



Durham
University

Centre for Catholic Studies

Newsletter

Issue 43: Michaelmas Term 2022

Partners in Formation

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Centre for Catholic Studies



When I started my theology doctorate some years ago, one of the commonest questions I had from church-goers was “Are you going to be a priest?” Those who knew I was married and Catholic might instead ask “Are you going to be a deacon?”, by which they meant, ordained into the permanent diaconate, which is open to married or single men. The answer in both cases was “no”, and it is as a lay theologian that I have recently taken up a new externally-funded Assistant Professor (Teaching) role at the CCS as Academic Coordinator for the Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership (NDFP), starting in June 2022.

The question about the diaconate was, however, perceptive. The opportunity afforded to dioceses by the restoration of the permanent diaconate following the Second Vatican Council was not a panacea for the shortage of priests, but a distinctive and recognisable ordained ministry to work alongside other ministries in the church and world - lay and ordained. Although not all dioceses took up the opportunity, permanent deacons have become a familiar and significant feature of many parishes, hospitals, prisons, and communities in the Church in England and Wales.

Although some dioceses made provision for permanent deacons using seminary formation, others initially trained “on the job”. By 2007, however, St Bede’s Institute at Ushaw College provided formation support to several dioceses in the North of England and developed an online programme to be used more widely. With the closure of Ushaw teaching facilities in 2011, dioceses faced the challenge of rebuilding a collaborative formation programme for the diaconate, and in 2014 Hallam, Hexham and Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, and Wrexham dioceses committed to a training partnership based around six residential weekends at Hinsley Hall, Leeds (one of which is pictured above) and in-diocese pastoral formation. By the time Lancaster and Salford also joined, and the programme had expanded to include online elements, NDFP had reached a point where the day-to-day academic leadership and the further development of the teaching programme needed sustainable and dedicated academic input. With the support of bishops from the

sponsoring dioceses, they approached the CCS to provide academic direction and administrative support.

In this new part-time post, I will be leading a strategic review of the NDFP curriculum, developing new learning resources and practices, and working with church leaders, students, and staff across the four-year NDFP programme on the learning experience and theological formation. I hope also to begin exploring possible areas of future collaboration including online learning, post-ordination formation, lay formation resources, and certified vocational qualifications, in addition to continuing my own scholarship/research in Catholic ecclesiology.

Supporting this activity is a new NDFP administrator, Catherine Tuckwell, who will also be based in the department. Both the academic and administrative roles are on an initial two-year contract, to be reviewed in 2024.



The current chair of the Partnership, Deacon Vincent Purcell, says, ‘We were already working with Greg as a theological tutor, and the NDFP team is delighted that he has been appointed to this new role. We look forward to a fruitful relationship with the CCS in this key element of a ministerial formation strategy for the Church in the North of England.’

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Many Are the Lightbeams

The Fifth International Receptive Ecumenism Conference



Lågorna Ar Många: "Many are the lightbeams from the one light."

This was one of many Swedish texts translated into English and sung at the Fifth Receptive Ecumenism Conference, held at the Sigtuna Institute, Sweden, in June 2022, with CCS staff members Paul Murray and Gregory Ryan as two of the invited speakers.

As in previous Receptive Ecumenism conferences, the academic presentations were rooted in prayer and worship, from an opening service at which the Catholic Cardinal and Lutheran Archbishop presided, to a closing outdoor liturgy. The conference hymn booklet included several beautiful hymns composed at the Sigtuna centre over the course of its history.

Of the academic programme, Greg Ryan said:

A packed programme of plenary sessions and short papers vividly demonstrated the impact of Receptive Ecumenism in the academy, church, and world, with the breadth and diversity of its ongoing reception surprising even to those who were most familiar with it.

On the one hand, it was gratifying to see leading academics and ecumenists engage with Receptive Ecumenism, sometimes for the first time, and on the other hand, equally exciting to discover emerging scholars from different countries choosing to write on Receptive Ecumenism in dissertations and papers.

