



Durham
University

Centre for Catholic Studies

Newsletter

Issue 39: Easter Term 2021

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to share the latest news from the Centre for Catholic Studies, and we start with some staff changes, all relating to the Boundary Breaking project. This is a project we are conducting in collaboration with survivors and organisations in the Catholic Church, examining the extent to which aspects of Catholic culture and understanding have contributed to the creation of an environment in which abuse, and its subsequent mishandling, was and is possible.

We recently bade a fond farewell to Giuseppe Bolotta, one of the project's researchers. Giuseppe has returned to his native Italy to take up a position at the Cà Foscari University of Venice. We thank him for his valuable work on the project and his warm and affable presence in the CCS and wish him every success in the future.



We are delighted to welcome to the project Dr Pat Jones and Adrian Brooks, who each have a long association with the CCS.

Pat joined the CCS in 2015 to undertake a PhD project on Catholic homelessness charities in relation to Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and ecclesial concerns about Catholic identity.



After completing this she worked with CSAN and its members in several practical projects using her findings. Following further initiatives in this area, Pat worked with the CCS, London charity women@thewell, and the UK Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice on a project listening to the voices of women affected by prostitution, addressing a gap in CST by taking into account the social and structural reality of prostitution. Further details about this project's outcomes will be shared in a future CCS newsletter.

Pat brings a wealth of experience to the CCS, having been Deputy Director of CAFOD and having held senior roles in other Catholic charities including Depaul International and in diocesan and national Catholic structures.

As regards the Boundary Breaking project, Pat is working closely with Catherine Sexton and Marcus Pound in gathering and analysing the required empirical data.

Adrian Brooks is a final-year PhD student here at the CCS; he will be working part-time on the Boundary Breaking project while continuing with his doctoral studies. He is leading a wide-scale review of existing literature around sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and relevant comparative literature across various organisational contexts. The aim is to discern whether there are any specific factors relating to the Catholic Church that may have contributed to or enabled sexual abuse.



The intention is that the project will deliver a set of theologically informed reflections and recommendations concerning Catholic culture and understanding, to help the Catholic Church in England and Wales respond positively to the sexual abuse crisis.

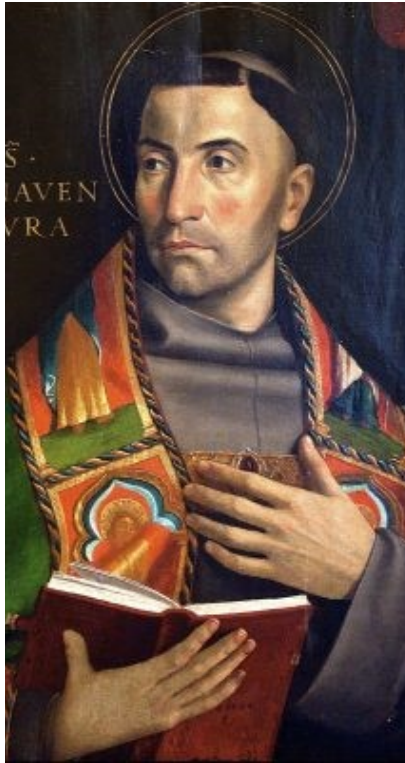
We extend special thanks to the participating victim-survivors, whose voices are so essential to this study. We are also grateful to the Society of Jesus and the English Benedictines for their support for this project.

centreforcatholicstudies.co.uk
Catholic Theology in the Public Academy

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 [@CCSDham](https://twitter.com/CCSDham)

Franciscan Firsts at Durham

Despite the many restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, this academic year has witnessed a Franciscan first—the establishment of two highly successful undergraduate modules devoted to St Bonaventure of Bagnoregio (1217-1274): *Introduction to the Theology of St Bonaventure* (second year) and *The Thought of St Bonaventure* (third year).



As far as we can tell, this is the first time undergraduate

modules devoted entirely to St Bonaventure have been offered at a major British secular university.

The modules are led by William (Billy) Crozier, who has just completed his PhD at the CCS, supported by a Catherine McAuley scholarship.

Following the basic structure of St Bonaventure's little compendium on theology, the *Breviloquium*, the modules offer students a solid overview of St Bonaventure's theology. The topics covered include his distinctive thinking on the Trinity, the Incarnation, the sacraments, God's existence, creation, poverty, and the relationship between faith and reason, salvation history and the coming of the Anti-Christ as well as heaven, hell, and purgatory.

