

Centre for Catholic Studies

Annual Review 2023-24

June 2024



Report from Prof. Paul D. Murray CCS Co-Director and Professor of Systematic Theology

A time for everything...

Where does the time go? Specifically, where has the time gone since this time last year? And where has it gone—seemingly in a flash—since the first public steps were taken twenty years ago this term on the path that would lead three years later to the formal establishment by Durham University of the Centre for Catholic Studies in September 2007?

Those first steps were three-fold: the establishment of the Durham Catholic Theology Research Seminar; the devising of a named pathway in Catholic Studies through the Department's MA programme in Theology and Religion; and the early articulation of the thinking behind and planning for the first phase of the Receptive Ecumenism projects.

Twenty years on, the production of our 2024 Annual Review and our preparations for the CCS Mass of Thanksgiving and Friends' and Benefactors' Day finds us at the near culmination of a significant year of transition in the life and work of the CCS. As announced in our Michaelmas 2023 Newsletter, throughout this year Karen and I have been sharing CCS executive leadership as Co-Directors, in anticipation of me stepping back fully at the end of this academic year and Karen becoming solo Director for three years.

I will continue as a close member of the CCS, working first for a year on research and writing, concentrating both on the editing and submission of my book-length manuscript, *Healing the Wounds of the Church: The Theology and Practice of Receptive Ecumenism*, and on the furthering of my other long-term writing project, *Catholicism Transfigured: Conceiving Change in the Church*. After that, I will contribute to the CCS and the Department of Theology and Religion through a mix of research, supervision, teaching, and administration.

On a number of levels, this transition in CCS executive leadership comes at a fitting point. Every year we have a very great deal for which to be grateful. That is particularly so this year.

A major recent priority has been to build a minimum £5m Core CCS Endowment, to provide the financial stability to fund a Director's office and central administration into the future, so that the CCS can endure and serve in these isles for the long-term, as it uniquely has the capacity to do. Last year, we were pleased to announce a £1m pledge from the Jesuits in Britain, complementing an earlier £1m commitment from the Sisters of Mercy (Oaklea). This year, we are delighted to announce that the Sisters of La Retraite have also pledged £1m to the Core. Taken together with other smaller contributions over the previous fifteen years and more, this brings us over 90% of the way to our initial £5m target. This will ensure the central operation of the CCS not just for a number of favourable seasons but trans-generationally.

An associated concern has been to develop robust structures of shared visioning and accountability between DU and CCS partner-bodies, so that we can secure the CCS's founding vision, ethos, and mission across these envisaged generations. Here we are delighted that the process of drawing up the legal documentation for a CCS Trust is currently making timely progress towards firm agreement. With this, we are also making excellent progress towards establishing agreed terms of reference for a formal CCS Advisory Board which will complement the vital role of our annual Friends' and Benefactors' Day. All of this has in turn been affirmed by a constructive governance review of the CCS which DU conducted with the assistance of CCS partners and external members from other universities.

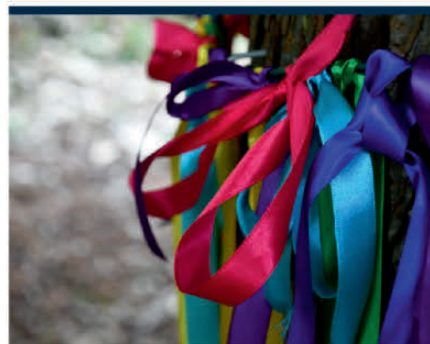
The now imminent establishment of the CCS Trust and associated Advisory Board will also provide the appropriate mechanisms of oversight for the final establishment both of the Clare and Hawley Chair in



*The Beda Bede, Fenwick Lawson.
Photo by Howard Little ABIPP ©*

The Cross of the Moment

A Report from the Boundary Breaking Project



Pat Jones, Marcus Pound, Catherine Sexton



the History of Catholicism, as funded by pledges of £1.2m apiece from the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre and the Brentwood Ursulines, and the Duns Scotus Chair in Franciscan Studies, as funded by a syndicate of Franciscan congregations, led by the Irish and British OFM—who between them made a decisive further commitment of £1m earlier this year—and the British Capuchins.

Other key developments this year include our first tranche of Faithful Companions of Jesus postgraduate scholars, generously funded by the FCJ Bicentenary Scholarship Fund, working alongside our Louis Lafosse Scholars funded by the Sisters of Christian Education, and our Catherine McAuley Scholars funded by the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy (Yeadon). Such funding is crucial, particularly so as the CCS started out this year with its new Distance Learning MA programme in Catholic Theology, led by Karen. This has immense potential to take CCS formation in Catholic theology globally but for this potential to be realised we will need to attract further student scholarship funding so as to be able to off-set the very high levels of international fees now needing to be charged by UK universities.

