



Durham
University

Centre for Catholic Studies

Inspiring the extraordinary

Prospectus



Catholic
Theology
in the Public
Academy

**CENTRE FOR
CATHOLIC
STUDIES**



Introduction

When established in October 2007, the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) was the UK's first permanent centre devoted to pioneering research and teaching in Catholic theology and Catholic studies in the public academy.

Our academic home and administrative base is Durham University's renowned Department of Theology and Religion (as assessed by the last two research assessment exercises—RAE 2008 and REF 2014), and with academic staff members also from several other departments in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences.

We work in close partnership with various bodies and groups within the Catholic Church to produce future leaders, foster talent, and foment Catholic scholarship locally and globally.

Message From Our Patron



HE Cardinal Walter Kasper

Former President of the
Pontifical Council for
Promoting Christian Unity

At the dual launch of the Centre and the Bede Chair of Catholic Theology in 2008, I described the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) as a unique and much-needed space for research and teaching in Catholic theology and Catholic studies in the mainstream of the UK's public academy. Well, so it has proved to be over the past decade.

The CCS has grown to form a vibrant and inclusive community of scholars of Catholicism and committed practitioners of Catholic theology. Housed within Durham University's internationally regarded Department of Theology and Religion, the CCS provides a distinctive forum in which to pursue the difficult questions of our time with both creativity and fidelity and to form outstanding theologians and scholars who will go on to influence both the church and the wider world.

I wholeheartedly commend Durham University, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, and all the religious orders, partner organisations, staff, students, friends and individual donors for your crucial support for the CCS. I pray that, through your commitment, generosity, and vision, the potential of the CCS will be fulfilled, giving it the long-term stability it requires in service of Catholic mission in the UK.

With my every blessing,
HE Cardinal Walter Kasper

Message From Our Director



Prof Paul D. Murray

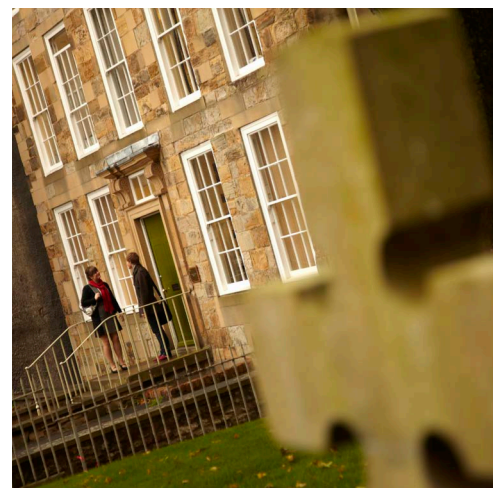
Professor of Systematic Theology
Dean-Director of the CCS

On behalf of the staff, students, and many friends and partners who constitute the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS), I welcome you into association with this unique body, a place of proven excellence.

You join us at an exciting point on our journey, with our work ranging across six broad areas in varying stages of development:

- Constructive Catholic Theology
- Catholic Social Thought and Practice (CSTP)
- The History of Catholicism
- Lived Catholicism
- Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts
- Franciscan Studies

We hope that you enjoy learning more about us, and we very much look forward to working together to achieve together our full potential.



The Department of Theology and Religion is situated on the World Heritage Site of Palace Green, immediately adjacent to Durham Cathedral.

CCS Executive



Prof Paul D. Murray

CCS Dean-Director
and Professor of
Systematic Theology



Dr Brian Casey

Assistant Director of
the CCS and FMDM
Fellow in the History
of Catholicism



Theresa Phillips

CCS Administrator
and PA to the
Director



Tim Guinan

Senior Development
Manager (CCS)



Dr Jane Lidstone

CCS Administrative
Assistant



Yvonne Williams

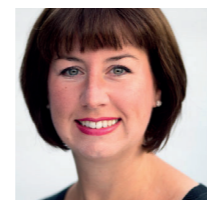
Project Coordinator
for the Boundary
Breaking Project
and the
Transformative
Renewal of the
Church Project

CCS Staff Members



Prof Karen Kilby

Bede Professor
of Catholic Theology



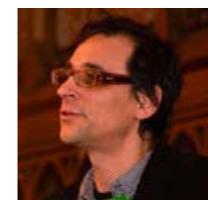
Prof Anna Rowlands

St Hilda Professor of
Catholic Social Thought
and Practice



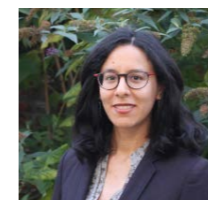
**Dr Carmody
Grey**

Assistant Professor
of Catholic Theology



Dr Marcus Pound

Associate Professor
of Catholic Studies



Dr Sarah Barthélemy

Catherine de Francheville
Fellow in the History of
Catholicism



Dr Catherine Sexton

Post-Doctoral
Research Associate
in Catholic Studies
(Boundary Breaking
project)



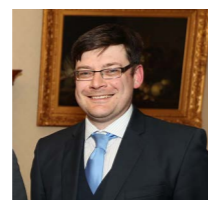
Dr Pat Jones

Post-Doctoral
Research Associate
in Catholic Studies
(Boundary Breaking
project)



**Prof Bennett
Zon**

Professor in the
Department of Music



Dr James Kelly

Sweeting Associate
Professor (Research)
in the History of
Catholicism



**Dr Rik Van
Nieuwenhove**

Associate Professor
of Medieval Thought



Dr John O'Brien

Associate Professor
(Research) in
Transforming Church



Dr Liam Temple

Capuchin Fellow in the
History of Catholicism



Mr Adrian Brooks

Research Assistant
in Catholic Studies
(Boundary Breaking
project)



**Prof Stephen
Taylor**

Professor of Early
Modern British History



Prof Chris Insole

Professor of
Theological Ethics



**Prof Nicole
Reinhardt**

Professor of Early
Modern European
History



Dr Gregory Ryan

Assistant Professor
(Research) in Receptive
Ecumenism and
Ecclesiology



Dr William Crozier

Leverhulme Early
Career Fellow



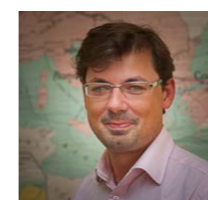
Dr Victoria Biggs

La Retraite Fellow
in Lived Theology,
Trauma, and
Reconciliation



Dr Cormac Begadon

Sepulchrine Fellow in the
History of Catholicism



Prof Giles Gasper

Professor of High
Medieval History



**Prof Gerard
Loughlin**

Professor of
Christian Theology



**Prof Simon
Oliver**

Van Mildert
Professor of Divinity



**Prof
Mathew Guest**

Professor in the
Sociology of Religion
and Head of the
Department of
Theology and Religion

