Shaping the Future of Catholic Theology in the Public Academy

Development priorities for the next 10 years and beyond
As the CCS celebrates its 10th Anniversary… we recognise that this landmark has only been made possible through partnership with many different organisations and individuals. We are deeply thankful for this active partnership, which has turned vision into reality. Looking to the next 10 years, the challenge is to give permanence and stability to this achievement. Together we have an opportunity to establish something of lasting significance as a world-leading centre for research and teaching in Catholic theology and Catholic studies in the public academy. This will only be realised with your continued support and that of others of like-minded vision. This brochure details the development priorities for the next 10 years and beyond. We invite you to join in the celebrations and to share with us further in this vital mission.

Prof Paul D. Murray
Professor of Systematic Theology & Founding Dean-Director Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University

“It gives me great pleasure to be in communion with you, once again, on this wonderful occasion as you celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Centre for Catholic Studies. As Patron of the CCS, I am delighted by how much has already been achieved but of course, we cannot rest on our laurels. These are times of challenge as well as opportunity and there is still considerably more that needs to be done if these achievements are to be stabilised into the future. 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 and I pray that through your commitment, generosity, and vision, the potential of the CCS will be fulfilled, giving it the stability and permanence it requires in service of Catholic mission in the UK.”

HE Cardinal Walter Kasper, former-President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
CORE ENDOWMENT

This unique body, the CCS, is funded year-by-year through the generosity of many partners. However, with the exceptions of the Bede Chair in Catholic Theology and the St Hilda Chair of Catholic Social Thought and Practice, it has no permanent funding in place for any of its core administrative and staffing costs; nor for its student scholarships. The time and salary of the founding Dean-Director has been an ad hoc gift of the University, with no guarantee of continuation beyond his contractual employment. In addition, CCS staff have to work very hard every year to raise sufficient funds to keep our core administration afloat. Despite the great gains we have made, the current financial model is not long-term sustainable. Consequently, the long-term goal is to raise a minimum core endowment of £5m to fund the core operation in perpetuity. The annual yield will cover the costs, into the future, of employing a dedicated Director and supporting the essential administrative team and office costs. In these ways, it will underpin everything else, including funding for a web-developer and online content manager, to help share the CCS mission worldwide. I urge you to donate and to do so generously in order to plant this Catholic mission with permanency.

HISTORY OF CATHOLICISM

Home to unique bibliographical, archival, and material-cultural collections, Durham is the first and only UK University to establish an international Residential Research Library, with the residential dimension located at Ushaw College. In this context and drawing on an interdisciplinary approach, the CCS and its partners are leading the field internationally in the History of British and Irish Catholicism and its multiple interactions with continental European and global Catholicism, 1500 – to the present date. This has manifested in the establishment of the Sweeting Fellowship in the History of Catholicism, an international biennial conference, the coordination of major research projects, and the supervision of a number of specific post-doctoral positions in conjunction with religious congregations. In order to give long-term stability to this important area of work, we seek a further minimum £2m to endow a senior post in the History of Catholicism: 1500 – present date. This would be the first such post in the UK and, in partnership with the Department of History, it would secure the future of this crucial area of study.

“The Conference of Religious is proud to support the 10th Anniversary of the CCS. Many of our members already work in active partnership with the CCS, honouring the charism of respective orders, to support young scholars, engage in collaborative research, and promote and preserve unique archival collections. The CCS is a thriving, welcoming, and innovative centre of excellence. We urge others who share in the mission of Catholic Theology in these isles to lend their prayers, experience, and crucial resource in support of this vision.”

Br James Boner OFM Cap
General Secretary COREW

Roman Missal, 1661, Derwentwater Collection, Ushaw College
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The CCS has supported 45 postgraduate students over the last 10 years at PhD and MA levels, thanks to the generous support of a number of partner organisations, individuals of vision, and religious congregations. Together we have been able to offer financial assistance to some of our brightest and most deserving scholars; students who will go on to shape and inform society from the richness of Catholic tradition: in the church, in the academy, and in public life. We will continue to provide named bursaries and scholarships on an annual spend-down basis, which honour the founding charism of partner congregations. To complement this and to provide greater stability, we now seek also to raise an additional £2m endowment in order to guarantee in perpetuity a minimum level of annual scholarship and bursary funding so that we can continue to attract the best students from around the world. These students represent the future of Catholic tertiary education in this country and beyond.

“The Congregation of Jesus has been a firm supporter of the CCS for many years. We deeply value the unique life and work of the Centre, its research and teaching, and the welcome and support it extends to its benefactors. As a congregation with a long history in Catholic education, we are delighted to be able to support postgraduate research with the Mary Ward bursary. The Bar Convent is particularly grateful for the support it receives from the CCS in preserving and making known its own special Catholic heritage. We congratulate the CCS on its 10th Anniversary and are proud to be associated with its initial growth, present success, and future development.”