Another culminating moment this year has been the publication of *The Cross of the Moment*, representing the main report from the *Boundary Breaking* project, exploring the ecclesial-cultural implications of the clerical sexual abuse crisis in England and Wales. Marcus Pound has led this project over many years, working with a range of others including Catherine Sexton, Pat Jones, Greg Ryan, and myself. We are particularly grateful to Pat for doing such a wonderful job synthesising the findings into their final form, in what is a powerful and beautifully written report. This benchmark publication represents both a significant landing-point and a point of further departure as we plan for a major follow-on project, *Mobilising for a Revitalised and Healthier Church*. In collaboration again with Porticus this project will explore the different ways that the Catholic community in these isles is responding to the themes identified in *The Cross of the Moment*, how this could be done more intentionally and what the obstacles are that stand in the way of this. It is another example of the convening power of the CCS, as a forum for constructive work that can inform and help shape the processes of Catholic reform.

So, at this significant transition point, there is a very great deal for which to be thankful, both personally and collectively. Thanks first, of course, to the Lord, whose work we believe this all to be; and thanks also to each of you, our partners, who continue to mediate the Lord's Love and support to us, and thereby make the life and work of the CCS possible.



Prof. Paul D. Murray

Professor of Systematic Theology and outgoing founding Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies

Report from Prof. Karen Kilby Bede Chair of Catholic Theology and CCS Co-Director

Outreach

Outreach happens in different places and spaces. This past year I've found myself in County Kerry in Ireland to introduce theological reflection into a walking retreat run by La Re traite sisters, in the online space of St Paul's Cathedral in London writing on the theme of light in darkness, in Durham speaking to NBRIA (the annual national gathering of Diocesan RE advisors) on the nature of theology and religious education, and in London taking part in CAFOD's Board of Trustees and its Strategy and Performance Committee. But the central part of the outreach of the Bede Chair is to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, and this year this has taken an unusual shape.

The Diocese has been through a period of some turmoil, with the early retirement of Bishop Robert Byrne and investigations by the Holy See and the CSSA. After the publication of the full CSSA report and the executive summary of the Vatican report, I took part in the planning and delivery of a multi-stranded Diocesan Listening exercise. In particular, I facilitated lay listening sessions in Forest Hall, Bedlington, Houghton-le-Spring, and Stockton-on-Tees, and I summarised all that I heard and received in writing from these sessions into a report. I estimate that between 400 and 450 people attended these sessions. I have continued to work with Bishop Stephen and others in the diocese to move into the next stages of the listening process.

This has been a difficult period for the diocese, and I don't think I have ever been exposed to such intensity of feeling from such large groups of people as I was during the listening exercise. But in the midst of the difficulty there is also something more positive to notice—it feels to me that the Bede role in the diocese has matured, so that it is possible to make a genuine contribution close to the centre of the issues that concern the life in the diocese.



Supporting younger scholars

Beyond outreach, a strong theme for me this year has been supporting the development of young scholars, especially doctoral students. There is the usual involvement in doctoral supervising (approximately 9 students) and examining (2 in Durham, 1 in Aberdeen, 1 in Bristol), the usual joining in with our own CCS students at seminars, social events, and lunchtime conversations, and, as often, I am helping to run an Early Career Conference for postgraduates from around the country and beyond. This year in addition I ran, with a colleague, a 5-day writing retreat at Douai Abbey for PhD students and early career scholars, and have offered writing workshops for young scholars at a range of events: at the Society for the Study of Theology, at a Postgraduate conference of the Society for the Study of Ethics, a gathering of Durham's DThM students, and to the Scriptorium at the University of Aberdeen. I've also enjoyed accompanying postdoctoral scholars in our Department, led by Dr Sarah Barthélemy, as they experimented with mini (one day) writing retreats.

Other

Two other strands of work for me this year appear elsewhere in this document: I've continued to lead on our new **Distance Learning MA programme**, and it's been a pleasure to welcome and get to know our first cohort of students; and I've been working together with Paul Murray to **share the leadership of the CCS** as a whole.

Otherwise, it has been a year with a variety of talks at **conferences** (in Warwick, St Andrews, and at Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon) and with three separate appearances at Oxford (to speak at a symposium at the Jesuit Campion Hall, a public lecture at the Dominican Blackfriars Hall for the Thomistic Institute, and a Modern Theology research seminar in the Theology faculty).

I've finished a major **article** on Evil for an online encyclopaedia, played a role as **external advisor** for Professorial appointments at one British institution (St Andrews University) and one Irish (St Patrick's College, Maynooth), and joined the **Editorial Board** of *New Blackfriars*. I continue to be on the editorial board of the journals *Modern Theology*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Scottish Journal of Theology* and the *Newman Studies Journal* and of a book series, *The Cambridge Studies in Christian Doctrine*.

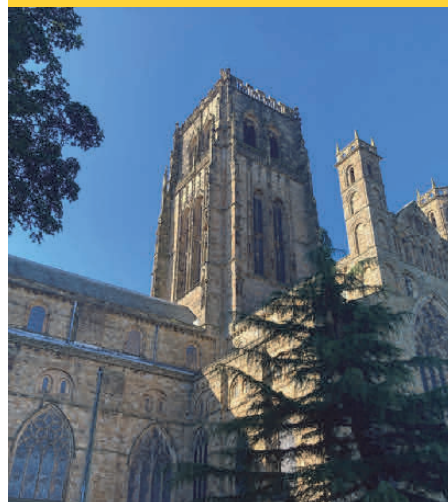


Photo by C Tuckwell ©

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Report from the St Hilda Chair of Catholic Social Thought and Practice