Honorary Faculty



Prof Stefano Cracolici
Professor of Italian Art and Literature in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures



Dr Mary Brooks
Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology



Dr Helen Foxhall-Forbes
Associate Professor in Early Medieval History



Prof Michael Snape
Michael Ramsey Canon Professor of Anglican Studies



Dr Krastu Banev
Associate Professor of Theology



Prof Eamon Duffy
(University of Cambridge)
Honorary Professor of the History of Catholicism



Prof Myriam Wijlens
(University of Erfurt)
Honorary Professor of Canon Law



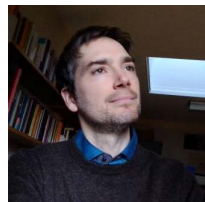
Prof John McCafferty
(University College Dublin)
Honorary Professor of the History of Catholicism



Prof Maurice Whitehead
(Venerable English College, Rome)
Honorary Professor of Catholic History



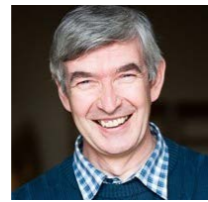
Dr Alana Harris
(King's College London)
Honorary Fellow in the Study of Lived Catholicism



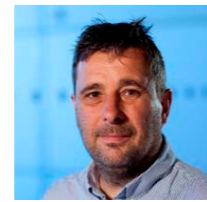
Dr Jonathan Miles-Watson
Associate Professor of the Anthropology of Religion



Prof Lewis Ayres
Professor of Historical and Catholic Theology



Rev Prof Chris Cook
Director of the Project for Spirituality, Theology, and Health



Prof Peter Ward
Professor of Practical Theology



Dr Jonathan Bush
Archivist at Ushaw College



Prof Michael Questier
Honorary Professor of the History of Catholicism



Prof Stan Chu Ilo
(DePaul University, Chicago)
Honorary Professor



Dr Maria Exall
Honorary Fellow



Dr Sheridan Gilley
(Durham University)
Emeritus Reader in the History of Catholicism



Gareth Rowe
(CCS-CAFOD Research Fellow)
Honorary Fellow



Prof Alec Ryrie
Professor of the History of Christianity



Andrew Harston
Director of Durham University Development and Alumni Relations Office



Michael Gilmore
Honorary Fellow at St John's College, Durham



Prof Fr Hans Zollner, SJ
(Pontifical Gregorian University)



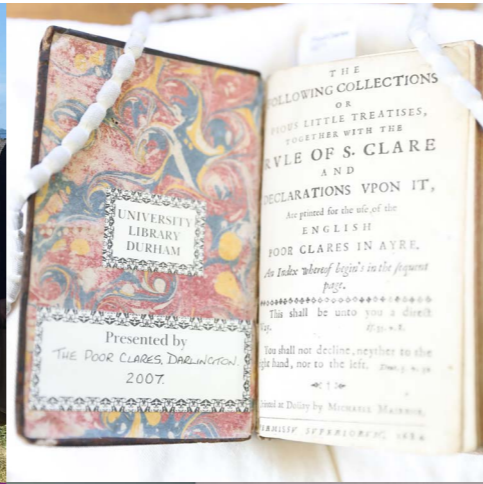
Br Dr Brendan Geary
(Provincial of the Marist Brothers, West-Central Europe)



The Sisters of La Retraite have a history of over 300 years. They were founded in 17th century Brittany to give retreats to women. The name "La Retraite" signifies the importance to us of the need for every person to stand back from everyday life in order "to seek inner stillness and to listen; to discover the meaning of what one is living; to recognise the forces of life and death in and around oneself; to make choices in freedom" Rule of Life 1:6

We see the CCS as a "sacred space", a place for study and reflection that enables students and members of the wider community to explore, understand, and deepen their faith life and relationship with Christ. For this reason the Sisters of La Retraite are delighted to be partners in this enterprise in Catholic theology.

Sr Dr Barbara Stafford, RLR
Former Area Leader for the Sisters of La Retraite in Ireland/UK



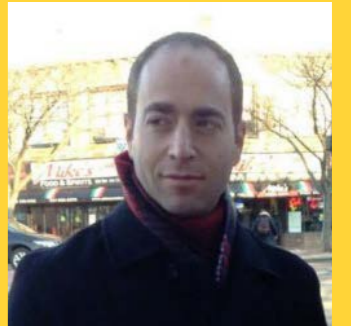
CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES



Aims of the Centre for Catholic Studies

Catholic Theology in the Public Academy

- To provide a distinctive forum for the creative analysis of key issues in Catholic thought, culture, and practice.
- To engage, inform, and shape public and ecclesial life from a leading knowledge and research base.
- To engage the breadth and depth of Catholic tradition in conversation both with the full range of disciplines and perspectives in a leading university and with the range of other faith traditions.
- To develop and pursue major collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects and to attract associated grant awards and philanthropic support.
- To model a vibrant and inclusive community of scholars of Catholicism and practitioners of Catholic theology.
- To form outstanding theologians who will shape the future from the richness of Catholic tradition in the church, academy, and public life.
- To foster and develop excellent working relationships with relevant regional, national, and international public and ecclesial bodies.



I began a course of postgraduate study in order to develop into an academic theologian, someone for whom the work of Catholic systematic theology is part of a lay vocation. The CCS proved to be an exemplary facilitator of my development in this regard, investing in me a kind of mutual apostolate between the academy and the church, and a generous bursary that gave me as much in confidence and responsibility as it did in material support.

Dr Edward Epsen
Former PhD student, now the Lord Gifford Fellow in Natural Theology at the University of Aberdeen



Having studied Christianity from an Islamic perspective, I wanted a greater sense of it from a practitioner perspective. At Durham I was marvellously introduced to contemporary Catholicism with an eye on the past. With Dr Pound's help I achieved my goal and quenched my thirst for continued understanding in the dialogue between Islam and Christianity.

Mohammed Gamal
Former MA Student

Research: Constructive Catholic Theology

Vitality in Women's Apostolic Religious Life

Funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, this recently-completed project gave voice to the authentic, lived experience of sisters in search of a sustainable future. We considered the sources and nature of sustainability of the apostolic form of religious life for women in East and Central Africa and we enquired about the hopes for and challenges of religious life for vocation discerners and new entrants to women's religious life in the UK and Ireland. The project reports are available on the CCS website.

