

Lumen Dominican Centre - Autumn 2023 Programme

*Mid Term: The Centre will be closed for mid-term break
Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November.*

TUESDAYS

1. Centering Prayer Meditation 12 Sept.-5 Dec.
Ellen (Rose) Gormley & Eileen White 10.30-12.00 noon
Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. It presents ancient Christian wisdom teachings in an updated form. This semester, we will continue our practice of Centering Prayer and also reflect on the series by Thomas Keating OCSO 'The Gift of Life.' Registration for this course is essential.

Voluntary contribution at each session

2. French Level 2 (Advanced Beginners) 12 Sept.-5 Dec.
Marie Helène Dolan 10.30-12.00 noon
For students who can produce simple French sentences and can ask and respond to simple French questions. In a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, these classes will enable students to communicate with more fluency to feel confident in most everyday situations.
(Tutor will choose 2 weeks off) €130 (10 weeks)

3. Intermediate Plus Italian 12 Sept.-5 Dec.
Heather Abrahamson 10.30-12.00 noon
"Vino bianco o vino rosso, signore?" Are you able to book a table, order a meal, ask directions and actually follow them? If you have already studied some Italian and appreciate fun and informality, then this is the class for you. Newcomers are most welcome.
€140 (12 weeks)

4. Buildings, Institution, People: What Does it Mean to be Church? 12 Sept.-17 Oct.
John Littleton 10.30-12.00 noon
This short course will explore and discuss what it means to be Church. It will draw together insights from theological, historical and sociological approaches to understanding Church, and will deal with some of the more significant issues challenging the Catholic Church in Ireland today.
€70 (6 weeks)

5. The World of Our Children and Grandchildren 7 Nov.-12 Dec.
Patrick Claffey SVD, Jane Mellett, Stella O'Malley, Cathriona Russell, John Scally, Alyson Staunton 10.30-12.00 noon
'Is there a third sex?' 'Is Artificial Intelligence the new Frankenstein that could destroy us all?' 'Are we facing an environmental Armageddon?' 'Has God gone missing?' Today we face questions that we could never have imagined even 25 years ago. In this unique and compelling series, moderated by John Scally, a different expert each week will reflect on the

major controversies of our time including: gender; Artificial Intelligence; God; the environment; social media. It will help people gain a better understanding of the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow. €80 (6 weeks)

WEDNESDAYS

6. Silver Swans 13 Sept.-6 Dec.
Nadia Quick 10.30-11.30am
Silver Swans is a ballet class for adults. Dance is now considered to be one of the most beneficial ways of improving mobility, posture, co-ordination and energy levels and imparting a sense of wellbeing and fun. No previous dance experience is necessary!
€100 (12 weeks)

7. German (Conversation) 13 Sept.-6 Dec.
Ruth Lockhart 10.30-12.00 noon
Immerse yourself in German language and culture in this engaging class. Topical issues, art, literature and Austrian, Swiss and German traditions are explored in an enjoyable and informative way. The conversational manner is sure to boost both your confidence and fluency.
€140 (12 weeks)

8. Who Are the Prophets for Today? 13 Sept.-25 Oct.
John Scally 10.30-12.00 noon
'And the words of the prophets are written on the subway walls.' So sang Simon and Garfunkel in the classic song *Sounds of Silence*. But who are the prophets that speak to us today? What are the messages that they have to offer us? This series explores the contemporary voices in the Arts, the media, and religion who offer us guidance to help us navigate the complexities of modern life. They are the voices that can inspire us when we are broken-hearted and crushed in spirit.
€60 (5 weeks; no class 27 Sept. and 4 Oct.)

9. The Religious History of Ireland in the Long 19th Century: Part I (1800-1850)
13 Sept.-18 Oct.
Miriam Moffitt 10.30-12.00 noon
The religious condition of Ireland underwent enormous changes during the long 19th century with the Roman Catholic Church assuming an increasingly dominant position in society over most of the island, and with the churches of the Protestant faiths witnessing a diminution in their status and influence. This 6-week course will explore important episodes which impacted on political, social, cultural and religious life in Ireland over this elongated century, and at the formation and transmission of perceptions of identity within the membership of the various churches of the island. €70
(6 weeks)

10. Introduction to Judaism 2 8 Nov.-6 Dec.
Judith Charry 10.30-12.00 noon

Come and learn about Jewish customs and traditions, home and synagogue rituals, all the Festivals, law and lore, and why preparing for Passover is the deepest spring clean a kitchen can get! We will be continuing from last semester's course, but newcomers are very welcome. €60 (5 weeks)

THURSDAYS

11. Tai Chi for Health and Relaxation 14 Sept.-7 Dec.
Jane Bailey IBVM 10.30-12.00 noon
The ancient Chinese practice of Tai Chi is becoming ever more popular in the West. With its slow, gentle movements, it is an excellent way of promoting physical and mental well-being. Suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Beginners and improvers welcome.
16 €140 (12 weeks)

12. French Level 4 (Advanced) 14 Sept.-7 Dec.
Marie Helène Dolan 10.30-12.00 noon
This module is for students who have a good command of French and would like to keep up to date with cultural, social and political developments in France and increase their fluency in spoken French. Relaxed and friendly atmosphere guaranteed. Au plaisir de vous voir ou de vous revoir!
(Tutor will choose a week off) €130 (11 weeks)

13. Exploring English Literature 14 Sept.-7 Dec.
Phil Dunne 10.30-12.00 noon
In this class, we read, discuss and share novels, poetry and drama. Our reading material is a mixture of classic and contemporary work written in English and translated writing of both established and emerging writers. No prior knowledge is required. Our emphasis is on enjoyment. €120 (10 weeks)