Memorable moments over the four days included:

- *A significant dialogue between Prof. Paul Murray and Revd Dr Susan Durber (World Council of Churches) on the relationship between Receptive Ecumenism and formal dialogues*
- *Insights from a major research project at Helsinki University on "Recognition of the Other" by Prof Risto Saarinen, with a response by Dr Minna Hietamäki*
- *A rich and engaging presentation on the role of friendship, spirituality, and imagination in ecumenical learning by Dr Antonia Pizzey (Australia) and Dr Sara Gehlin (Sweden).*



Paul Murray and Susan Durber



Sara Gehlin (left) and Antonia Pizzey

The conference also provided a superb opportunity for the international launch of the new OUP volume edited by Paul Murray, Greg Ryan, and Paul Lakeland, *Receptive Ecumenism as Transformative Ecclesial Learning: Walking the Way to a Church Re-formed*, which was received with great interest and enthusiasm.

A launch event for this new Receptive Ecumenism volume is taking place on 15 October 2022 at the London Jesuit Centre. All welcome! Details and registration are available at tinyurl.com/exploringRETEL

Welcome, Dr Eilish Gregory

Welcome to Eilish, who has taken up a three-year fellowship funded by and researching the history of the Little Company of Mary.

The Little Company of Mary was founded by Mary Potter in Hyson Green, Nottingham, UK, in 1877. The initial ministry focus was to serve the poor, especially visiting the sick and dying in the surrounding, deprived area. By 1882, the sisters had a presence in Rome and, from 1885 to 1937, foundations were made across the UK, Australia, Ireland, USA, Malta, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, and modern-day Zimbabwe. The congregation is now found in Italy, England, Ireland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Tonga, the Philippines, and the USA.

While work has been carried out on the activities of the Congregation's foundress, Mary Potter, less scholarly attention has been paid to its subsequent history, particularly the rapid development of the Congregation into a global presence. The fellowship will focus on that growth, particularly the first 60 years, until c.1940. It will consider the early leaders of the Congregation, the international foundations, and the stories of the sisters who pioneered these initiatives. The project will focus on the direction taken by the Congregation in these localities, away from Mary Potter's direct leadership, exploring the story from a cultural, social, and spiritual perspective, and also reflecting on the continuing social and ecclesial relevance of the story. The project is global in scope, and seeks to bring to life the relevance of the members of the LCM who helped shape its mission in the early decades of its foundation, as well as building upon the original objectives of Potter.

Eilish is a researcher in religion and politics, specialising in British Catholic history from the Reformation to the modern period. Since completing her PhD at UCL in 2017, she has taught at the University of Reading, Anglia Ruskin University, the Open University, the Oxford Department for Continuing Education, and Northeastern



University. She was Post-doctoral Research Associate at the Royal Historical Society from 2018 to 2021, and has done research for the History of Parliament. Her first monograph, *Catholics During the English Revolution, 1642-1660: Politics, Sequestration and Loyalty* was published by Boydell Press in 2021. We are delighted to have her on board.

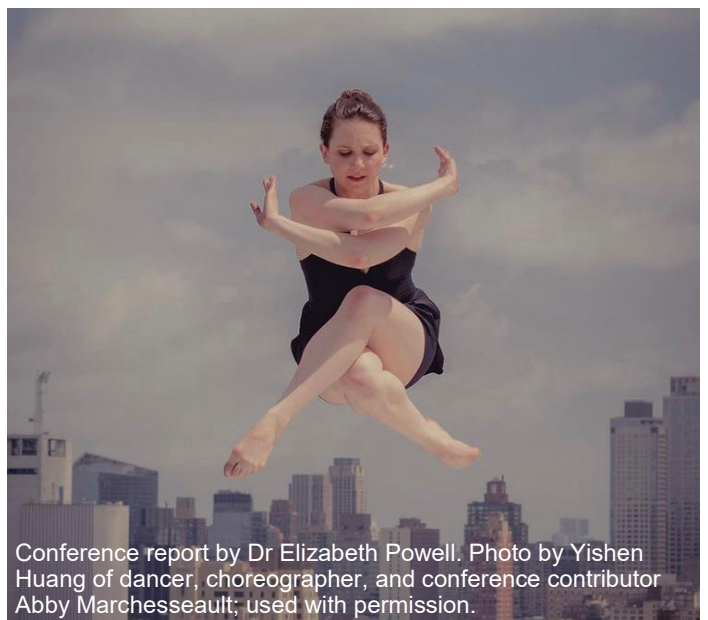
Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts

The third Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts conference (12-14 July 2022) was a remarkable testament of the capacity of the arts to 'festively raise up human existence' (Josef Pieper), affirming life through dance, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, poetry, literature, and theatre. Our theme, the Poetics of Liturgy and Place, was explored by performance, plenary speakers, and over thirty short papers within the superbly located London Gateway of the University of Notre Dame as well as across the city in the beautiful Farm Street Church and the iconic National Gallery.