Boundary Breaking

The CCS is undertaking a major project discerning the consequences and implications of the sex abuse crisis within the Roman Catholic Church. Firstly, we are analysing the potential complicity of Catholic ecclesial self understanding and wider Catholic cultural habitus in allowing clerical sexual abuse to be at once endemic, hidden, unthinkable, denied, and mismanaged. Secondly, we are creating a digital research portal collating existing research on clerical sexual abuse to act as a key open-access resource. Lastly, an edited volume will address issues such as the spiritual dynamics of sexual abuse; restorative justice; and psychological issues related to abuse by clergy.

Theology and Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition

This fellowship, held by Dr Elizabeth Powell, was funded by the Sisters of La Retraite. Elizabeth developed a project inquiring into the theology and spirituality of forms of vision as loving attention, reading the work of Julian of Norwich in dialogue with the visual culture of her medieval Norwich as well as with visual artists of the 20th century with whom she shares surprising affinities.

Transformative Renewal in the Church

The aim of this project is to contribute to the transformation of pastoral praxis in the church. The research questions are: 1) What are the particular factors in the culture of the Catholic church - historical, ideological, institutional, and sentimental - that tend to block the implementation of the change that the church espouses; 2) How may these factors be addressed in a transformative way, at various ecclesial levels?

Lived Theology, Trauma, and Reconciliation

In this fellowship funded by the Sisters of La Retraite, Dr Victoria Biggs is investigating points of intersection between post-Holocaust and liberation theologies, with a focus on how largely unexplored histories (e.g., the Nazi persecution of the Roma) might inform and enrich contemporary theological responses to genocide and mass violence.



The decision of the CCS to understand theology as a dynamic, ever-changing discipline, which both shapes, and in turn is shaped by, the life of the church, has produced a unique scholarly environment; one in which the pursuit of theological learning, both that of its staff and students, is placed within the broader narrative of the Christian community and its ever changing witness to the Gospel.

Dr Billy Crozier
CCS PhD graduate and
Leverhulme Early Career
Fellow at the CCS

Bonaventure's Quaestiones de Colore

In 2021 Dr Billy Crozier commenced a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, editing a previously unknown work by St Bonaventure which is written in his own hand, namely the Quaestiones de Colore. As this is the sole surviving example of a separate scientific-philosophical work by St Bonaventure, the project will show the importance of the 'scientific' contributions made by the early Franciscans and how they are fundamentally grounded in Franciscan creation theology and the love of nature.

Receptive Ecumenism (RE) Projects

The core principle behind Receptive Ecumenism (RE) is that today the primary ecumenical responsibility is not to ask 'What do the other traditions first need to learn from us?' but to ask 'What do we need to learn from them?' The assumption is that, if we all seriously live this question, then we will move in ways that will deepen both our respective identities and the communion between us.

The First International RE Conference took place at Ushaw in 2006 under the title, *Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning*.

In 2007 the CCS launched a research project on *Receptive Ecumenism and the Local Church*. The aim was to explore the relevance of RE to life on the ground in the local churches of the North East of England, testing and extending the thought and practice of RE in practical ways.

January 2009 saw the Second International RE Conference take place in Durham, this time on *Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Learning to be Church Together*.

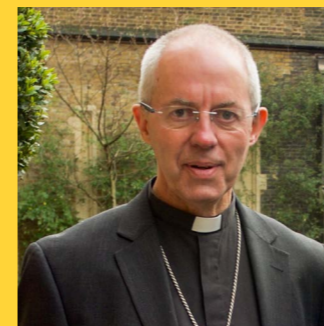
Subsequent conferences have taken place in America (*Receptive Ecumenism in International Perspective: Contextual Ecclesial Learning*, Fairfield CT, 2014) and Australia (*Leaning into the Spirit: Discernment, Decision-Making and Reception*, Canberra 2017). The Fifth International RE Conference will take place in Sigtuna, Sweden, in 2022.

In 2017, the CCS partnered with the National Board of Catholic Women to investigate *Ecclesial Learning About Women and the English Churches Through Receptive Ecumenism*. Revd Dr Gabrielle Thomas, lead researcher, published the resulting book (pictured right) in 2021.

Since October 2018, Dr Gregory Ryan has been working on a project to consolidate and develop the core literature on RE through a number of book publications. His 2020 book, published by Brill and pictured on page 24, addresses the theory and practice of RE in contemporary Catholicism and reception hermeneutics.

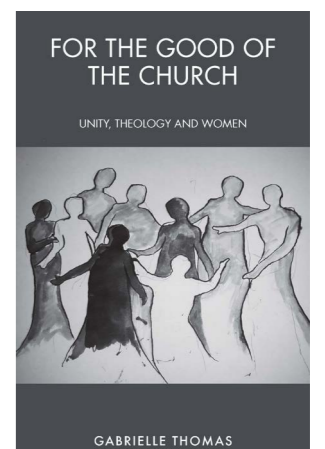
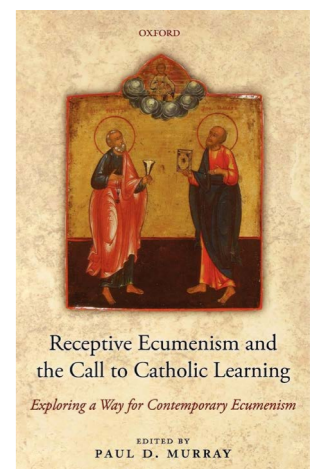
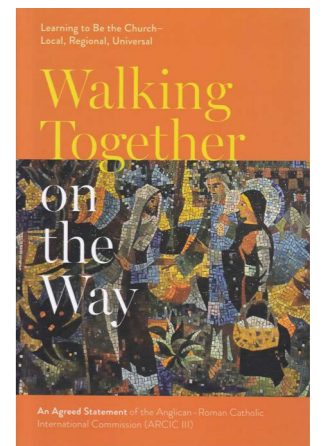
RE has been widely recognised as showing the way forward for ecumenism in the 21st century. It has explicitly shaped the first 'Agreed Statement' emerging from ARCIC III: *Walking Together on the Way: Learning to Be Church—Local, Regional, and Universal* (2017). This focusses on the need for ecclesial conversion and reform within the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church and is a clear indicator of the impact that CCS research is having on the life of the churches.

Project reports can be found at centreforcatholicstudies.co.uk



One of the most important of recent ecumenical developments has been the concept of 'Receptive Ecumenism'. This concept, based predominantly on the work of Professor Paul Murray at Durham University, takes as its premise that no single church or denomination within the divided body of Christ can be wholly without need of the gift of the other churches and denominations.