Prof. Anna Rowlands

This last year Anna Rowlands has been on **secondment to the Vatican** working with the Office of the Synod of Bishops on the Synod on Synodality process and with the Dicastery for Integral Human Development in support of its work on the development of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

Anna writes: “This year I have been fortunate to be able to participate in the Synod gathering in Rome in October and to assist in the work of the Synod Office. I was able to address the whole Synod on the theme of communion (one of the three main thematics for the Synod on Synodality: communion, participation, mission) and was moved to be able to witness the full month of dialogue, prayer and discernment. I am now preparing for the next stage of the process, assisting the group that will develop the next *Instrumentum Laboris*, and gearing up for the second month-long session in October. In connection with the Synod I have been able to record a number of **podcast interviews**, write some media reflections on the process, and give the **annual Mary Ward Lecture** at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. A book chapter is in preparation, and I hosted a three-day conference event in Rome in March 2024 on *Listening Practices and Synodality* the fruits of which are due to be published as a special journal edition in October 2024.”

This year has also seen the launch of a new **Distance Learning MA** module on CST, developed and designed by Anna during the course of her secondment year and taught by Karen Kilby.

Anna has also continued to **publish**, with work towards a significant new *Oxford University Handbook on Religion and Contemporary Migration*. This is now published in part online, and the complete hard copy will come early next year. Anna also received the offer of a one-term **visiting fellowship** at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and so has used that time to work on her Vatican work and also on her monograph on the social philosophies of Hannah Arendt, Simone Weil, and Gillian Rose.

Last summer Anna helped to lead a new, innovative **international workshop** organised by John Cabot University in Rome on *Global Politics and Religion*, which included the participation of one of our own Durham CCS PhD students Mao Cheng. She continues to be involved in the planning for this year’s event, although sadly will miss the actual event due to Vatican work this year.

Anna has continued to do a range of **media** work, including for BBC TV, Radio 4, The Times newspaper, and The Tablet. She was also delighted (and surprised!) to win the prestigious **Ratzinger Foundation / Expanded Reason Award** for her last monograph, *Towards a Politics of Communion*, receiving the prize in Rome in October from Cardinal Ladaria, the previous Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Through the Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice, which the CCS is a member of, Anna is developing a set of CST resources to aid parishes and organisations in the lead up to the General Election, and will lead a series of Tablet webinars on the same subject.



Courtesy of Catholic News Service



Anna at the Synod with Pope Francis



All the women of the Synod (Photo: USIG)

Synodal Church Project

Chris Lamb, PhD student, Dept. of Theology and Religion

My podcast series on the synod, "The Church's Radical Reform", completed 18 episodes, with the highlight being recording conversations with several participants in the October 2023 synod assembly in the Vatican. These were recorded while I was in Rome reporting on the synod and included conversations with Austen Ivereigh, an adviser to the synod, and Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, who led the synod participants on retreat. I have had several thousand listeners to the episodes so far.

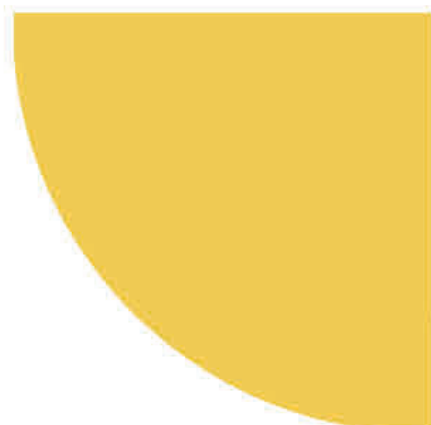
The podcast with Fr Timothy, a former Master of the Dominicans and the "spiritual father" of the synod, proved very popular and was widely shared on social media, while Dr Ivereigh explained in my interview with him the new process adopted by the Vatican synod. I was also able to attend the ecumenical Receptive Ecumenism and Synodality Symposium in Durham and write it up for The Tablet: it was striking to me how the process adopted by the symposium in Durham mirrored the one adopted by the Vatican a few months later. I was also able to record two podcast episodes from participants at the symposium.

My podcasting and journalism have been enhancing and directing the doctorate I am continuing to research and write on the synodal reform process under the wise guidance of Professor Paul Murray and Dr Greg Ryan.

Chris' podcast series, 'The Church's Radical Reform' can be accessed via:

durham.ac.uk/the-churchs-radical-reform-season-1

durham.ac.uk/the-churchs-radical-reform-season-2



Research: Constructive Catholic Theology Boundary Breaking Project



Facing and learning from the abuse crisis

The Boundary Breaking research report, titled The Cross of the Moment, was published on 30th April 2024.

Sometimes it happens in research that an interviewee says something which opens a door of interpretation or captures an insight that goes to the heart of the problem. About midway through the Boundary Breaking research, a woman from a parish whose former priest had been imprisoned for a sexual offence said this: 'We're the body of Christ and if one part of that body is injured or is broken, we're all broken a bit and injured a bit.' This recognition illuminated what became distinctive about the project; it is concerned with how the clerical child abuse crisis has affected the whole body of Christ, the community, and the institution, in this local context of England and Wales.