Each element of the programme invited us, in the words of David Jones, 'to put off the old Adam of utility' and 'become a fool for Beauty's sake, to play.' The fine arts remind us that the origin and end of all our work, indeed our lives, is ultimately just this delighting and being delighted in. That at least, incredibly, is what the gospel tells us.

We drank deeply from this well at the performance of Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time as clarinet, flute, cello, and piano opened 'a space in the air' (Elena Buia Rutt) that tasted of the eternal. It flowed through smiles and vicariously through bodies as the dance performed on the mosaic staircase of the National Gallery ushered us into the Raphael exhibition. And it flourished all three days in delegates' willingness to engage with such generosity across disciplines and artistic mediums. I hope the waters sprung here continue to nourish each of us as we find and make these pathways and places of praise in our own corners of the world.

A review of the conference by Hilary Davies can be found at tinyurl.com/thetablet-CLAiii and a video of Rowan Williams's plenary talk, 'Fixed Place and Mobile Time', is now available at tinyurl.com/ccsyoutubechannel.



Conference report by Dr Elizabeth Powell. Photo by Yishen Huang of dancer, choreographer, and conference contributor Abby Marchesseault; used with permission.

Events: Michaelmas Term 2022

Catholic Theology Research Seminar*

Thursday 13 October

Dr Jacob Phillips (St Mary's University, Twickenham)

On Criticising Newman's 'Apologia'

Seminar for Newman's Feast Day

4.30pm drinks; 5pm seminar—in Abbey House, Palace Green, Durham

Thursday 10 November

Dr Gregory Hillis (Bellarmine University, US)

'Heresy of Individualism': Thomas Merton and Interreligious Dialogue

5pm GMT, online

Thursday 24 November

Dr Marc Roscoe Loustau (College of the Holy Cross)

Hungarian Catholic Intellectuals and Christian Nationalism Today

A Lived Catholicism seminar

5pm GMT, online

Ushaw Lecture Series*

All Ushaw Lectures will take place **in person** at 6pm at Ushaw, with a 5.30pm drinks reception. Help with transport is available.

Tuesday 18 October

Dr Cormac Begadon (Durham University)

Enlightenment in the English Cloister? The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre in Exile and at Home, c.1750–c.1815

Thursday 17 November

Prof. Michael Snape (Durham University)

Forgetting to Remember: Catholics and Britain's Armed Forces, c.1900–2020

Tuesday 6 December

Dr Suzanna Ivanic (University of Kent)

Early Modern Catholic Visual Culture

International Scholars of the History of Women Religious Association*

Wednesday 26 October

Dr Liliana Perez Miguel

(Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)

Making the Law: The Role of Religious Women in the Construction of Law in the Viceroyalty of Peru

2pm BST, online

Friday 25 November

Dr Isabel Harvey (Université Catholique de Louvain/ L'Université du Québec à Montréal)

Non-cloistered Religious Women and Rome at the Aftermath of the Council of Trent: A Journey in Archives

3pm GMT, in person in Abbey House and online

Wednesday 7 December

Dr Kristien Suenens

(KADOC, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Mothers of a Local Church: Gender, Race, and Church Politics and the Emergence of African Sister Congregations in Burundi, Congo, and Rwanda (1900-1950)

2pm GMT, online

Registration

*Registration for Catholic Theology Research Seminars, Ushaw Lectures, and ISHWRA seminars opens three weeks in advance at <https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>

To receive details of our events to your inbox, please register for the CCS mailing list at <https://tinyurl.com/ccsmailinglist>

Some Key Events in 2023: Save the Dates!

Early Career Conference in Catholic Theology and Catholic Studies 2023: Monday 5 June 2023, online

Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture 2023: Wednesday 21 June 2023, in person at Ushaw (Durham)

Cardinal Mario Grech and Sr Nathalie Becquart (Synod of Bishops): *How Goes the People of God on their Pilgrim Way? Hopes, Challenges, and Prospects for the Catholic Synodal Pathway*

Popery, Politics and Prayer: British and Irish Catholicism

The Fourth Early Modern British and Irish Catholicism (EMBIC) Conference: 11-13 July 2023, in person in Durham