Most Rev Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury (Speech to the World Council of Churches 70th Anniversary, February 2018)



The Bede Chair of Catholic Theology

Through a creative partnership between the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, the Oaklea Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of La Retraite, and a private trust, the Bede Chair is the first endowed Chair of Catholic Theology within a secular UK university and gives some long-term stability to the CCS. The holder of the Bede Chair, Prof Karen Kilby, a leading Catholic theologian of international repute, is also involved in a wide range of outreach activities.

Bede Outreach

The Bede Professor can be invited to provide a range of services at local level in schools, parishes, and other contexts, that can include:

- An annual public lecture series that could be offered at a number of venues around the Diocese;
- Speaking at clergy ongoing formation days;
- Contributing to the annual Diocesan Festival;
- Staffing an annual VIth Form Religious Education conference;
- Staffing training sessions for teachers, school leaders, catechists, and leaders of Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies modules;
- Speaking at Saturday Study Days for catechists, teachers, clergy, and interested parishioners;
- Meeting for informal theological conversation with local groups, as requested.



A Word from Karen Kilby, the Bede Chair

It is a privilege to hold the Bede Chair in Catholic Theology. The CCS is an extraordinarily dynamic place, and the students are intelligent, committed, and a pleasure to work with.

What I value about the Bede Chair above all is the way it combines such a top flight academic context with a deep and real involvement in the local church. In the past few years I have found myself on stage at the Diocesan Festival, speaking to Newman Circles around the country, and in parishes around the Diocese, talking with trainee deacons, lecturing in a head teachers' conference, and so on.

Alongside outreach, teaching and supervising doctoral students, I have been engaged in a fascinating collaborative research project with the Sisters of La Retraite on the theme of Love and Suffering.



Bishop Dunn

Bishop Dunn (RIP), the 12th Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, was a great supporter of the development of Catholic theology and Catholic studies at Durham. He personally backed the campaign to raise the necessary £2 million endowment to establish the Bede Chair of Catholic Theology at Durham—the first such in the UK since the Reformation—and had a clear sense of the regional, national, and international significance of this development.



Coming from a continental department of Catholic theology, I soon noticed the advantages of pursuing Catholic studies in Durham: its multi-confessional setting means you will soon feel not simply a spectator but a protagonist of the ecumenical movement. My knowledge of Catholic theology was greatly deepened in a way that would have been just impossible in a mono-chromatic, mono-confessional setting.

Dr Luca Badini Confalonieri

Former PhD student, now Director of the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research



St Bede the Venerable, detail from the Harry Clarke window at St Cuthbert's Catholic Church - home to the Durham University Catholic Chaplaincy



The Sisters of Mercy have been involved in education in the North East of England since 1843. The first school founded in Sunderland was St Bede's, now renamed St Anthony's, a Girls' Catholic Academy of which the Sisters are Trustees.

We were excited and enthusiastic when Bishop Kevin approached us about the Bede Chair, especially as it built on the already strong theology work at Durham University and Ushaw College. It is excellent that this initiative encourages Catholic pupils into Higher Education and builds on the Catholic ethos of our schools. We greatly value the outreach of the Chair into schools, parishes, the Diocese, and regional and national areas.

The Oaklea Sisters of Mercy

Research: Catholic Social Thought and Practice

The CCS has established itself as a leading academic centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice (CSTP) working in close collaboration with the UK Centre for CSTP, which brings together academics and practitioners, including CAFOD and the Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). Our key areas of activity in CSTP include:

- Local Community Experiences of and Responses to Conflict-Induced Displacement from Syria: Views from Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. This project includes examination of the way that religious identities play a role in local 'host' community responses to refugees, the way that religious values in humanitarian outreach affect provision, and the way that refugees themselves negotiate religious identities whilst on the move (CCS co-recipient of an award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council).
- How the experience of UK Catholic homelessness charities discloses fresh insights into CSTP, and in particular, illuminates practical meanings and dynamics to the concept of the common good (with the Plater Trust and CSAN).
- The relationship between CST and global homelessness response and advocacy, including the role of Catholic actors at local, national and international levels (with Depaul International and the UK Centre for CSTP).
- Faith-based responses to destitution in the UK asylum system (with the Jesuit Refugee Service).
- CST and prostitution - listening to women affected by prostitution. This work is undertaken with the practitioners who support these women, and in dialogue with insights from trauma theory, feminist thought, and a range of theological perspectives, in order to expand Catholic understanding and voice (with women@thewell and the UK Centre for CSTP).



The CCS offers a dynamic community of scholars pushing to address the contemporary relevance of Catholicism in local, national, and global politics.

Anna Blackman
Former postgraduate student at the CCS, now Lecturer in Catholic Religious Education at the University of Glasgow

What does it mean to love your neighbour as yourself in a complex global society? Consider, for example, unemployment, inequality, welfare, the financial system; all pressing and contentious economic issues; or more subtly, consumer choice and corporate ethics. The Church in the widest sense needs more tools and training to translate its insights into terms that society as a whole can engage with and which stand up to critical scrutiny.

Dr Mark Hayes (RIP)
Former St Hilda Reader in CSTP

The St Hilda Chair in Catholic Social Thought and Practice

At the core of the CCS's work on Catholic Social Thought and Practice (CSTP) is the St Hilda Chair in CSTP, held by Prof Anna Rowlands and founded in partnership with a group of committed benefactors from the UK, Europe, and the US. This enabling group includes major foundations, women's religious congregations, and business executives, who are each passionate about providing world-leading critical academic resource to contribute to the constructive development and imaginative practical application of the CSTP tradition and so aid its wider critical engagement and dissemination amongst both scholars and professionals.

St Hilda Outreach

The St Hilda Chair has a formal commitment to outreach, providing academic support to the wider church and to organisations engaged in putting CST into practice, such as the Jesuit Refugee Service, CSAN, Caritas Europa and the International Catholic Migration Commission. St Hilda outreach includes writing for and appearing in the media, including BBC Radio 4 Thought for the Day; public lectures and informal talks; participation in 'expert' panels and seminars; and participation in training workshops. The St Hilda Chair will consider invitations to speak at diocesan, national, and international events.