The modules represent an important witness to the growth of Franciscan studies at Durham, as well as the CCS's efforts to rejuvenate Franciscan Studies following the closure of the Franciscan Study Centre in Kent a few years ago.

Here are the reflections of two students who took the modules:

Ellie Cogan (second year): *I have really valued how in-depth and enlightening this module was. On a personal level, studying St Bonaventure has helped me to clarify my Christian perspective on the world and God's relation to it. In particular, St Bonaventure's emphasis on retracing all aspects of our lives life back to Christ has helped me to develop my heart's daily journey to God.*

Matthew Bland (third year): *Studying St Bonaventure in my third year has been one of the richest theological experiences I have had as an undergraduate at Durham. The unique historical orientation of the module has provided me with a deep insight into the Scholastic movement; and its strongly systematic structure has complemented and enriched my studies in St Thomas Aquinas especially well. Above all, however, the profound philosophical and theological coherence I have come to find in the 'Bonaventurian Cycle' has had a significant impact on the articulation and discernment of my own faith.*

In addition, in May the CCS is hosting a Franciscan Studies Summer School, which will bring together over 160 lay and religious across the world to share the riches of the Franciscan charism and explore its significance for today. Registration is still open for the two public lectures detailed below.

Together, these activities represent just the beginning of our ambitions for establishing a permanent home for Franciscan Studies here at Durham University.

Franciscan Studies Public Lectures

Wednesday 19 May

Prof. Jacques Dalarun

Clare of Assisi and Thomas of Celano: An Essential Relationship



Wednesday 26 May

Sr Prof. Ilia Delio OSF

Teilhard's Evolution and the Body of Christ

Joint Franciscan Studies / Annual Teilhard Lecture, supported by the British Teilhard Network



Each lecture takes place at 6pm-7.30pm BST (UK time), online. Tickets are £5 (but if you wish to be considered for a bursary please contact us).

Registration is open now at

<https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>.

Feature: Louis Lafosse Scholar Amanda Murjan

In 2017, the Religious of Christian Education generously committed to fully supporting a series of postgraduate students at the CCS in honour of their founder, Louis Lafosse. Here, Amanda Murjan, one of the newer Lafosse scholars, introduces herself and her work.

I'm in my first year of a PhD made possible through the generous offer of a Louis Lafosse Scholarship. My undergraduate degree as a mature student was in psychology and my Masters was in philosophical theology at The University of Nottingham, which I completed in 2013. I never imagined that seven years later, after raising two children to school-age, that I'd have the opportunity to return to academia. The scholarship offered by the Religious of Christian Education made this possible and I'm immeasurably grateful and thrilled to be here.

My project looks at how the concept of self-gift in the works of John Paul II could be better understood as a process of growth through self-realisation. It seeks to understand self-gift as the flourishing of our inherent goodness by affirming that self-care and individuation are important aspects of spiritual progression and increase our capacity to be fully present to and in service of others. The project brings liberation theologies and positive

psychology into conversation with narratives of self-gift which privilege sacrifice, suffering and loss.

I hope to challenge ideas inconducive to human flourishing by offering a robust and positive account of how we flourish in spiritual growth and communion, in ways that are supported by the psychology of well-being and growth. I hope for academic and practical applications by inspiring a commitment to better see and respond to the goodness in ourselves and others.

The support I've received from the CCS in this strain of the pandemic has been outstanding and the rapid shift to online accessibility of seminars and conferences has been impressive and much appreciated. Being part of the CCS has surpassed all my expectations. I hope to support and enrich its work through this project and in gratitude for the scholarship that made this possible.

