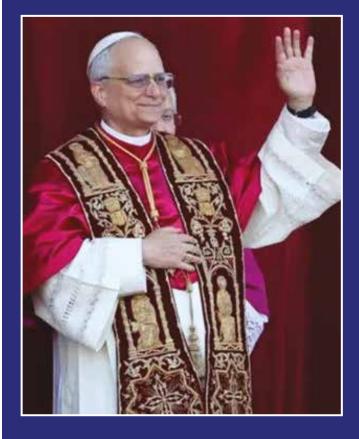
The Loyola Institute School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN







Congratulations to the 267th Pope, Leo XIV, Bishop of Rome

"We are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Christ the Saviour..."

Image: Vatican Media

God and Politics in the New Millennium

In December 2024, the Loyola Institute hosted a lunchtime discussion on the theme of 'Awaiting the presidency of Donald Trump: theological, ethical, and legal reflections', involving professors James Keenan (Boston College), and Linda Hogan and Neville Cox (TCD). After the US election, two paths seemed to be open to us: either we respect the democratic will of the people and try to carry on 'as normal', or we acknowledge that the election poses a clear and present danger to democratic norms and to the rule of law. Professor Keenan put the case for sounding the alarm. He identified a number of key themes, for example the different kinds of populism in play, and the need to refocus on values instead of interests. Vital to any recovery is educational reform: much of the resentment which fuels the support

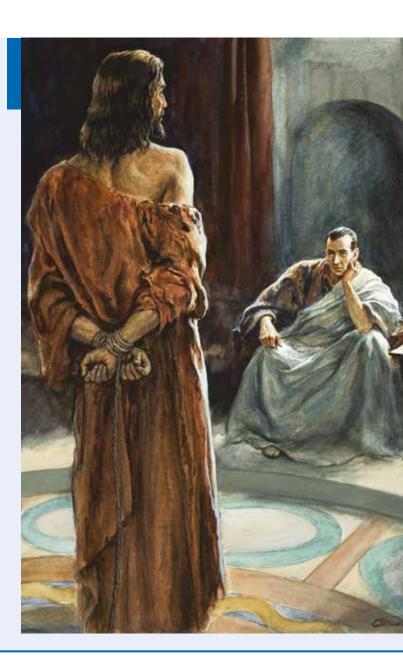


Loyola Institute hosted a Lunchtime Conversion on the theme "Awaiting the Presidency of Donald Trump: theological, ethical, and legal reflections" with Dr Michael Kirwan SJ, Pr. James Keenan SJ, Pr. Linda Hogan and Pr. Neville Cox.

for President Trump derives from the sedimented inequalities of the US educational system. Here is one example of the widespread erosion of 'social trust' in precisely those institutions- politicians, the media, the judiciary, universities- which are there to conserve and protect our well-being. Restoring 'social trust', so as to overcome polarisation, is essential.

Whatever else can be said about the new presidency, three months in, it is not 'business as usual'. The shock has left many people floundering to even describe the new reality. Is the Trump regime 'fascist', or 'neofascist'? Or is it better described as 'authoritarian'? And what should be the response of the churches, given the attractiveness of parts of the Trump agenda to many Christian believers? Such believers enthusiastically welcome Donald Trump as God's 'messianic' agent, just as King Cyrus of Persia was acclaimed by the prophet Isaiah for restoring the Israelites to their promised land.

The Loyola Institute will host another event to try and make theological sense of all of this. We will do so by taking a wider-lens approach than simply looking at the current US administration. 'God and Politics in the New Millennium' will take stock of the last twenty-five years, in the light of a two thousand year tradition of reflection of what, precisely, 'belongs' to Caesar rather than God. The conversation between Jesus and Pontius Pilate (John, chapters 18-19), is the iconic confrontation of sacred and secular power. It touches upon matters of truth,



Advent concert



Our thanks to the members of Vox Hiberniae for a beautiful concert here in Loyola Institute to celebrate Advent.

Vox Hiberniae are an Irish ensemble who perform music in spaces informed by the complementarity that exists between them. This includes bringing sacred music to sacred spaces, weaving Scripture with music to facilitate contemplation.

They incorporate old Irish hymns and new Irish works including those of Ronan McDonagh - a treasure trove of beautiful Irish liturgical music.

