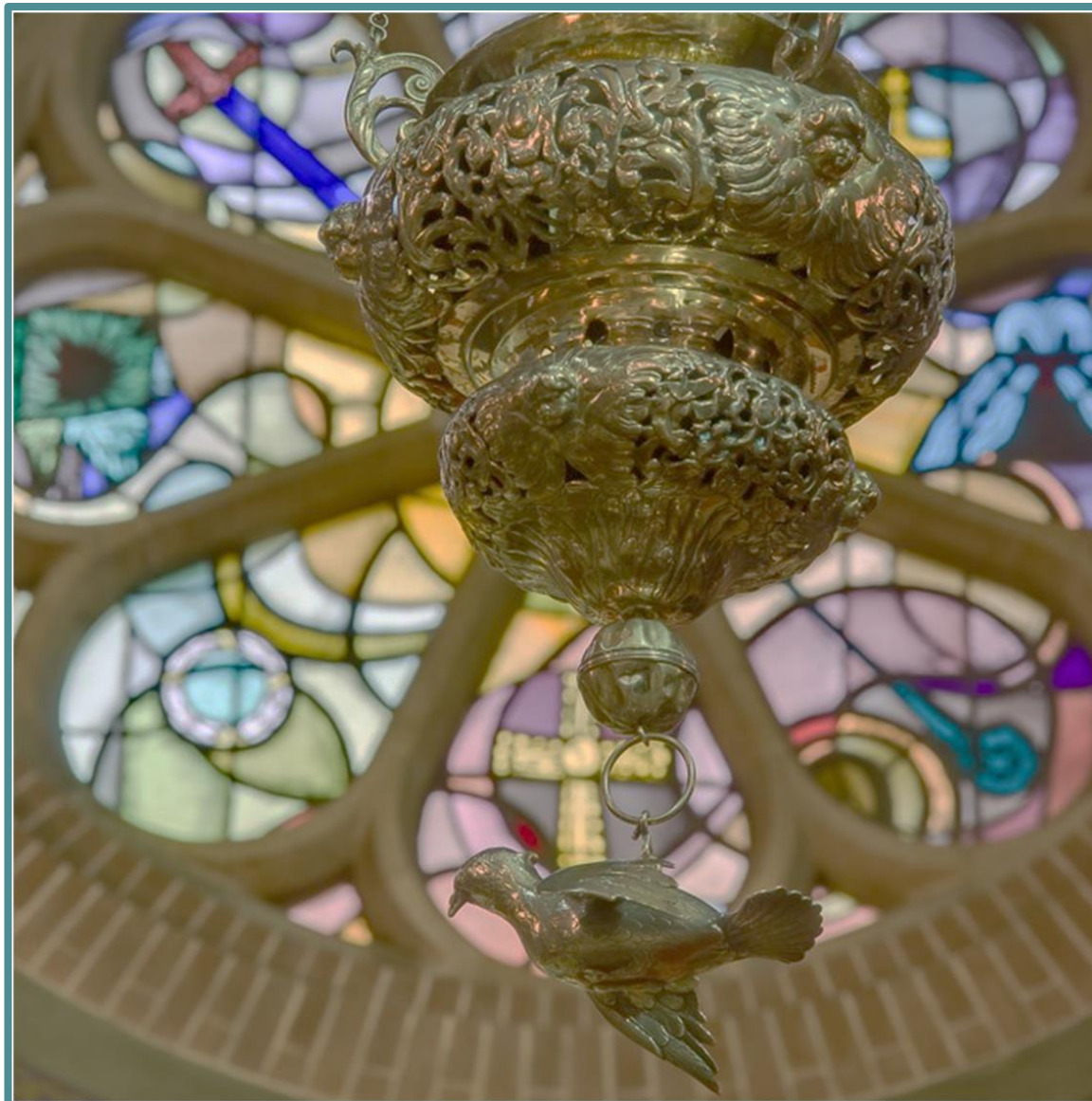


# OLD CATHOLIC THEOLOGY BEYOND THE BASICS: IN SEARCH OF BEING CHURCH IN COMMUNION

## PROGRAMME

14 July 2024 – 19 July 2024

 OUD-KATHOLIEK SEMINARIE  
*summerschool*  
UTRECHT



# WELCOME



Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit  
Course director

Dear visitor!