Sr Frances Orchard CJ
Provincial Superior, Congregation of Jesus (English Province)
POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH, AND OUTREACH

Since formal establishment in October 2007, the CCS, in partnership with religious congregations and other charitable bodies, has supervised numerous post-doctoral research projects. These fixed-term Research Associate posts deliver real benefit and tangible outcomes for our partners in terms of focussed research, lively discussion, international conferences, dedicated publications, and a range of public engagement activities from lectures, talks, and presentations, to high-profile media coverage. We wish to raise funds for research in a range of areas, including: Catholic Social Thought and Practice; Medieval Theology; Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesiology; Social Scientific Study of Catholicism; and Spirituality and Theology; each costing approximately £180,000 over three years.

RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

As the UK’s first permanent Centre in the public academy dedicated to pioneering research and teaching in Catholic theology and Catholic studies, the CCS has a global reach and we are proud to host a range of prestigious international and interdisciplinary conferences, whilst organising various symposia and colloquia in London, Rome and further afield. We are committed to ensuring our students are given opportunities to engage with their peers and deliver papers in these fora and receive support to progress their early academic careers. Many have gone on to teaching and research positions in Catholic theology at prestigious institutions around the world and act as ambassadors of the CCS. Our staff, students, and wider community would greatly benefit if we were able to offer travel bursaries, visiting fellowships, conference fees, and support with the costs associated with publishing, outreach, and wider engagement. An endowment of £250,000 would enable us to share and promote these opportunities, engaging a wider international audience and attracting Visiting Fellows from all over the world, including the Global South.

“The Sisters of La Retraite have been in partnership with the CCS since their participation in the establishment of the Bede Chair in Catholic Theology in 2008. These initiatives have borne fruit not only in academic excellence and research in Catholic Studies but also in pastoral outreach and formation. We see the CCS as an inclusive, welcoming space that enables staff, students and members of the wider community to explore, understand and deepen their relationship with the living God. The Sisters of La Retraite continue to engage with the Bede Chair and the CCS - most recently in the successful collaborative project: “Love and Suffering”. We wholeheartedly encourage others to join us in supporting the CCS into the future.”

Sr Dr Barbara Stafford RLR
Area Leader for the Sisters of La Retraite (Britain and Ireland)

“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
Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University
10TH ANNIVERSARY

The 10th Anniversary Celebrations will run throughout 2018 and will culminate in a three-day international conference and series of festive events, including a Mass of Thanksgiving in Durham Cathedral, by special permission of the Dean and Chapter. The Rt Rev Séamus Cunningham, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle will preside over the Anniversary Celebrations throughout.

“We are delighted to be working in partnership with the CCS and are confident that it will continue to be a tremendous resource for Catholic theological scholarship and formation, regionally, nationally and internationally. For those who are able, I strongly encourage you to support the next crucial phase of the development of the life and work of the CCS through generous donation.”

The Rt Rev Séamus Cunningham Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

CATHOLIC THEOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC ACADEMY: SEARCHING THE QUESTIONS, SOUNING THE DEPTHS 18TH-20TH APRIL 2018

International academic Colloquium on the theme ‘Catholic Theology in the Public Academy: Searching the Questions, Sounding the Depths’, with panels of leading scholars exemplifying how to take on difficult questions and pursue them through close and creative engagement with the tradition, and with a view to enhancing the quality of Catholic conversation, thought, and practice.

Events will also include:
• Special Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving in Durham Cathedral
• Festive Dinner in the Great Hall of Durham Castle
• Keynote Public Lecture on Catholicism and Public Life (TBC)
• Celebratory dinner and musical evening in St Chad’s College
• Papers by postgraduate and early career scholars, together with established academics.

For details on this and all other events throughout 2018, please contact Dr Jane Lidstone at ccs.admin@durham.ac.uk or call +44 (0)191 334 1656

The CCS 10th Anniversary is proudly supported by:

[Logo of Conference of Religious, England & Wales]

[Logo of The Tablet, Fairfield University]
DONATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

To make a donation to mark our 10th Anniversary, please visit www.dunelm.org.uk/donations/ccs or send a cheque made payable to “Durham University” to the CCS Development Office.

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

Thank you for your support!

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“The North East is the historic cradle of Christianity in England. As such, Durham University provides a natural home for the Centre for Catholic Studies; one that builds on the global reputation of our Department of Theology and Religion* and is further bolstered by the interdisciplinary approach of colleagues in numerous other departments. Both in this region and in collaboration with our many national and international partners, the CCS provides a unique hub for the exploration of Catholic theology and practice together with wider Catholic intellectual and cultural traditions. It will, I am sure, continue to make a significant contribution to religious learning across the world. In this 10th Anniversary year, I ask our donors and friends, old and new, to join with Durham University in generously supporting this vital work in the spirit of partnership that has already achieved so much.”

Professor Stuart Corbridge
Vice-Chancellor and Warden
Durham University

*1st in the two most recent national research exercises, RAE 2008 & REF 2014