In this research, we listened to survivors of abuse, whose voices are essential and primary, but also to laypeople from directly affected parishes, priests, bishops and religious men and women, as well as safeguarding professionals and other officeholders. All these voices matter. The result is, we hope, a polyphonic portrait and narrative. It is also ground-breaking. There is a vast literature of writing about the abuse crisis, but very little that is based on empirical listening, and still less that engages across the breadth of the community of faith. These are narratives of harm and pain but also of soul-searching honesty and grief, and willingness to take responsibility.

The report is also distinctive in another way. It is not about particular cases or about safeguarding policy or practice. Rather, the aim was ultimately theological and constructive. After listening, we drew out aspects of Catholic culture and teaching implicated in how abuse happened and how the institutional response has so often failed. We then looked for practical paths forward and imagined possibilities for restoring relationships and trust. This was both a disciplined academic task and a matter of discernment. Some of the heartfelt questions asked by several participants captured this profoundly: What is the Holy Spirit teaching the Church through our experience of this crisis? What do we need to learn? What is our responsibility now?

The report does not provide answers. There are no recommendations. It is rather an examination of collective conscience oriented towards Pope Francis' proposal that what is needed is a process of conversion followed by practical action involving everyone. The text models a process and invites people to consider how they too can listen, reflect, and imagine what could be different.

In particular, the report profiles the courage and insights of survivors and invites us all, as the whole community of faith, to do more to learn from their experience. It draws attention to the relevance of synodal conversations in this area and to the potential that lies in exploring restorative approaches, drawn from ideas of restorative justice. The report is available at <https://www.durham.ac.uk/ccs-boundary-breaking>, in separate chapters or as a complete text. There is also a summary and a brief guide to reading the text. Further publications will follow.

Research: Constructive Catholic Theology

Receptive Ecumenism

In June 2023 the CCS convened *Learning on the Way*, a two-day symposium on Synodality and Receptive Ecumenism, preceded by a Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture with Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ. Generous funding from partners enabled us to invite 130 theologians, practitioners, and church leaders from seven church traditions to explore the question: What can the Catholic Church learn from the understanding and experience of these Western Christian traditions as it seeks to become a more synodal church? The purpose was to put our internationally-regarded work on Receptive Ecumenism in service of the synodal pathway and to learn together through practice.

Each tradition prepared a briefing paper circulated in advance, and the event was built around small group spiritual conversations, interspersed with short presentations and different forms of communal prayer and reflection. Participants reported being surprised, inspired, and deeply moved by the event, with many identifying learnings that they wished to explore further in their own communities. To support this, and disseminate the fruits of the symposium, the CCS co-hosted a study day with the Society for Ecumenical Studies at the London Jesuit Centre in September.

Subject to resources and funding, we plan to publish both the briefing papers and analysis of the learning from the June symposium in a volume on Synodality and Receptive Ecumenism. A further book on Receptive Ecumenism is also in preparation—Greg Ryan is working with the Church of Sweden on an edited volume from the Fifth International Receptive Ecumenism Conference (Sigtuna, 2022), due for publication in early 2025.



Learning on the Way Symposium, Exhibition Hall, Ushaw

Transformative Renewal in the Catholic Church

Rev. Dr John O'Brien, CSSP, Associate Professor (Research)

This project at the CCS is near final conclusion. It studied six sites: three in Britain and three in Ireland – in each case a diocese, a parish though not in the selected diocese, and a grassroots movement not part of official Church structures. The write-up for each of the six sites is complete – although in one case a small number of adjustments may still be required. The major output from the project consisting of an ecclesiology monograph, both practical and systematic, is at near-to-completion stage. It contains a chapter detailing attempted, transformative church renewal and the practical ecclesiology operative in each of the six sites researched as well as a number of chapters of theological reflection. Negotiations are advancing regarding publication, hopefully in the relatively near future. Two further outputs were intended. One is a collection of some twenty essays on aspects of ecclesial renewal published in *Doctrine and Life* during the course of the project. While the publishers have expressed lively interest in publishing such a book, they have yet to make an offer in writing. The second will be a graphic novel dealing with the same ecclesiological issues though in a more readily accessible and hopefully somewhat humorous way. The cooperation of an excellent graphic artist has been obtained and this output is well advanced even if unlikely to be ready for publication in the short-term. My sincere thanks to all at Porticus and the CSS who have supported this project.

Research: History of Catholicism

Dr James Kelly, Sweeting Fellow in the History of Catholicism

The History of Catholicism Team



Dr James Kelly



Dr Sarah Barthélemy



Dr Brian Casey



Dr Eilish Gregory



Dr Liam Temple

New Post

Benjamin Johnson OFMCap has joined the CCS as a post-doctoral fellow on a joint project with his home institution of the University of Notre Dame Australia. His project investigates the theological and spiritual impulses within the early modern Capuchins. A particular facet of this project is to look at the early modern Capuchin relationship with the works of Bonaventure, investigating how and why they engaged with his works. Special attention will be paid to how this affected the sacramental theology of Capuchins in the Catholic Reformation. As such, the project will break new ground, recovering the theological impulses behind one of the most significant new congregations of religious in the early modern period, potentially touching on areas as diverse as globalization, adaptation, and inculturation within the Capuchin missions. It will also add to a recent scholarly trend to re-discover the innovation in early modern Catholic theology. The project will result in a book-length study.

