

## **Abstract**

The Church of Ireland has had a strained relationship with the Anglo-Catholic tradition. For more than a century, discrimination, suppression, and/or legal prosecution persisted upon those adhering to ritualism and later, Anglo-Catholicism in Ireland. Punitive and restrictive ecclesial canons were finally revised in the 1970s, reflecting a more tolerant, ecumenical perspective within the Irish Church, along with acknowledgment of comprehensiveness within the Church of Ireland and across the Anglican Communion.

This dissertation will involve an explorative enquiry into Anglo-Catholicism in the Church of Ireland. Noting the epistemological and reflexive perspective of the researcher and his formation for ordination, the research will consider factors that influenced the development and current place of the tradition in Ireland. Features of the biblical foundations for Anglo-Catholicism will be examined, whilst adopting a theoretical lens of theological anthropology. This prism will be applied to investigate certain phenomenological facets of the tradition, via the framework of liturgical theology.

The rich array of findings from this research will be outlined and discussed. This will include an overview of areas for further investigation, given the dearth of research into Anglo-Catholic practices in Ireland. The application of the Anglo-Catholic tradition for mission and ministry will be addressed, whilst proposing research to examine attitudes towards Anglo-Catholic practices in Ireland. It will be proposed that the psychology of those who adhere to this tradition will warrant enquiry, along with the potential to study Anglo-Catholic church planting or missional outreach, as a response to the current challenges to faith and Church affiliation in Ireland.