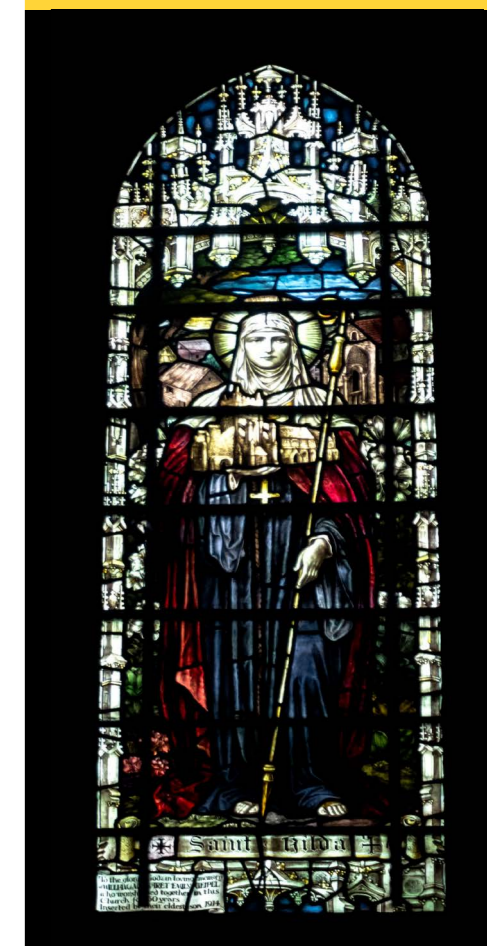
A Word from Anna Rowlands, holder of the St Hilda Chair

I am absolutely delighted to hold this innovative and exciting post. This role requires a dedication to pursuing both cutting-edge research in the Catholic social tradition and a desire to work in partnership with Catholic faith-based organisations that are shaping the next generation of Catholic social practice; a desire to make known the tradition of CSTP as widely as possible at a critical moment for our culture, as well as a commitment to critically examine the development of that same tradition.



The CSTP work at Durham comes at a time of widespread interest in exploring what can be gained from Catholic Social Teaching in response to challenges facing our society. This clearly demonstrates the vital contribution we can make to the flourishing of society in pursuit of the common good.

HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols



St Hilda at St Hilda's Church, Hartlepool. Image by Jonathan Irwin Photography.

Research: History of Catholicism

The History of Catholicism is a well-established inter-disciplinary research programme within the CCS. It sees the CCS organise, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame, a highly successful international biennial conference on Early Modern British and Irish Catholicism, with recent feedback describing it as 'changing the field'. Each conference has resulted in several publications, including the essay collections, *Jesuit Intellectual and Physical Exchange between England and Mainland Europe, c. 1580–1789: 'The World is our House'?* and *British and Irish Religious Orders in Europe, 1560–1800: Conventuals, Mendicants and Monastics in Motion*. The fourth conference, *Popery, Politics, and Prayer*, will take place in Durham in July 2023.

The programme also includes workshops in partnership with other institutions and the Ushaw Lecture Series, which raises awareness of the internationally significant holdings at Ushaw College as part of the Durham Residential Research Library. It forms part of this research cluster's work with Catholic archives across the country, working in conjunction with various bodies to promote their use and preservation, including the re-housing of several significant Catholic archive and library collections in Durham.

Much of the work in this area has been made possible by partnerships resulting in the creation of a number of research projects in the History of Catholicism:

The **Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre** have funded two fellowships: Dr Hannah Thomas explored the English Sepulchres' practices around death and dying following their foundation in exile in Liege in 1642 to settling in England in the early 1800s; Dr Cormac Begadon is investigating the Sepulchres and their relationship with the Enlightenment, c.1750–1820.

Dr Brian Casey is exploring the history of the **Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood** within a context of global Catholicism from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

Dr Liam Temple, supported by the **Capuchin Franciscans of Great Britain**, is investigating the largely unexplored history of the Capuchins' interactions with Great Britain, from the early modern period to the present day.

Dr Sarah Barthélemy is the Catherine de Francheville Fellow and is working on the history of the **Congregation of La Retraite** and its role within the history of women's spirituality in France from the middle of the seventeenth century to c.1820.

This research area is led by the Sweeting Associate Professor (Research) in the History of Catholicism, Dr James Kelly.



Clement Reyner (Image the property of Downside Abbey General Trust)

Monks in Motion: A study of the English and Welsh Benedictines in exile, 1553-1800

From 2015–2018 the 'Monks in Motion' project team investigated the activities and membership of the English and Welsh Benedictines, 1553–1800, exploring their changing political role in transnational familial and intellectual networks.

The project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, saw the creation of an open-source, searchable electronic database of all English and Welsh Benedictines from the period, including those who were early leavers or did not pass the selection process. It has received national media coverage due to some of its discoveries.

Research: Catholicism, Literature and the Arts

- What substantive relationships of conceptual and formal influence exist between Catholicism and the arts?
- Is there such a thing as Catholic literature, Catholic music, and Catholic art? If so, in what ways does their catholicity reside in relevant ideas, attitudes, values, and beliefs?
- Are there distinctive styles and traditions of Catholic writing, composition, and painting?
- Are there particular images and themes which Catholic writers, artists, and musicians have explored over the years?
- Are there certain styles of composition, writing, and painting which have come to be associated with the expression of Catholic spirituality?
- And how is Catholicism depicted more broadly in literature and the arts, regardless of the catholicity of their originating creators?

These are some of the challenging questions tackled in the CCS's research programme in Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts.

Research: Lived Catholicism

Lived Catholicism is a notion developed by Avril Baigent in the course of her doctoral research into the lived religion and identity of Catholic teenagers, recognising the importance of improvisation, negotiation, resistance, and subversion in everyday religiosity. It identifies Catholicism as a powerful forming and deforming force. Attention is paid to the ways in which Catholicity is co-created by individuals and communities in their particular time and place.

Through a series of conferences and collaboration, the conceptual work to flesh out Lived Catholicism has begun. Important questions are:

- What do Lived Religion approaches bring to the study of Catholicism?
- What are the challenges of a Lived Catholicism approach?
- How does Lived Catholicism speak back into other disciplines?
- What is the relationship between Lived Catholicism and the institution of the church?



Mater Admirabilis by Pauline Perdrauat, at the Trinità dei Monti, Rome (detail)



Postgraduate Research, Supervision, and Teaching

Research, both individual and collaborative, is at the heart of the CCS. Our commitment is to nurture a community of scholars from undergraduate through to doctoral research—a flourishing community of Catholic scholarship in the pluralist, public academy in the unique context of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Durham offers an unparalleled environment for postgraduate study of Theology and Religion, having been ranked UK 1st in research quality in the last two UK research assessment exercises (2008 RAE, 2014 REF), and 4th in the world in the last QS World University Subject Rankings (2020). Our staff members provide a wide range of expertise for postgraduate students interested in all areas of Catholic theology and Catholic studies. As well as academic excellence, we also aim to provide students with access to world-class study facilities and to a range of training and professional-development opportunities that are second to none, including teaching and research assistantships.