I'm very glad that you're interested in our summer school in Old Catholic theology. Since 2012 we have been welcoming students to Utrecht to explore Old Catholic theology together. More than just taking a course, the experience has been an experience of intercultural, ecumenical, even interreligious and intergenerational fellowship for all participants, students and professors alike.

Because of the success of what is now our "classic", the introductory course Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context we will continue to offer it. It is a unique opportunity to acquaint yourself with the basic tenets and key voices in Old Catholic theology.

If you want to go beyond the basics, then the advanced course is the right choice for you. In 2024, this course is titled Old Catholic theology beyond the basics: In search of being Church in Communion. It was first offered in 2023 and the enthusiastic feedback that we received encouraged us to offer it again this year.

Of course, you can also choose to combine both courses in one 'track' - two weeks of full immersion in Old Catholic theology! This even comes with a discount on your course fee.

We're delighted that the faculty of the Old Catholic Seminary at Utrecht University is again offering its time and talent for the summer schools. They include some of the best and brightest minds in Old Catholic theology, such as The Very Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger, dean of the Seminary, who will be lecturing on liturgy and systematic theology and The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dick Schoon, Bishop of Haarlem, who will lecture on church history. Also, we're honoured that Prof. Dr. Andreas Krebs, a theologian with a strong interest in queer and ecological approaches, will visit us again from the Old Catholic Institute of Bonn University.

Last but certainly not least, excursions are also included into both courses, for instance to St. Gertrud's Cathedral, seat of the Archbishop of Utrecht; to the leading museum of religious art and history in the Netherlands, the Catharijneconvent; to the hidden history of (Old) Catholicism in Amsterdam during its suppression, and to the medieval cathedral of Utrecht, the Dom Church.

As course director, I'd be very happy to be able to welcome you to join us in Utrecht in 2024. This is your chance to be part of a unique community of learners in Old Catholic theology. While you connect with participants from all over the globe, you will engage intensively with Old Catholic systematic theology, liturgy, history, spirituality, ecumenical relations, canon law, and praxis.

If you ask yourself: is this for me? the answer is probably: yes, it is! Courses are suitable for theologians, clergy and interested lay persons alike. Please feel free to get in touch with me through [p.b.a.smit@uu.nl](mailto:p.b.a.smit@uu.nl) should you have any questions.

Oh, and before I forget, there's one final piece of good news: despite the rise in prices all over the world, we've decided to keep our course fee the same!

With every good wish,

Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit, course director

P.S. Given the positive feedback on the 'in person' experience of 2022 and 2023, we will continue to teach our classes physically in 2024. As participants in 2022 told us, this provides by far the best conditions for creating an intense community of learners and a direct encounter with the Dutch context.

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

**Old Catholic Theology beyond the Basics: In search of being Church in Communion** focuses on a key topic in Old Catholic theology: communion. In Old Catholic theology communion with God, with other Christians and with the whole of creation are of paramount importance. Participants in this course will immerse themselves into different aspects of communion. Classes will explore sacramental and liturgical theology, ecumenical theology, eco-theology, and historical dimensions of communion. It offers a unique opportunity for acquiring an advanced insight into Old Catholic theology.

The course is taught by experts in Old Catholic theology from the faculty of the Old Catholic Seminary, Utrecht, as well as by invited senior professors. Students will acquire a multi-faceted understanding of “communion” in its spiritual, liturgical, theological, ethical, and historical dimensions. The course will equip participants to make their insights bear fruit in both church and society.

Bringing students together in a culturally, religiously, and educationally diverse community of learners, the course uses lectures, seminars and excursions as educational formats. Beyond that, the city of Utrecht and the Utrecht Summer School offer plenty of opportunities for socializing and exploration.