Vox Hiberniae seek to breathe life into texts sung by our ancestors, with translations allowing entry into their depth. they explore instrumental music when no words are needed.

Latin texts recall our monastic tradition while also pointing to the universal church. The harp is central as the ensemble



Pr. James Keenan SJ contributing to event.

of political legitimacy and exceptionalism, of populist and institutional violence, of the mysterious connection between silence and prophecy.

Our reflection upon this gospel text will empower us to think, seriously and well, about our perplexing and challenging situation, when not only Bible passages but also classic thinkers from the Christian tradition are being claimed by each side of the divide.

Dr Michael Kirwan SJ

Director of the Loyola Institute



Pr. Linda Hogan making a point.

God and Politics in the New Millennium Saturday 24th May, 11.00am -2.30pm

Loyola Institute, Loyola/ISE Building,
Trinity College Dublin
Register on Loyola Institute website.



seek to sing the heritage left to us.

Their members serve as organists, directors of music, cantors and instrumentalists in parishes across the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin.

You can listen to their beautiful music on YouTube.



Dr Gillian Wylie (Head of School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies), Dr Michael Kirwan Director of Loyola Institute with members of Vox Hiberniae: Sarah Lane, Mary Louise O'Donnell, Cecilia Henderson and Kerrie O'Connor.

Loyola institute to Host Major International Congress

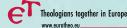
Ad Theologiam PROMOVENDAM

The tasks of theology in Europe today 20th - 23rd August 2025, Dublin





The Loyola Institute
School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



In August 2025, the Loyola Institute, Trinity College, Dublin will host the congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology.

The congress will address the relevance of theology for contemporary Europe, with its many challenges. Theology must allow itself to be addressed by questions of culture and the contemporary world, while at the same time seeking to bring its insights to contemporary discussion in politics, society, and church. Serious questions: arise climate change, the movement of peoples, the dignity of human life in an era of technological advances, the reemergence of war in Europe, the persistence of sexual abuse and its mishandling, the crisis of theological institutions. These will be addressed in the keynotes as well as in almost 100 parallel paper sessions.

The congress reflects on the formative influence of

Christianity on European culture, considering whether, and how, it might be influential today. Throughout, the Congress seeks to better understand the vocation of the Church to articulate the mystery that is God to the contemporary world.

Registration

Conference admission is €200.

Discounted Early Bird tickets until the 2nd May 2025 €150.

ESCT members are eligible for a special discount rate of €150.

Students are eligible for a discount rate of €100.

See Loyola website for further Congress details or scan the QR code.

Congress Eucharist - All welcome

Congress Eucharist will be celebrated at 6.00 pm on Friday 22nd August in St. Andrews Westland Row.

Presider Archbishop Eamon Martin, Concelebrant Cardinal Aveline

Ad Theologiam PROMOVENDAM Speakers and Papers



Prof. Janet Soskice

Emerita Professor of Philosophical

Theology, University of Cambridge

and William K. Warren Distinguished

Research Professor of Catholic Theology, Duke University Divinity School

Have We Forgotten God, The Creator?



Prof. Tomáš Halík
Charles University, Prague
Reading The Signs Of The Times



Prof. Franziska Schnoor

Abbey Library, St Gall

Early Medieval Irish Theology on the Continent. St Columbanus, St Gall and the Irish Manuscripts



Université Catholique de Lille, France Issues at the End of Life: Bridging Evidence-Basde Bioethics and Theology

Prof. Paulo Rodrigues



Prof. Sigrid Müller
University of Vienna, Austria
Issues at the Beginning of Life?
Doing Bioethics in an Ecumenical
Context



Cardinal Aveline
Archbishop of Marseille, France
Petite Théologie De La Mission Toward a Theology of Mission



Wozna Urbanczak
University of Graz, Austria
From Scholars to Designers. From
Leaders to Networkers. 'Doing
Socially Relevant Theology'

Prof Antonina



Dr. Barbara Haslbeck

Archdiocese of Munich and Freising

Specific Patterns of Spiritual

Abuse – The German Context



Prof. Eugene Duffy

Emeritus, Mary Immaculate College,
University of Limerick

The need for Ecclesial Reform



Msgr Fr Paul TigheTitular Bishop of Drivasto, Secretary
of the Pontifical Council for Culture