The Durham Catholic Theology Research Seminar

The Catholic Theology Research Seminar is a forum for scholarly discussion of pertinent issues in the Catholic traditions of theology and church. It ranges across the traditional theological disciplines (scriptural, historical, philosophical, systematic, liturgical, ethical, and practical/pastoral); Catholic social thought and practice; Catholicism, literature and the arts; and Lived Catholicism. Staff and students of the Department of Theology and Religion join with staff and students of other departments, and others with a shared commitment to the critical exploration of Catholic theology and practice.



I was a grateful recipient of CCS bursary, which afforded me both financial support for my degree and the opportunity to participate in the vibrant life of the CCS community of friends, colleagues, students, and staff. It was a gift to belong to such a diverse and hospitable community and to attend an array of academically and spiritually stimulating events.

Dr Kelsie Rodenbiker
PhD Student, now Research Assistant in the School of Critical Studies at the University of Glasgow

We have a dedicated set of modules which allow students to take a 'pathway' in Catholic studies within our wider MA in Theology and Religion programme.

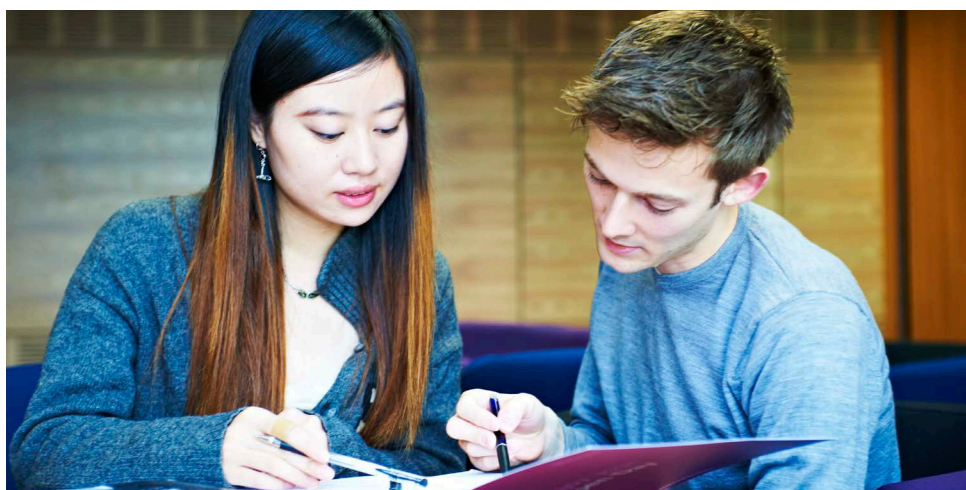
We also offer doctoral supervision in the following areas:

- Modern Catholic fundamental and dogmatic theology
- Patristic theology
- Medieval theology
- Catholic social thought and practice
- Political theology
- Theology and ethics
- The reception of Vatican II
- Religion and film
- 20th and 21st century Catholic theologians
- The place of Scripture in modern Catholic theology
- Catholicism and gender
- Philosophy and theology
- Theology and spirituality
- The history of Catholicism
- Critical theory and Catholic theology
- Franciscan Studies
- Lived Catholicism



Pursuing the MA pathway in Catholic Studies at Durham has been a real blessing. It has been exciting to be in a place where first class theological research is carried on in an environment that's open to and often in partnership with the lives of the local churches. I have a sense of having not just learned some theology, but of having been trained to be a theologian. I have also greatly appreciated the accessibility, flexibility, and supportive understanding of the academic staff.

Martin Browne OSB
Glenstal Abbey, Ireland



Student Life: Academic, Pastoral, and Spiritual Support

Academic Support

- A personal tutor for each undergraduate
- A team of at least two supervisors for all research students
- Scholarship and bursary assistance
- Regular devoted research seminars in all the key areas of theology and religious studies
- Regular meetings of the Durham Catholic Theology Research Seminar
- Annual postgraduate and early career conference
- Support with attending key academic conferences
- Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant opportunities
- Participation in collaborative planning for and hosting of academic events



I came to the CCS as a Presbyterian parish minister with a Masters in Practical Theology, exploring how Catholic spirituality might inform and enhance my tradition's practices. I found a perfect environment for my PhD research. Durham's CCS offers unrivalled academic expertise, combining breadth of scholarship with depth of specialist understanding. More than that, the academic staff embody Catholic faith and spirituality as a lived reality beyond the textbook. I have experienced their genuine concern to enable my research to represent faithfully both our church traditions, and to enhance my work as a practitioner. The CCS has a unique atmosphere and I have been immeasurably enriched by studying in this community.

Rev Dr Lynn McChlery
Former PhD student

Pastoral and Spiritual Support

- A designated member of CCS staff with responsibility for student liaison
- A commitment to nurturing a peer community of scholars, as expressed through shared meals and social time around research seminars and events
- Close partnership with Durham University Catholic Chaplaincy
- Clear partnership with dioceses, church bodies, religious orders, and regular opportunities to meet with leaders and formative influences within the life of the contemporary church



The Catholic Chaplaincy to Durham University, based at St Cuthbert's Parish, exists to offer pastoral care for the students and staff of the University—a living Catholic community within Durham's vibrant academic community.

Fr Andrew Downie, Catholic Chaplain, said: "Durham's students and staff strive for academic excellence in their many different areas of study, and the Chaplaincy aims to foster prayerful and rigorous reflection on their faith.

"In the Centre for Catholic Studies, top-quality Catholic theological work is carried out in the public academy. The CCS, through its academic and outreach programmes, enriches the life of the local church and provides students with opportunities to ask the questions that every intelligent Catholic should be asking. The work of the CCS helps to prepare our students to take their place as thinking believers in the heart of the church."



Durham University Catholic Society members with Bishop Cunningham, former Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, at the CCS 10th anniversary celebrations



The Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University has 41 academic staff members, nearly 200 postgraduates, and an annual undergraduate intake of 71, which makes it one of the most varied and dynamic departments in Britain.



The academic, social, and spiritual support I received as a student of the CCS was the very best part of my experience at Durham University. There is a commitment to kindness: staff genuinely care about students, about each other, about CCS donors and ecumenical partnerships, and about the wider church and world. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity I had to be formed in such a wise and humanising scholarly environment.

