



Irish  
Institute  
for  
Pastoral  
Studies

# SUMMER SCHOOL

## Training for Transformation

Skills for the field hospital

*The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. (Pope Francis)*

**Dates:** Sunday 17 to Friday 22 June

**Venue:** Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies,  
MIC, St Patrick's Campus, Thurles

**Facilitators:** Martin Kennedy and Éamonn Fitzgibbon



**MIC**  
MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE  
COLAISTE MHUIRE GAN SMÁL

# Training for Transformation

This Training for Transformation programme (TfT) focuses on key pastoral skills required in responding to the challenges of Pope Francis' *Joy of the Gospel*. It takes as its starting point Francis' vision for God's Kingdom, his read of the current social realities and the challenge for the Church in seeking to transform those realities.

## Core skills required:

- **Building teams** of people to engage in mission
- **Identifying felt needs** in the community
- **Discerning God's call** in the light of those needs
- **Developing innovative responses** that connect with people.

## Key elements in the programme include:

1. **Group skills** - how to build a team, facilitate a group and resolve conflicts
2. **Community engagement** - how to apply Paulo Freire's psycho-social method for identifying community needs and opportunities for mission
3. **Discernment** - how to listen to God in the midst
4. **Innovative practice** - how to try new approaches using 'trial and error' approach
5. **Participation** - how to plan and act as a team

TfT is an applied programme - the methodology used throughout the week involves learning through group practice and peer feedback.

**Venue:** Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies,  
MIC St Patrick's Campus, Cathedral Street,  
Thurles.

**Cost:** €600 Residential (including full board)  
€350 Non-Residential (including lunch).

**Date:** Sunday 17 to Friday 22 June  
(Arrival 5.30pm – Depart 4.00pm)

**Facilitators:** Martin Kennedy and  
Rev. Éamonn Fitzgibbon





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**Martin Kennedy:** Martin works freelance as a trainer and facilitator with church and community groups, and has recently served as Pastoral Programme Coordinator for the World Meeting of Families, coordinating the delivery of resources to dioceses. Martin facilitated the Limerick Diocesan Synod in 2016. Among his published texts is: *Ministry Now – New Approaches for a Changing Church*.



**Rev. Éamonn Fitzgibbon:** Éamonn, a priest of the Diocese of Limerick, is currently the Director of Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies, based in the Thurles Campus of Mary Immaculate College, and is also Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Planning in his home diocese of Limerick, having been Director of the recent Limerick Diocesan Synod (2016).



## Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies

In 2016 Mary Immaculate College incorporated St Patrick's College as another campus within the College with the intention that Thurles will serve as a centre for theological, pastoral and spiritual renewal in the entire region. To this end Mary Immaculate College announced the establishment of an Institute for Pastoral Studies, within the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, based at the campus in Thurles.

The Institute aims to enable the fulfilment of a new vision for the Church in Ireland to meet the current challenges it faces. The Institute will seek to avail of opportunities to work in partnership with the wider community becoming an active partner and contributor to the work of dioceses and parishes.

The Institute will support the development of lay formation and leadership and provide ongoing formation for clergy throughout the province and beyond. We aim to provide education and formation for all those who are involved in ministry and church leadership and ultimately will provide courses and programmes across the levels of the Qualifications Framework as well as unaccredited programmes.



### Further Information & Booking:

#### Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies

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### Online Booking

[www.irishinstituteforpastoralstudies.com](http://www.irishinstituteforpastoralstudies.com)



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