Publications

James Kelly is co-general editor with CCS Honorary Professor John McCafferty (University College Dublin), of the five-volume *Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism*, which was published this academic year, with the pair acting as co-editors of the first volume. The work, which includes over 80 contributors, is the first of its kind. It includes contributions from a number of CCS members, including Liam Temple acting as co-editor of the second volume, while CCS Honorary Fellow Alana Harris edited the final volume. Amongst the contributors are CCS Honorary Fellows Cormac Begadon, Michael Questier, and Maurice Whitehead. The volumes' publication was marked with three book launches. In Rome, its publication was celebrated at an event jointly hosted by the British Embassy to the Holy See and the Embassy of Ireland to the Holy See. Hosted by St Isidore's College, it was addressed by the UK Ambassador, Chris Trott, and the Irish Ambassador, Frances Collins. Previous to the Rome event, a launch was held at Newman House on St Stephen's Green in Dublin, while the event in London was held in partnership with Notre Dame London at Fischer Hall.



Launch in Rome: Left to right: Christ Trott (British Ambassador), Dr James Kelly (General Editor), Rev. Prof. Mícheál Mac Craith, OFM (Guardian of St Isidore's), Prof. John McCafferty (General Editor), Frances Collins (Irish Ambassador)

Sarah Barthélemy published *Le genre de la Société de Jésus. Légitimité et sainteté de Madame d'Houët (1781-1858)* with Presses Universitaires de Rennes, while Eilish Gregory co-edited the Palgrave-published *Later Stuart Queens, 1660-1735: Religion, Political Culture and Patronage*. In addition, Liam Temple worked with Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, on the English edition of his papal sermons, to be published in this calendar year as *Faith, Hope, and Charity*.

In terms of forthcoming publications, Liam Temple has signed a contract with Bloomsbury for a monograph entitled *Radical Poverty: The Capuchins and Catholicism in Britain, 1850-2021*, while James Kelly's *A Very Short Introduction to the Catholic Reformation* will be published by Oxford University Press in the coming academic year.

Lectures

Members of the History of Catholicism team have given a number of academic papers and public lectures, both domestically and internationally. These include papers at the University of Bern, the 'Jesuits in Britain: Celebrating 400 Years' conference at the University of Oxford, the École Française de Rome, the International Scholars of the History of Women Religious Association, the Institute of Historical Research in London, the North East Catholic History Society, and the annual conferences of the Catholic Record Society and the History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland research network.

In addition, Liam Temple spoke at the British Provincial Chapter of the Capuchins. Similarly, Eilish Gregory has addressed Little Company of Mary communities in Sydney and Christchurch, while Brian Casey presented to the Franciscan Missionaries of Divine Motherhood at Ladywell to mark the end of his project.

Research Visits

Members of the History of Catholicism team have this past year visited archives across the globe, including in Australia, New Zealand, France, Ireland, and Italy. In addition, Liam Temple was invited as Visiting Professor to Tampere University, Finland, to deliver lectures and run academic workshops on mysticism and Capuchin history.

Conferences

The fourth Early Modern British and Irish Catholicism conference took place in July 2023, with a theme of 'Popery, Politics and Prayer: British and Irish Catholicism'. The conference was organized jointly between the CCS and the University of Notre Dame. More than fifty papers were delivered at the conference, with institutions from eleven different countries represented.

ISHWRA

The CCS hosts the International Scholars of the History of Women Religious Association (ISHWRA). ISHWRA's convening committee includes the CCS' Sarah Barthélemy and Honorary Fellow Cormac Begadon, plus James Kelly is amongst its advisory committee. This year, ISHWRA has hosted speakers from countries including USA, Belgium, France, and Ireland at its monthly seminars.

In addition, the second ISHWRA workshop was awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant. It focuses on 'Cultures of Engagement: Female Religious Communities in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries'. ISHWRA's convenors, Sarah Barthélemy, Cormac Begadon, and Gemma Betros have a contract for a volume of essays drawn from the first workshop. *Female Religious and Narratives of the French Revolution: Identity, Memory, and History* is due to be submitted this year to the 'Catholicisms, c.1450–c.1800' series, of which James Kelly is a founding co-editor, published by Durham University IMEMS Press.



Brian Casey on his final visit to Ladywell as part of the FMDM project (from left to right): Jo Halford (Senior Congregational Archivist), Sr Teresa Mitchell (Congregational Archivist), Dr Brian Casey, Sr Helena McEvilly (CLT) and Sr Jane Bertelsen (CLT)



Etched window in St Faith's Anglican Church in Roturua, New Zealand. This image was taken by Dr Eilish Gregory on a recent research visit.

Research: Franciscan Studies

The Second International Franciscan Studies Conference: 'The Franciscan Tradition: Retrieval and Innovation', 12-14 March 2024

In March 2024, nearly 100 delegates came to the Marriott Hotel in Durham to attend 'The Franciscan Tradition: Retrieval and Innovation', the second international Franciscan Studies conference hosted by the CCS. The conference organising committee consisted of CCS members Rik Van Nieuwenhove, James Kelly, Brian Casey, Br Tommy Piolata, and Liam Temple with support from Theresa Phillips and Catherine Tuckwell in the CCS office. Sponsored by members of the Franciscan family in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and the United States, attendees heard over thirty papers on the historical and theological underpinnings of the Franciscan tradition. Speakers came from the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, Australia, and various universities across Europe, showing the abundant interest in the various intellectual traditions from the beginnings of the movement until the present. In addition to the papers, evening prayer and morning Mass reflected the prayer and liturgical side of the Franciscan tradition.