Dr Rachel Davies
Former PhD student, now Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University

Ushaw College and the Durham Residential Research Library

Ushaw College, the former seminary for the North of England, was originally founded in Douai, northern France in 1568, during penal times, and was re-founded on its present site on the edge of Durham in 1808. It is a place of immense significance in the history of English Catholicism and is home to major collections of manuscripts, archives, early print books, and Catholic cultural heritage items.

Under the guidance of the CCS, Durham University and the Ushaw Trustees have partnered in establishing an international Residential Research Library, in conjunction with the holdings of Palace Green Library and Durham Cathedral. This venture will preserve the unique collections and open them to scholarship and public use on a regional, national, and international basis.



In cultural importance for English Catholics, Ushaw College is on a par with Westminster Cathedral. Its manuscript holdings stretch back into the Middle Ages. Its Pugin chapel is an architectural jewel. This joint commitment by the Ushaw Trustees and Durham University should ensure that both the buildings and their treasures are maintained as a living centre of scholarship and as a religious and cultural resource for the wider community as well as for members of the Catholic church.

Prof Eamon Duffy
Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity and Former President of Magdalene College, Cambridge

Left: Ushaw College.
Bottom left: An illuminated Book of Hours, formerly owned by Richard III, from Ushaw's collection.
Bottom right: St Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw.



HE Gianfranco Cardinal Ravasi, Prof David Cowling, Bishop Paul Tighe, Bishop Thomas Anthony Williams, and Dr Jonathan Bush in Ushaw Library on the occasion of Cardinal Ravasi's visit to commence the Durham University Residential Research Library, May 2018. Image by Jonathan Clegg.



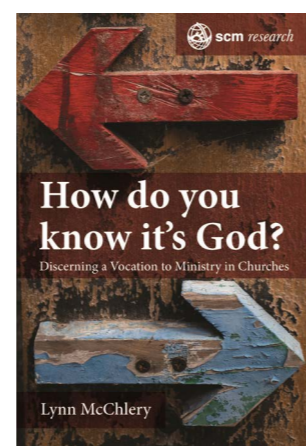
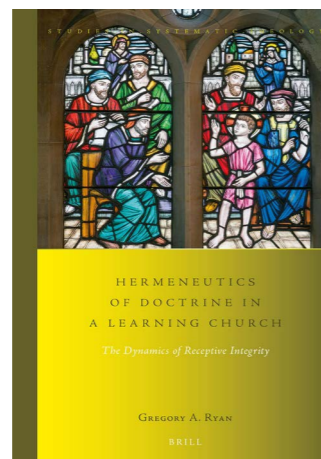
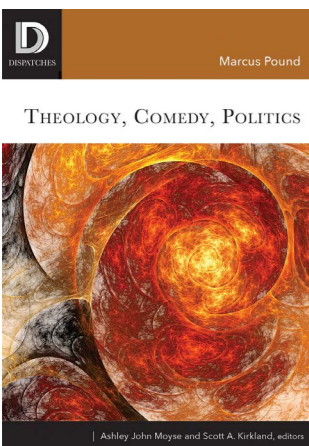
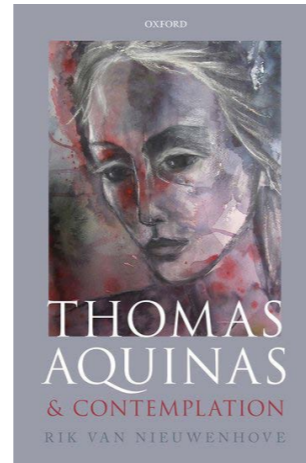
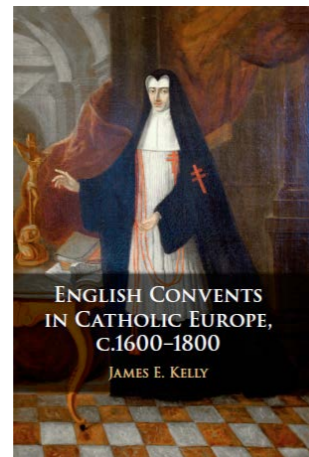
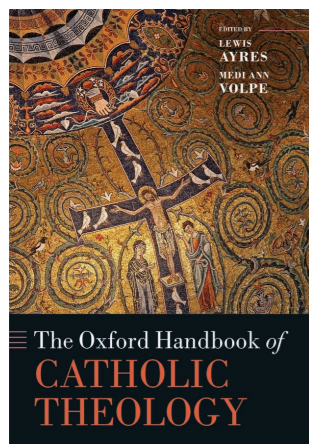
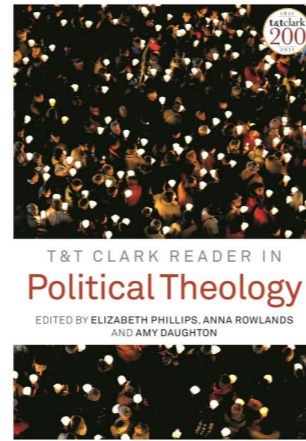
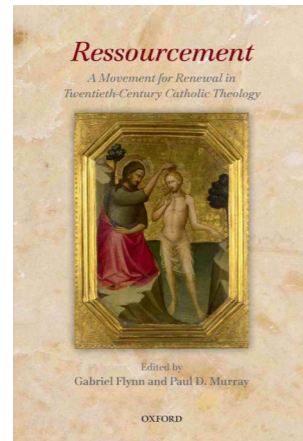
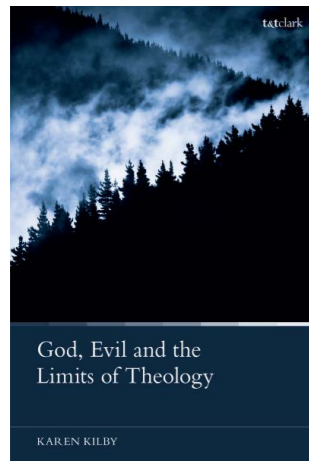
The Durham Residential Research Library is a wonderful use of the historic library at Ushaw College. So much Catholic heritage is enshrined in Ushaw and I am delighted that it will be made more widely available to scholars from across the world and for future generations.

It has been made possible through the partnership with Durham University, which continues to grow and develop.

The Most Rev Malcolm McMahon
*Archbishop of Liverpool
Chair of the Ushaw Trustees*



Publications by CCS Members



The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is delighted to continue its partnership with Durham University and the Centre for Catholic Studies. It is a valuable resource for the North East of England and continues in our own day the rich heritage of Catholic Christian life and mission in our region.

