastoral publications

About ACU’s MTS (Liturgy)

ACU’s MTS (Liturgy) provides Australia’s most comprehensive master’s course in liturgy and sacraments.

Our world-class liturgical and sacramental theologians bring their expertise and experience as respected published researchers and award-winning teachers to our extensive range of specialised units. Why travel overseas to access postgraduate study in liturgy and sacraments? ACU brings the world into our virtual and in-person classrooms with international experts regularly offering a rich variety of perspectives through specialised input and intensive units. The MTS (Liturgy) can be studied largely online with on-campus offerings bringing you to our welcoming learning community for face-to-face learning on occasion.

WHY STUDY ACU’S MTS (LITURGY)?

- As Australia’s specialist provider of higher education in theology, ACU enables you to study an internationally equivalent specialised liturgy degree in Australia.
- The MTS (Liturgy) forms and develops qualified liturgical experts to animate, educate and inspire future generations of Catholics in the practice and study of liturgy and sacraments.
- Graduates of ACU’s MTS (Liturgy) promote full, conscious, and active participation among Australia’s worshipping assemblies as part of the ongoing implementation of the Second Vatican Council.
- The MTS (Liturgy) forms and informs knowledgeable and skilled presiders to lead Australia’s parishes.
- ACU’s MTS (Liturgy) prepares and inspires future liturgical scholars and academics to staff Australia’s universities, seminaries, theologates, and houses of formation.
- The MTS (Liturgy) produces experts to facilitate training in liturgical theory and practice within Australia’s Catholic education offices, diocesan offices of worship and within local parishes.
- Graduates of ACU’s MTS (Liturgy) assist the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in advancing Australia’s liturgical apostolate.