



# *Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

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## Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program (Graduate Certificate in Divinity)

2023: In-Person or Online  
One-year Part-time Formation Program

*To enliven the divine spark in people's hearts  
through contemplative formation*

## **The Apostle Paul's leadership journey**

began on the road to Damascus. Saul, as he was known then, was on his way to carry out what he believed was the work of God, however, Jesus interrupted his plan, and Saul was confronted with his own blindness and need for change.

Saul's journey towards becoming Paul, was one of formation and transformation. His blindness led him to a place of surrender where the Holy Spirit touched his heart and set him on a new leadership pathway that would impact generations.

The Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program at Heart of Life invites you to take this same journey of formation with us. As you travel the Damascus road, you will discover your own growth areas and learn to listen, pray, and understand your spiritual pathway towards genuine heart-led leadership.

Participants will engage with areas of spirituality including: understanding your emotional inner life; stages of faith formation; discernment; contemplative practices; leadership influence; and meditation and prayer.

Like Paul, your Damascus experience will set you on a new course for spiritual maturity and an increased impact in the world.

### **Aim**

The Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative and discerning approach to spiritual and pastoral ministry.

### **For Whom is this Program Designed?**

This program is a one-year, part-time program for people in various positions

of leadership, spiritual formation and outreach ministries.

It is designed for the following people:

- formators, clergy, ministers and members of Religious Orders
- spiritual health workers
- lay ecclesial ministers, pastoral associates
- school principals, teachers, school mission leaders, and others in education
- pastoral care practitioners, chaplains
- parish co-ordinators, special ministers, youth leaders and others in the parish leadership team
- nurses and others in health and aged care
- community and spiritual leaders.

### **Pre-requisites**

Applicants should be involved in some form of ministry, formal or informal.

### **Graduate Certificate in Divinity**

Participants who meet the 'previous Degree' and other criteria, may undertake the Damascus Program as a fully-accredited *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*. Enrolment is made through Yarra Theological College & Catholic Theological College (colleges of the University of Divinity) after an Offer of a Place is provided by Heart of Life.

On successful completion of the program, the *Graduate Certificate* is awarded by the University of Divinity.

Students applying to study the *Graduate Certificate* must provide YTU and CTC with the original or certified copies of relevant transcripts.

### **Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program**

This formation program can be undertaken as an audit student. Participants who audit the unit are

encouraged to complete the written tasks to gain full benefit.

Kindly note that for those who choose to complete the unit as an audit participant, no academic credit can be claimed for the unit, either at the time of enrolling or retrospectively.

### **Attendance Timetable**

The Damascus Program is a one-year part-time program (Feb-Nov) consisting of:

- 28 x Monday mornings during Victorian school terms, 11am to 12:45pm, and
- 11 x Saturdays from 10am to 4pm,

See the back page of this brochure for dates.

Students will also receive 4 x one-hour supervision sessions at a mutually-agreed time during the program.

### **Content**

*Damascus* consists of three units of study spread across 10 months, namely:

- DD8703Y Personal Awareness & Human Development
- DP8002S Leadership Formation & Praxis
- DP9611C Teaching Meditation & Prayer (via Zoom only)

### **Assessment**

Assessment is based on the following::

- DD8703Y: 2 x 3000-word essays
- DP8002S 2 x 750-word reports; 1 x 1500-word response; 1 x 3000-word essay
- DP9611C: 1 x 1000-word report; and 1 x 6000-word portfolio

## **Program Recognition**

### **Catholic Education Commission of Victoria**

Permission is being sought so that this program may be counted as professional learning hours towards:

- gaining or maintaining CECV accreditation to teach in a Catholic school in Victoria;
- gaining or maintaining CECV accreditation to teach religious education or lead in a Catholic School in Victoria.

### **Fees**

#### [Graduate Certificate in Divinity](#)

*All fees are in Australian Dollars.*

The fee for students studying the *Graduate Certificate in Divinity* in 2023 is \$8,646.

Government FEE-HELP is available for tuition fees to qualifying Australian citizens.

For more information on FEE-HELP, see [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)

To apply, applicants must select 'FEE-HELP' as their payment method when completing their course enrolment forms. Proof of Australian citizenship must be provided. After processing, applicants will receive an email that enables them to apply for FEE-HELP through the online eCAF portal.

Fees will continue to be charged to FEE-HELP unless the student advises YTU of a change to upfront fee payment. Contact YTU for more information.

#### [Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program](#)

The fee for undertaking the program as an audit student is \$6,970.

## Refund / Cancellation Policy

Heart of Life's Fee Refund Policy provides for the refund of student tuition fees or the recrediting of a FEE-HELP balance before Census Date, or after Census Date when special circumstances apply. See our Fee Refund Policy at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

## Application Process

Please complete the Damascus application form at: [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) and include a short spiritual autobiography (approximately 500 words), as well as

two written references from people who know you and your ministry well.

Applications for the 2023 Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program close on 6 January 2023.

On receipt of an application, arrangements will be made for a personal interview.

Please address applications to:

*Director  
Heart of Life  
Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC 3144  
Australia  
Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)*

## DAMASCUS TIMETABLE 2023: In-person or Online

**DD8703Y**

**28 x Mondays, 11am-12.45pm**

13/2/23 to 3/4/23, 24/4/23 to 5/6/23,  
17/7/23 to 4/9/23, 2/10/23 to 6/11/23

**DP8002S**

**7 x Saturdays, 10am-4pm**

18/3/23, 25/3/23, 13/5/23, 20/5/23, 12/8/23, 19/8/23,  
4/11/23 (Reflection Prayer Gathering)

**DP9611C**

**4 x Saturdays, 10am-4pm**

17/6/23, 24/6/23, 14/10/23, 21/10/23

**End-of-Year Commissioning** Monday 20 November 2023 (evening)



**Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation**

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*Heart of Life is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart*

*revised 24/11/22*