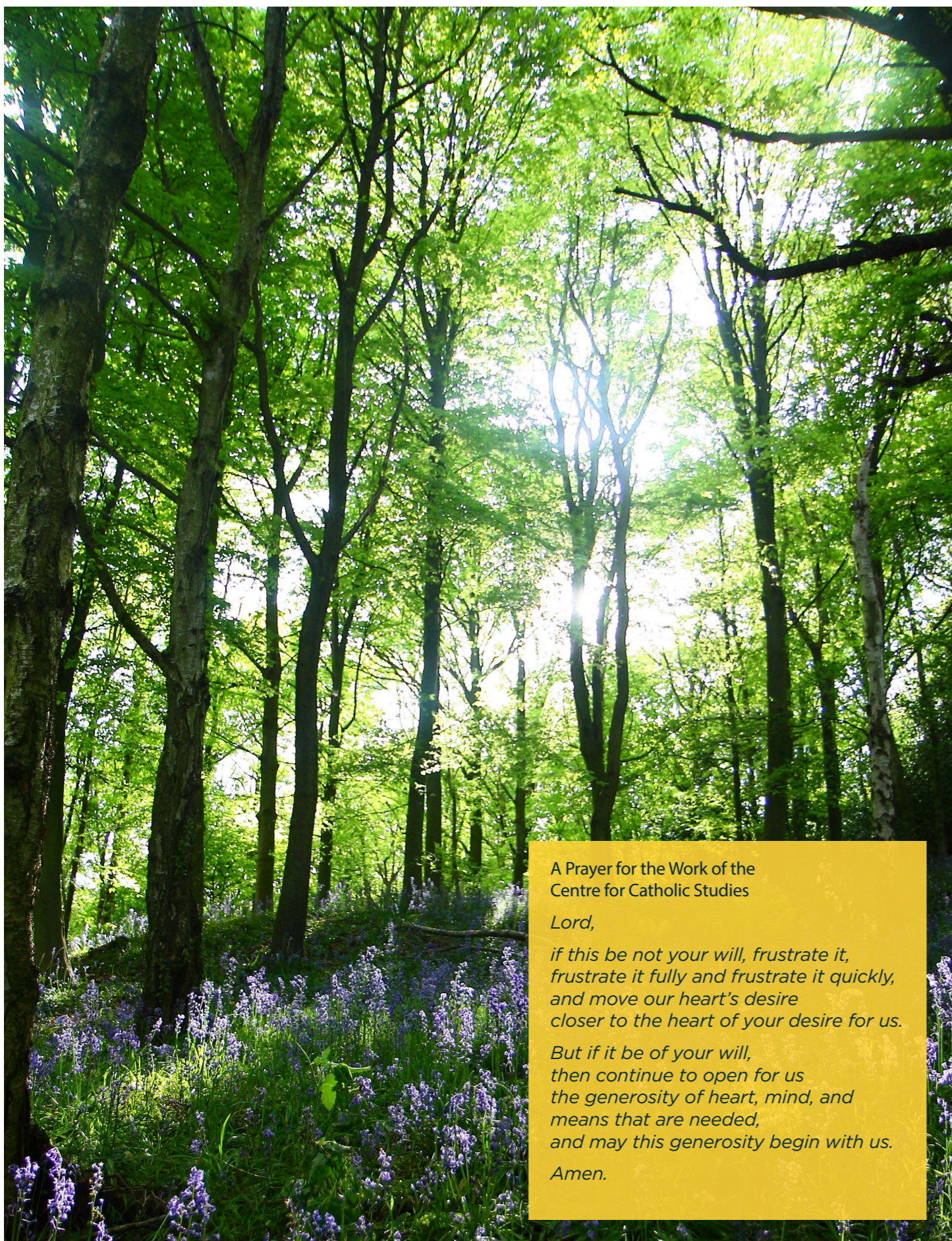
I am sure the CCS will continue to play its part both nationally and internationally in giving Catholic scholarship and formation but it can only do so with your help. Please be generous in supporting this important initiative so that its work may continue into the next decade and beyond.

The Rt Rev Robert Byrne, CO
14th Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle



The North East is the cradle of Christianity in England and is the natural home for the Centre for Catholic Studies. Building on the global reputation of our Department of Theology and Religion, the Centre provides a unique community for the exploration of Catholic theology and practice. It will, I am sure, continue to make a significant contribution to religious learning for the people of this region and well beyond.

Professor Stuart Corbridge
24th Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University



A Prayer for the Work of the
Centre for Catholic Studies

Lord,

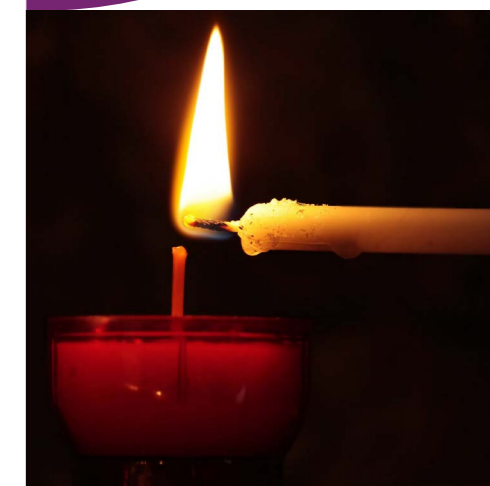
*if this be not your will, frustrate it,
frustrate it fully and frustrate it quickly,
and move our heart's desire
closer to the heart of your desire for us.*

*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.

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

Arts and Humanities Research Council
British Teilhard Network
CAFOD
Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre
Capuchin Franciscans of Great Britain
Catholic Historical Society of Ireland
Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain
Charles Plater Trust
Community of St Francis
Conference of Religious in England and Wales
Congregation of Jesus
Congregation of La Retraite (Britain & Ireland)
Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Conventual Franciscan Federation (US)
Duquesne University, Pennsylvania
Durham University Catholic Chaplaincy
English Benedictine Congregation
Fairfield University, Connecticut
Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood
Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Littlehampton
Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill
Institute of Our Lady of Mercy
Irish Capuchin Province
Jesuits in Britain
Leverhulme Trust
Little Company of Mary
Mater Ecclesiae
National Board of Catholic Women
Newman Association
Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership
Order of Friars Minor in GB
Order of Friars Minor (Irish Province)
Porticus
RC Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle
Religious of Christian Education
Sisters of Mercy (Oaklea)
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus
Society of the Sacred Heart
St Cuthbert's Society of Ushaw
The Society of St Francis
The Tablet and The Pastoral Review
Trustees of Ushaw College
University of Notre Dame, Indiana
& Many Generous Individuals of Vision



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Integrated PhD, and PhD):

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W: durham.ac.uk/study/askus

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