The keynote speakers, Sister Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ, Fr Giuseppe Buffon, OFM, and Sister Margaret Carney, OSF, offered a kaleidoscopic journey of the tradition, thought, and rules of Franciscans. They provided much for people to think about and energised many also. The conference showcased some of the work being done on Franciscanism internationally and the work that the CCS is doing to build up a wide-ranging programme of research and eventually teaching in Franciscan Studies.



Franciscan Conference, St Cuthbert's Catholic Church, Durham

Duns Scotus Chair in Franciscan Studies

It was great to see so many of our Franciscan partners in Durham from all over the world for the second International Franciscan Studies Conference in March. At the Franciscan Leaders' meeting that followed, we were able to share news that we had reached our initial £2.2m target in confirmed pledges for the now renamed Duns Scotus Chair in Franciscan Studies, thanks in no small part to a significant uplift in funding from the Franciscan Province of Ireland which integrated the British custody in 2023. Together with all existing pledges from the Conventual Franciscan Federation, and GB and Australian Capuchins, this will allow us to make a first appointment for January 2025.

Research: Franciscan Studies

The Science of the Saints: St Bonaventure's Quaestiones de Colore Dr William Crozier, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

My Leverhulme project has at its core the production of an edition of a previously unknown work by St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio (1217-1274): The Quaestiones de Colore. The only known example of a scientific text attributable to St. Bonaventure, this work is to be found in a notebook which the young Bonaventure composed whilst he was a student in Paris. The text explores the physics of colour and light and the process whereby vision occurs. The monograph arising from the project will contain an edition and translation of the Quaestiones de Colore and will situate the text in relation to its intellectual and historical context by tracing how optics and the physics of colour and light were understood in the period from antiquity to the thirteenth century. The monograph will likewise seek to reflect on how the medieval understanding of the scientific study of the 'book of nature' (liber naturae) speaks into the contemporary debate on the relationship between science and religion.



Franciscan Resources

Visit the new Franciscan Studies pages on the CCS website - durham.ac.uk/Franciscan-Studies

- Read more about the work of the CCS in this area of research
- Find resources from the two International Franciscan Conferences (2019 and 2024)
- Watch videos from the two weeklong courses given at the 2021 Franciscan Summer School: 'Francis and Clare', led by Br William Short, OFM, and 'Franciscan Global Vision', led by Br Daniel P. Horan, OFM, PhD

Study

The Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership

After the successful completion of an initial two-year collaboration between the CCS and the Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership (NDFP), the contracts for Dr Gregory Ryan and Catherine Tuckwell have been renewed for a further three years. Greg will continue his role as Academic Co-ordinator for the theological formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate in the North of England (and North Wales). During this time, he will oversee a period of transition in both the in-person teaching and online modules that comprise the four-year programme, while also exploring opportunities for synergy with lay formation for leadership and ministry. Catherine's administrative support to the students, staff, and tutors at the NDFP has contributed to the smooth running of the residential teaching weekends and other essential tasks.



Dr Gregory Ryan
Academic Co-ordinator



Dun Cow Lane, Durham. Photo C. Tuckwell ©



Catherine Tuckwell
Programme Administrator

Study

Distance Learning Programme in Catholic Theology

The first cohort of thirteen part-time students began their journeys on the Distance Learning programmes in October 2023 and, so far, it is working well. The students are diverse in their life situations, and include people who work for NGOs and as school chaplains, people who look after children and someone who is, at the moment, out of work; people in their 20s, in middle age, in their 70s; two Catholic priests and one Anglican; a consultant neurosurgeon, a teacher, a school chaplain...all are showing excellent commitment.

The first Residential took place in Durham in April where eleven of the students met in person for the first time. For just over 48 hours students shared together in stimulating lectures and discussion led by a range of module convenors and other Durham staff. The lectures at the Residential are not necessary to any particular module, so it's optional, but nevertheless an enriching experience, enjoyed by all.

In addition to the Postgraduate Certificate, the Postgraduate Diploma, and the MA, from October 2024 students can now enrol for the core module, 'Catholic Theology: A Preliminary Tour', as a standalone module. This is an option for Continuing Professional Development, general interest, and for those who wish to test the waters of the MA cautiously, giving the option to progress to the PG Certificate, PG Diploma, or MA following its successful completion.

The Distance Learning programme offers a fairly rich set of module options, with two modules focused on medieval theology, one on how to think about change in the church, one on Catholic Social Thought, one that draws many strands together under the theme of "faith and reason". Going forward the CCS hopes to be able to offer a Franciscan and a CST module as standalone modules.

Bursary Fund for Distance Learning Students

The first cohort has recruited from the UK but not internationally as hoped. The CCS is reaching out through various channels in the US and Australia and would love to make this opportunity possible for those in the Global South, but fear international tuition fees are currently prohibitive.