14. God the Spirit 14 Sept.-26 Oct.
Andrew Pierce 10.30-12.00 noon
Christianity speaks of a God who is known not only from actions in the past tense, but who is present in the life of the church – here, now – and beyond. This course reflects on the way in which the church came to name its experience of itself in the presence of God as part of the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Topics include the biblical vocabulary of 'spirit', the shaping of doctrine, and the ongoing debates around human experience as a place of divine-human encounter. €80 (7 weeks)

15. Reflections on Early Christian Iconography 23 Nov.-7 Dec.
Daniele Pevarello 10.30-12.00 noon
The question of what Jesus looked like has always captured people's imagination. Art's answers have been as varied as its creators and always culturally influenced. This short course looks at the central motifs, texts and dates of early Christian iconography, in its

attempt to convey a deeper reality than just the physical appearance of the man Jesus. For in him, as Paul put it, early Christianity saw “the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15).
€40 (3 weeks)

16. Praying with Paul 21 Sept.-5 Oct.
Kieran O’Mahony OSA 7.00-8.30pm
In his letters, Paul addresses issues in community and we find ourselves overhearing persuasive arguments. Paul frames his teaching in a context of prayer, especially prayer of thanksgiving. But the teaching on prayer is more than a frame. It belongs to the heart of his applied theology. This short course will be based on the seven undisputed letters. We will start with the thanksgivings in six of the letters, see other prayer in context and close with the great chapter 8 of Romans. €40 (3 weeks)

17. Who Do You Say That I Am? 19 Oct.-9 Nov.
Seán Goan 7.00-8.30pm
This question posed by Jesus in the Gospels goes to the heart of the matter when it comes to faith. The question remains central to every believer and continues to be asked by every generation of Christians. How might we look at this question in the 21st century in a rapidly changing world that holds out many challenges to the concepts of faith, Church and God that have sustained previous generations? In this short course, we shall explore the question and some answers in the hope of nourishing a faith that can take its place in contemporary society. €40 (3 weeks)

18. The Thursday Conversation Club 14 Sept., 12 Oct., 16 Nov.
John Scally 7.00-8.30pm
We live in a fast-changing world. The old certainties are gone. There is much confusion. The traditional answers seem redundant. New thorny questions occur with ever increasing frequency. Public opinion is profoundly divided on many issues. In this series John Scally conducts public interviews with prominent figures in Irish life. The aim is to provide participants with ‘a widening of seeing’ and a deepening of truths that were always there. Confirmed guests are: film director and Oscar nominee Lenny Abrahamson; and Julieann Moran, General Secretary for the Synodal Pathway in Ireland. €15 per evening

FRIDAYS

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19. Sacred Dance / Dance Meditation 22 Sept.-27 Oct.
Terry Hennessy 10.30am-12.30pm

Experience harmony of body, mind and spirit as you dance to beautiful music. Sacred dance is influenced by the classical and European folk traditions. No previous experience necessary - clear instructions are given. A warm welcome awaits all. €100 (6 weeks)

20. Sacred Dance / Dance Meditation 10 Nov. -8 Dec.
Terry Hennessy 10.30am-12.30pm
Experience harmony of body, mind and spirit as you dance to beautiful music. Sacred dance is influenced by the classical and European folk traditions. No previous experience necessary - clear instructions are given. A warm welcome awaits all. €85 (5 weeks)

21. French Level 3 (Intermediate) 15 Sept.-8 Dec.
Marie Helène Dolan 10.30-12.00 noon
In this module, the emphasis is on easing students into conversational French. Learned grammatical concepts are revised and put into a variety of conversation-based exercises that strengthen comprehension and self-expression. These classes will give you the confidence to converse on a range of topics. À bientôt!
(Tutor will choose a week off) €130 (11 weeks)

22. The Soul, Certainty, Time and Religion: Some Philosophical Views 15 Sept.-27 Oct.
Patrick Quinn 10.30-12.00 noon
This course explores the search for the soul by Gabriel Marcel and John Cottingham; it seeks certainty from Mary Midgley; it examines time for St. Augustine and Ludwig Wittgenstein and provides a definition of philosophy by Emmanuel Levinas and explores Sigmund Freud's views on the origin of religion. No prior knowledge of philosophy is necessary and those present are encouraged to discuss their views, as part of the learning process. €85 (7 weeks)

23. Reading Romans for Today 15 Sept.-27 Oct.
Kieran O'Mahony OSA 10.30-12.00 noon
The Letter to the Romans is one of the greatest Christian documents, with an innumerable influence across the centuries. Why did Paul write to the Romans, a community he had not founded? What were the presenting issues at the time? How does Paul go about responding? Can we trace the "line of argument" and, even more, can this sustained act of spiritual reflection speak to us today? €85 (7 weeks)

24. Jesus the Storyteller - Parables Then and Now 10 Nov.-8 Dec.
Seán Goan 10.30-12.00 noon
In the Gospels, the activity most attributed to Jesus is that of teaching and his preferred method of teaching was to tell stories - parables. In this course, we are going to consider Jesus the storyteller and give time to reflecting on the stories he told, on how they were heard in his time and on how they might speak to today's world. €60 (5 weeks)

ONLINE

25. Art, Literature and the Call to Adventure

Brian Dooney

'No coward soul is mine, / No trembler in the world's storm-troubled sphere.' (Emily Bronte).

This module examines the power of the personal as a call to adventure. It shows how individual responses to experience, people and events can surprise, inspire, challenge or clear a space for quiet reflection.

€60 (5 live classes via Zoom: 12 Oct.-16 Nov., 7.15-8.45pm)