

## Comments from Directions Previous Participants:

"The diploma awakes a myriad of emotions – all of them heartening. I have met fascinating people and explored stimulating topics, read challenging books and disagreed with myself and others; it has been a real journey, but one we have made together."

"Drumalis is a special, special place and the Diploma in Pastoral Theology has been life changing and life giving in equal measure. The module content and those who have delivered each one have been inspirational. I can't speak highly enough of this programme."

"In addition to the stimulating lectures and discussions, there is a strong sense of pastoral support from both fellow students and those who lead the course. I believe that anyone engaged in formal or informal ministry in a parish would benefit from this course since it encourages the participants to be self-aware, develop understanding of the community and the Church, and how they minister to others."

"As one of the older members of the group (the age range is 30+ - 70+), I hoped that I would have the energy to complete the course; however, far from it being a drain on my energy, I found it energising - I am delighted that I decided to do it."

### Directions



From BELFAST, take the M2 and leave at the A8 exit. As you enter Larne leave the A8 by turning left on to POUND ST at the high rise flats. Continue straight on, through three sets of traffic lights to the end of VICTORIA ROAD. DRUMALIS gates are directly opposite across the GLENARM ROAD.

From RAILWAY, BUS and HARBOUR follow the signs for the "Coast Road" - DRUMALIS is on the right before BANKHEADS LANE before you leave the town.



## Diploma in Pastoral Theology

Validated by St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth

### Two-year part-time course Next in-take September

The course will take you on a journey into the discipline of pastoral theology, where theology is applied to ministry. As well as the academic texts on which the course is based, your own life experience will be a valuable text book which you bring to the programme.

Just as Jesus called disciples who were ordinary people, each with their own gifts and limitations, you too will bring your whole self to this programme – and each person you meet in the two years ahead will be enriched by you as you will be by them.

**Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre**  
47 Glenarm Road  
LARNE  
County Antrim  
BT40 1DT



## What is the purpose of the course?

The main aim of this course is to equip people for skilled and supervised active lay ministry within a parish or church community. The course is knowledge and skill based and grounded in experiential learning.

## Is this course for me?

This course is offered to men and women from all walks of life who are involved in their parish communities or who would like to be. It sees participants' lived experience as complementary to the more formal input of the sessions and values the sharing of that experience as one of the great gifts participants can offer to each other.

## The Structure of the Course

6 in-house input days per year

18 evening sessions via zoom per year

Placement in Years 1 and 2

### There are three strands to the course:

- A Academic Input
- B Personal Study and Reflection
- C Pastoral Placement

## During the course, participants will:

- study and reflect on Christian life and ministry,
- combine pastoral theology and the acquisition of skills with supervised experience in pastoral placements,
- develop the skills of theological reflection, so as to enable them to relate theology and ministry to everyday life,
- engage in ongoing formation of social, organisational, communication and leadership skills.

Help and support with the written aspects of the course is readily available.

## Course Fees

£795 per year inclusive of Maynooth registration fee and lunch/refreshments on in-house days. Fees may be paid on an instalment basis. We are grateful to the Friends of Drumalis for their generous financial support of this course.

## Entrance Requirements

Preference will be given to those who have completed the Certificate in Christian Thought or its equivalent and/or have extensive pastoral experience.

In addition to completing an application form, applicants will be asked to attend for interview.

We are in a transition time between the relative security and certainties of past times and discovering what the Spirit wants of the Church in Ireland today and tomorrow. It will be impossible for us to hold on to the ways we lived parish in the past. The parishes of tomorrow will be 'communities of intentional disciples' sustained by committed and formed lay people.

Archbishop Eamon Martin

Further information about the course including application form is available from the Drumalis website - <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

Alternatively, please contact the centre directly during office hours (Monday – Friday, 9am- 5pm),

Telephone 028 2827 2196  
028 2827 6455

or email [maura@drumalis.co.uk](mailto:maura@drumalis.co.uk)