The CCS is offering a Bursary Fund: two awards were made towards tuition fees (one at full rate) for 2023-24, but funding is limited. Our desire is to raise significant bursary funding to support Distance Learning students, especially those from the Global South, with full tuition fees.

Part-time fees for an overseas MA student in 2024-25 are £14,800 per annum for 2 years. If you would like to discuss supporting CCS scholarships and bursaries, please contact Tim Guinan, CCS Senior Development Manager, for a conversation.

Michael Calderdale, Distance Learning student, says: "I'd been considering studying Catholic Theology at Postgraduate level, but I didn't think I could manage in-person seminars alongside my work commitments. The Distance Learning programme solved my dilemma, by offering access to Durham's academic expertise on a flexible basis, without sacrificing intellectual rigor. The modules draw deeply from across the rich Catholic tradition, whilst also engaging with contemporary issues facing the Church and wider society."



Students, Scholarships, and Alumni

Students

CCS students continue to bring life and vitality to the CCS. The thrice termly Catholic Theology Research Seminars (CTRS) continue to be a core point of contact for students and staff with a rich range of topics and speakers widening knowledge and understanding in Catholic theology. The lunchtime research conversations continue over a bite to eat with two staff and student members making short presentations on their current research followed by discussion. In Epiphany Term, two students started an 'Out of Hours' monthly meeting. Students meet in the evening to share pizza and a member of Dept of Theology & Religion staff gives a short talk for discussion. Topics have included: 'Suffering in the Academic Life' with Karen Kilby, 'Ecological Conversion' with Robert Song, 'Faith in the Academic Life' with John Barclay, and 'Theology and Psychotherapy' with Chris Insole.

Scholarships

Through generous donations from the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, the Jesuits in GB, Mater Ecclesiae, the Sisters of Christian Education, and individual donors, the CCS has been able to support 19 students with scholarship and bursary awards totalling £124,570 in 2023-24.

Alongside three Louis Lafosse PhD scholars, the CCS is delighted to have four FCJ scholars, three MA students and one PhD student, this year. These seven students all receive full home-level tuition fees and a maintenance award.

In March the CCS Scholarships Committee met to consider applications for FCJ Bicentenary Scholarships and a Louis Lafosse PhD scholarship for 2024-25. Two PhD awards were made, and the Committee meets again in June to consider applications for remaining funds.

The CCS are extremely grateful to those who give toward this work supporting students in their studies, many of whom would be unable to pursue their dream without your support.



FCJ Scholar, Lucy Rauer, MA in Christian Theology (Catholic Studies) 2023-24

The MA Catholic Studies programme works to provide students like me with a deeper sense of the Catholic theological tradition whilst providing us with opportunities to explore and pursue research of our own. In my case, this has been enabled by the generous donation of the FCJ Bicentenary Scholarship.

I have seen the CCS offer incredible support to its student members over this past year. The Centre clearly takes seriously its mission to help students thrive both inside and outside of the classroom. Regular meetings and research seminars organised by the CCS have put me touch with others in my field of study, offering me the opportunity to work with leading scholars who have nurtured my interests in environmental and philosophical theology.

I am especially grateful to the Faithful Companions of Jesus for the provisions and time they have put in place for their scholarship holders. In making the effort to share their values and work, they have encouraged me to translate my research into meaningful work within the life of the Church and society.

It has been a great year studying under CCS and I look forward to seeing what is yet to come.



Louis Lafosse PhD Scholar, Amanda Murjan, 2020-2024

I began my PhD in October 2020 and will soon submit my thesis entitled: "Self-giving as human flourishing in the Thought of Pope John Paul II: A Critical Exposition using Theological and Psychological Discourses."

I have just accepted a role as a Research Assistant for the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life, and in July I begin a fellowship with Birmingham University on psychological cross-training for theologians focusing on the role of religion in human flourishing in social relations.

Generous funding through a Louis Lafosse scholarship made all this possible. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to my benefactors and the CCS. Their consistent support and encouragement, the sense of being part of something larger than my studies, even as a distant student, has changed my life in unimaginable ways. For all this and much more I will always be grateful.



John Stayne, part-time PhD scholarship student, 2018 -2024

My name is John, and I am currently in the process of completing my doctoral thesis focused on ecclesiology and Pneumatology, under the title: 'From the Spirit: Charisms as a Constitutive Principle for Catholic Ecclesiology'. The project attempts to present an image of the Church where the charisms have been more fully integrated (as an essential element) within the well-articulated sacramental structure. Coming to the end of the project I feel a deep gratitude to the CCS for the sense of community, for the personal support and encouragement, and especially for the funding that I have been granted through them. Over my years here I have been the recipient of a number of different funds, but this year it is the FCJ scholarship that is generously supporting me. As someone with a young family (four small children), it would have been impossible to complete this research without such financial provision. Thank you, then, to the CCS and everyone who facilitates their work!



Alumni

Congratulations to CCS student members completing PhD programmes in 2023-24:

- **Kyrillos ElMacari** – Thesis title: *The Church as the Body of Christ: An Inquiry into the Ecclesiology of Cyril of Alexandria and Yves Congar*. Kyrillos is now on a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of St Thomas Aquinas in Rome working on synodality in the Coptic Orthodox Church.
- **Gaël Pardoën** – Thesis title: *Belonging in the Dark: Towards a constructive theology of belonging Christianly*. Gaël worked in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle curia for a while and is now job-hunting, alongside continuing a part time role on a research project in Roehampton.