Theology And Mission in an Age of Artificial Intelligence



Prof. Mark Chapman
University of Oxford
Theology, Europe and the
Persistence of War

Maltese Travels

Fáinche Ryan and Michael Kirwan attended a meeting in Malta of the European theologians (ESCT), as the Irish and British representatives respectively. As well as planning activities, including our forthcoming congress in August 2025, we attended a conference organised by the Maltese Catholic University on the theme of the Council of Nicaea, and its continued relevance, with a keynote lecture from distinguished British theologian Pr. Alistair McGrath. This church council (which gave us the Nicene Creed we recite every Sunday) is significant, because of its achievement in thinking about how Christ was both human and divine. It took place in 325, so there are a lot of commemorative events this year. The Loyola Institute hopes to co-host our own event on this theme in the autumn.

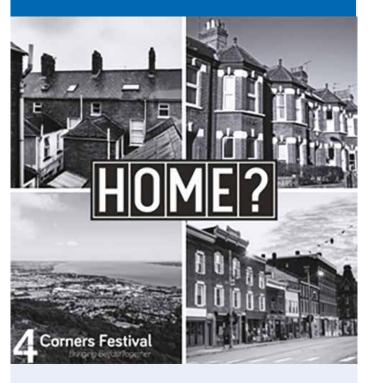


Michael Kirwan, Fáinche Ryan and other members of the ESCT



The Presidium of the ESCT: Prof. Dr. João Manuel Duque, Prof. Dr. Michael Quisinsky, Prof. Dr. Fáinche Ryan, Prof. Dr. Gusztáv Kovács, Prof. Dr. Dominik Opatrný.

Professor Garrigan – Public Theology Speaker at Belfast's Four Corners Festival



Belfast's Four Corners Festival was founded to encourage people to travel to and engage with the residents of parts of the city they might otherwise not visit. Each February, a ten-day programme of music, exhibitions, talk and schools events entices people out of and into every corner of the city. This year, the festival's theme was 'Home' and the theology talk was given by Siobhán Garrigan and followed by over an hour's conversation with a lively and diverse audience that packed out the venue on the Falls Road.



Festival Co-ordinators Fr. Martin McGill of St. John's parish and Rev. Steve Stockman of Fitzroy Presbyterian

The Annual Loyola St Brigit's Lecture

Dr Catherine Swift delivered the latest in the Loyola Institute annual series of St Brigit's lectures in February 2025 Her fascinating lecture was entitled *Young girls and independent women: the early followers of St Brigit.*

Here is how Catherine describes her lecture:

When Cardinal Paparo came to Ireland in the mid twelfth century, he was horrified to discover that the bishops of Ireland included the Abbess of Kildare in their deliberations when meeting in synodal conclave and insisted that such a practice should cease. John of Salisbury's tale graphically illustrates the immense prestige of St Brigit's community in pre-Norman Ireland and the reason she is remembered as one of the three patron saints of Ireland. It is argued in this paper that one of the reasons for such prestige was that the community fitted seamlessly into the secular structures of Irish life, with the abbess fostering and educating young girls and acting as aristocratic patron or flaith to their mothers once they were married.



Dr Fáinche Ryan and Dr Catherine Swift.

St Brigit is also remembered, astonishingly, for providing independent women who wished to live as radical Christians far from Kildare itself, with the means to earn a livelihood. The Kildare community did not share the

prevailing model of an enclosed lifestyle for female ascetics practiced in the western Mediterranean world of the fourth and fifth centuries but instead appears to have been inspired by the community-orientated and charitable foundations of the Greek-speaking world associated with the Cappadocian Fathers and, in particular, the family of St Basil, St Makrina and St Gregory of Nyssa.



St Brigid by Harry Clarke (1846-1931). St Senan's Church in Kilrush County Clare

Dr Catherine Swift: BA (UCD); M Phil (University of Durham); M Phil (University of Dublin) and D Phil (University of Oxford), currently lecturing at Mary Immaculate College and completing an MPhil at Loyola Institute, Trinity College Dublin.

Watch the talk on the Loyola Institute YouTube page (or see link on our website)

Prof. Jacob Erickson on RTE Radio 1



Prof. Jacob Erickson was featured on the St.