The focus on the topic of communion has its background in both the central position of communion in contemporary Old Catholic spirituality and theology and in the historical search for communion in Old Catholic history, which often begins with the Old Catholic Churches’ involuntary separation from the Roman Catholic Church, such as happened in the Netherlands in 1723-1724.

At the end of the course students will have a broad overview of main topics and themes in Old Catholic theology and spirituality and will be able to pursue further independent study of the subject. The course is at the introductory level of an M.Div. curriculum; good BA students may also apply, as well as others. Students may be expected to do advance reading for the course.

This course can be combined with the introductory course offered a week earlier: Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context. That course is also a prerequisite for the advanced course for those without a prior background in Old Catholic theology.

## Target audience

- Students of theology interested in Old Catholicism and ecumenism;
- Clergy and theologians interested in Old Catholicism and ecumenism;
- Laypersons with formal or informal theological training interested in Old Catholicism and ecumenism.

The course is of specific interest for students from Anglican, Orthodox, Lutheran, Old Catholic, and ecumenical backgrounds. As this is an advanced course, participants are expected to have studied Old Catholic theology at an accredited institution before, or to have completed the introductory summer school course offered in Utrecht.

## Aim of the course

The goals of the course are the following;

1. The student will be familiar with the key tenets of Old Catholic reflection on communion in theology and history;
2. The student will be able to contextualize the Old Catholic approach to communion within the broader spectrum of theology and religious studies;
3. The student will be able to relate the diverse aspects of communion explored in the course to the own religious tradition or worldview in a dialogical manner.

## Study load

4 contact hours/day; about 40 hours of preparatory self-study will be required.

## Costs

Course fee: € 425  
Housing € 250

## Application deadline

1<sup>st</sup> of May 2024

# LECTURERS (a.o.)



The Rev. Prof. Dr.  
Peter-Ben Smit

Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit holds the Chair of Ancient Catholic Church Structures at Utrecht University, on behalf of the Old Catholic Seminary. Lecturer in Biblical and Ecumenical Theology at the Old Catholic Seminary in Utrecht.

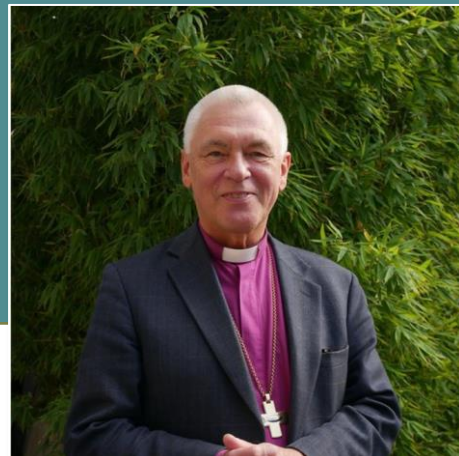
Ecumenism



The Rev. Dr. Mattijs  
Ploeger

Dr. Mattijs Ploeger is the dean of the Old Catholic Seminary in Utrecht. Lecturer in Systematic Theology and Liturgy.

Systematic Theology  
and Liturgy



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dirk  
Jan (Dick) Schoon

Dr. Dick Schoon is lecturer in Church History at the Old Catholic Seminary in Utrecht. He is also the Bishop of Haarlem.

Church History



Prof. Dr.  
Andreas Krebs

Prof. Dr. Krebs heads the Old Catholic Institute at the university of Bonn and is professor in Old Catholic theology.

Old Catholic and  
Ecumenical Theology



# FURTHER INFORMATION

For more INFORMATION or to APPLY for this course check:  
[Old Catholic Theology beyond the Basics: In search of being Church in Communion](#)

Not attended the FIRST course yet?

[Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context](#)

Applying for BOTH? Book both courses as TRACK for discount:  
[Old Catholic Theology: Communion as Calling and Challenge](#)

## Scholarships:

For information regarding financial assistance, please contact the course director at [P.B.A.Smit@uu.nl](mailto:P.B.A.Smit@uu.nl).

## Disclaimer:

The programme is subject to change should unforeseen circumstances arise.