Development Report

Tim Guinan, Senior Development Manager (CCS)

For several years now, the CCS has made it a key priority to secure the necessary support for a £5m core endowment that would fund the CCS Directorate and small Administrative Team that underpins all other activity. We are on the cusp of achieving that aim and, at time of writing, University stakeholders are in the process of reviewing legal documents to establish a separate Trust to hold the funds in perpetuity, as well as establishing a revamped Advisory Board with formal Terms of Reference giving our partners significant oversight and meaningful involvement in the future life of the CCS.

To have gotten this far is, as ever, testament to the encouragement, patience, and generosity of our many partners, some of whom have been closely involved with the development of the CCS since its inception 20 years ago. In particular, we are grateful to the Congregation of La Retraite for their recent pledge of £1m, which follows both the Jesuits in Britain, and the Sisters of Mercy (Oaklea), who have already committed £1m each to the Core Endowment.

The Trust will also administer the generous funds from the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Brentwood Ursulines, to establish the Clare and Hawley Chair in the History of Catholicism, named for their respective foundresses, as well as the Duns Scotus Chair in Franciscan Studies, funded by our Franciscan partners.

Once formally established, the Trust will be the vehicle to receive future donations to the CCS Core and other permanent endowment funds, giving surety to those already involved, and confidence to those seeking an opportunity to engage. After a period of relatively rapid growth and transition, we have an opportunity to consolidate and systematise much that makes the CCS so uniquely special, and pivot slightly to focus on other areas of need such as our scholarship funding, for home and overseas students, both distance learning and in-person. We will continue to fundraise to bolster the endowments, protecting them from future cost increases and inflation, whilst working to ensure that the CCS furthers its mission in support of the highest standards of teaching, research and outreach in Catholic studies.

Academic collaboration is a central tenet of the CCS's aims, and we are excited to announce new partners: the National Institute of Newman Studies (Pittsburgh, PA.), who are setting up a new PhD Fellowship programme; and University of Notre Dame Australia who are funding two projects through the Australian Capuchins. We are also delighted that the Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership are renewing their formal Partnership Agreement with us to deliver professional development for ministers in the Catholic Church for a further three years. We are grateful for the ongoing relationship with University of Notre Dame through their London Global Gateway, and to Porticus, who have been an unstinting partner throughout the life of the CCS and continue to support our core operation and strategic projects.

Lastly, I must pay tribute to Paul, who as Founding-Director, has led and inspired our fundraising initiatives from the start, prioritising the careful nurture of multiple relationships in order to secure the future viability of the CCS. This has been a shared vision, given form over many years through careful consultation and funding from our many partners, but Paul has driven our mission with resolve. He has done this with much skill, some humour and determined faith, and as he hands-over we are all reassured he will remain a valued and close member of the CCS as it continues to flourish under Karen's leadership.



Presentation of the Chancellor's Certificate to the Little Company of Mary Sisters. (Left to right): Vice Chancellor, Prof. Karen O'Brien, Sr Ellen Maseve and Sr Patricia Bell (Little Company of Mary), and Chancellor, Dr Fiona Hill.

Partnerships

The Centre for Catholic Studies is pleased to be working in partnership with:

Arts and Humanities Research Council	Jesuits in Britain
Brentwood Ursuline Sisters	Little Company of Mary
British Teilhard Network	Mater Ecclesiae
CAFOD	National Board of Catholic Women
Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre	Newman Association
Capuchin Franciscans of Great Britain	National Institute for Newman Studies, Pittsburgh
Capuchin Franciscans of Australia	Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership
Capuchin Friars, St Augustine Province, US	The Franciscan Province of Ireland
Catholic Historical Society of Ireland	Porticus
Catholic Theological Association of GB	RC Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
Community of St Francis	Sisters of Christian Education
Conference of Religious in England & Wales	Sisters of Mercy (Oaklea)
Congregation of Jesus	Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus
Congregation of La Retraite (Britain & Ireland)	Society of the Sacred Heart
Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace	The Society of St Francis
Conventual Franciscan Federation (US)	The Tablet and The Pastoral Review
Durham University Catholic Chaplaincy	Trustees of Ushaw College
English Benedictine Congregation	University of Notre Dame, Australia
Faithful Companions of Jesus	University of Notre Dame, Indiana
Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood	& many Generous Individuals of Vision.
Institute of Our Lady of Mercy	



A big THANK YOU to all our partners for your support!

To discuss partnership opportunities, many of which attract generous matched-funding from the University and other benefactors, please contact Tim Guinan, Senior Development Manager for the CCS, for a conversation.

Centre for Catholic Studies

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A Prayer for the Work of the Centre for Catholic Studies

Lord,
If this be not your will, frustrate it,
frustrate it fully and frustrate it quickly,
and move our heart's desire closer
to the heart of your desire for us.
But if it be of your will,
then continue to open for us the
generosity of heart, mind, and
means that are needed,
and may this generosity begin with us.
Amen.

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