Valentine's Day show of RTE Radio 1's Our Divine

Sparks with Dearbhail McDonald. The show

covered a wide range of themes associated with

St. Valentine's, with McDonald and Prof. Erickson

discussing the current state of theology and sexual
ethics: "Is sex a dirty word in the eyes of God?"

The discussion asked how we move and think with
religious traditions in ways that celebrate human
sexuality, promote human flourishing, and seek just
approaches to sexual ethics.

You can listen back to this interview by googling RTE Radio Our Divine Sparks 14th February.

A Theology of Home in a Time of Homelessness

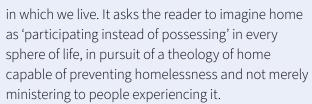


Professor Garrigan's latest book, published this Spring, argues that for theology to play its part in ending homelessness, it must better understand its own concept of 'home'.

Drawing on her own experiences of living and

working with people experiencing homelessness, it proposes a vision of home capable of resisting the tacit, mistaken theology of home that undergirds the various iterations of modern homelessness.

Weaving biblical and ritual sources, the argument constructs theological responses to the twin forces of consumerism and nationalism which, alloyed with sexism and racism, constitute the time of homelessness



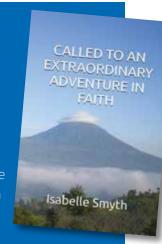
The book is available for free on Cambridge University Press's open access platform -- https:// www.cambridge.org/core/publications/elements





Fáinche Ryan launches book by well known MMM

Sister Isabelle Smyth MMM (right) pictured at the launch of her book "Called to an Extraordinary Adventure in Faith", with Professor Fáinche Ryan who launched the book.



Publications



Nova et Vetera

Emmett O'Regan, MPhil graduate and current PhD candidate has had a paper published in the latest edition of Nova et Vetera, the quarterly academic publication of St Paul's Centre at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. Emmet's paper is on 'St. Thomas Aquinas and the Origins of the Doctrine of Papal Infallibility'. Read it here https://stpaulcenter.com/09-nv-23-1-oregan/



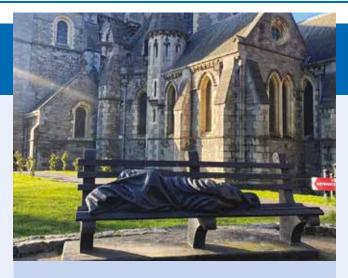
Concilium: International Journal for Theology

Among the contributors to Concilium: International Journal for Theology special edition "Nicaea After 1700 Years. Critical Insights into a Living Legacy" are Loyola Institute's Dr Fáinche Ryan. Dr Ryan's paper is entitled "Toward an understanding of Ratzinger's assertion of an inalienable right of Greek thought to a place in Christianity"

Theology and Social Justice - New Postgraduate Course

Applications are now being accepted for study on an exciting new course at Trinity College Dublin -- a Masters in Theology and Social Justice, with PG Certificate and PG Diploma exit routes. Students will be offered unique insight into how religious ideas shape and are shaped by the concrete social realities of today's world. The course aims to further efforts to combat poverty, the climate crisis, racism, homelessness, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, ableism, ageism, and religious discrimination.

The course will be taught interactively and immersively by two Loyola professors – Siobhán Garrigan and Jacob Erickson – and the Director of the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Kevin Hargaden. Core modules address theologies of the climate crisis, homelessness, racism, and economic justice. Optional modules explore the intersection of theology and social justice as it relates to public policy in Ireland and the EU, as well as issues of gender and sexuality, poverty and wealth disparity, and how mysticism and politics inform one another.



Homeless Jesus statue in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral

Most of the classes for this new course will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 4 and 7pm, and it is anticipated that graduates will go to careers in a broad range of areas, including government, journalism, law, education, NGOs and the creative arts, as well as to ministries in parishes and other faith-based organisations. Further information is available from the Course Director, Professor Siobhán Garrigan, or the PG admin team: srpostrad@tcd.ie

American Academy of Religion Leadership

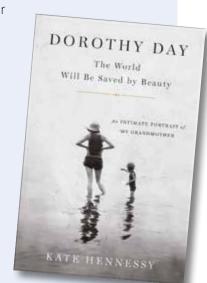
Prof. Jacob Erickson continues to serve as the chair of the Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit of the American Academy of Religion and also helps to oversee the AAR International Collaboration Committee's important International Grants Competition. At the last Annual Meeting, November 2024 in San Diego, California, Prof. Erickson organized and presented in a multidisciplinary panel for the Religion and Ecology Unit that responded to English Literature scholars Jeffrey Jerome Cohen and Julian Yates' new book, Noah's Arkive (University of Minnesota Press). The book explores the ecological implications of the story of Noah's Ark, climate justice, and displacement.