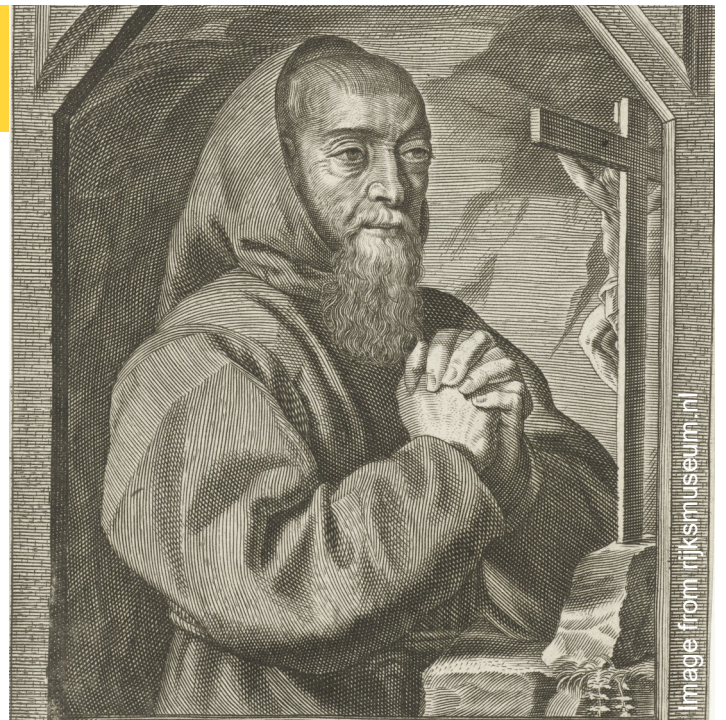


Hidden Histories

The CCS works closely with a number of different religious congregations. Frequently, their archives are either not known about or are seriously under-consulted, whether that be by scholars and researchers or even, sometimes, by the congregation's own members due to the challenges they are currently facing. Yet the CCS is committed to recovering the importance of the archives of religious congregations, showing that the material held within them not only tells their own story but also shows their major national and international importance, helping to reveal a far more rounded picture of history. One only has to look, for example, at the centenary celebrations of the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland to see the use of Irish Capuchin material to shed light on the story. These archives reveal more than many—even their holders—first assume.

Currently, within the CCS, we have a number of projects running in collaboration with different congregations. In addition, several congregations reaching completion have relocated their archives to Durham University, ensuring the survival of this material for future researchers.

The CCS recently held a study event to give an idea of the work that we do and the research undertaken in these projects. For example, Cormac Begadon talked about the involvement of women religious in the Enlightenment in the 18th century, while Brian Casey explored their part in



the spread of best practice health care around the world in the 20th century. Any congregations wishing to discuss such projects and their archives are warmly invited to contact us.

You can watch the study series event, *Hidden Histories: recovering the importance of the archives of religious congregations, from the break with Rome to the present day* at tinyurl.com/ccsyoutubechannel.

Events

Catholic Theology Research Seminar

Online at 5pm BST (UK time)

Thursday 29 April

Prof. Walter Moberly (Durham University)
Salvation in the Old Testament

Thursday 20 May

Prof. John Betz (University of Notre Dame)
Analogical Metaphysics and Trinitarian Theology

Wednesday 9 June

Prof. David Albert Jones (Anscombe Bioethics Centre, Oxford)
Salvation as Healing and Healing as Salvation

Ushaw Lecture Series

Online at 6pm BST (UK time)

Tuesday 11 May

Dr Erin Rowe (Johns Hopkins University, USA)
Black Saints and the Global Catholic Church, 1500–1750

Tuesday 15 June

Dr Shannen Dee Williams (Villanova University, USA)
The Real Sister Act: Confronting the Uneasy History of Racial Segregation and Exclusion in Female Religious Life in the United States

First Biennial Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts Public Lecture

Thursday 27 May, 5pm BST, online

Dr Elizabeth Powell (Durham University)
The Painted Inscriptions of David Jones

Franciscan Studies Public Lectures

Wednesday 19 May: **Prof. Jacques Dalarun**

Wednesday 26 May: **Sr Prof. Ilia Delio OSF**

Details on page 2 and available now at

<https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>

CCS Online Study Series

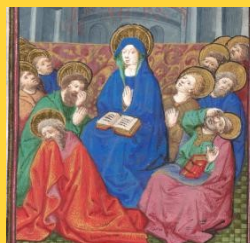
A series of online discussions; registration open now at <https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>



Faith and Thought: Exploring 'The Art of Attention'

On the nature and role of 'attention' in the arts, spirituality, and theology

Three parts: 5-7pm BST on 5, 12, and 19 May



Heeding the Spirit: New Horizons in Receptive Ecumenism

On the transformation of churches through learning from each other

12noon-4pm BST on 17 June

Book Launch Series

Monday 26 April, 5.30pm BST, online

Anna Rowlands, Elizabeth Phillips & Amy Daughton
T&T Clark Reader in Political Theology

Thursday 10 June, 5.30pm BST, online

Lynn McChlery
How Do I Know It's God?

Early Career Conference

Monday 14 June, 10-12noon and 2pm-4pm BST

A series of presentations on Catholic theology and Catholic studies by early career scholars from universities around the UK and further afield

Tickets £10 (Durham University staff and students free); register at <https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>



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Registration

To register for an event, please visit

<https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>

(Unless stated otherwise, registration for each event opens three weeks before it takes place.)

To register for the CCS mailing list, please visit tinyurl.com/ccsmailinglist