Dorothy Day for Today's Times

During the last week of the Spring semester, Professor Siobhán Garrigan welcomed to Trinity the youngest of Dorothy Day's four grandchildren, Kate Hennessy, to give a public talk entitled "Dorothy

Day – A Prophetic Voice for our Times". Kate offered anecdotes and insights from her Granny's life and legacy, and talked about the difficult but creative process of writing her acclaimed biography, Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved by Beauty – An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother. Prof. Garrigan responded with reflections on Dorothy



Day's ongoing influence in both

the church and academia, and the large audience, invited by the Irish School of Ecumenics, discussed issues ranging from Day's canonisation to her family life to her appeal to young people today.

College Theological Society's 194th Session

Prof. Jacob Erickson served this past year as President of the College Theological Society for its 194th Session. Prof. Erickson offered the Presidential Address for the society 10th February, 2025, on the topic of "Theological Reflections for a Moment of Crisis." Students organized a brilliant, successful, and diverse programme for 2024-25 that also invited other Loyola lecturers, including Profs Siobhán Garrigan and Euan Grant, as well as student paper readings and a keynote lecturer by Prof. Linn Tonstad of Yale Divinity School.



Prof. Jacob Erickson with members of the TCD Theological Society

The MPhil in Christian Theology Class of 24/25



Some of the Loyola Post-graduate class 24/25 with faculty members Dr Fáinche Ryan, Dr Euan Grant and Dr Michael Kirwan SJ, Director of the Loyola Institute.



Dr Euan Grant chatting with students Deirdre Clancy and Priscilla Fitzpatrick



Brian Flannery, Dr Neil Morrison and Dr Michael Kirwan

Loyola Institute, MPhil in Christian Theo



Prof Fáinche Ryan, Dr Paul Corcoran, Prof Anna Chahoud, Dept of Classics and Fr Peter Sexton SJ, TCD chaplain at Paul's conferring.

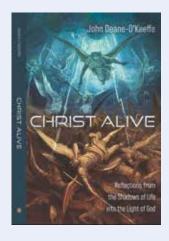
PAUL CORCORAN

Paul Corcoran completed the MPhil in Christian Theology before undertaking a PhD at Loyola, on the theme of wonder and sacramentality in the work of the Irish poet Patrick Kavanaugh. A former teacher, Paul now lectures in Religious Education at Marino Institute of Education in Dublin, where he seeks to bring religion and religious education into conversation with philosophy, politics, literature and the arts.



SHANNON CAMPBELL

Shannon Campbell also has a background in education and theology. She completed the MPhil and is now pastoral manager at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) Chaplaincy, where she coordinates pastoral activities. Shannon Campbell is rooted in both Catholicism and ecumenism. She tells the BBC how the Pope told her in an audience in 2022 to 'go to the pub with your friends, do what young people do but always have the message of the gospel in your back pocket'!



JOHN DEANE-O'KEEFE

John Deane-O'Keefe is a minister in the Church of Ireland. and working as a hospital chaplain at teaching hospitals in Dublin, as well as a Radio Presenter on Law Matters for Dublin City FM. He is the author of Christ Alive, published through Wipf and Stock, a 'light jaunt through life and faith, in 52 reflections'. Two academic books are in prospect, including Finding Jesus in Joyce, From Dedalus to The Dead, which relates directly to the topic of John's MPhil thesis.

logy Graduates - Where Are They Now?



Onyewuchi Obirieze on his graduation day with Dr Fainche Ryan and Dr Michel Kirwan SJ

ONYEWUCHI OBIRIEZE

Onyewuchi Obirieze is a volunteer pastoral worker in Immaculate Heart of Mary, City Quay, an inner city Dublin parish. Living out his vocation by helping to refresh the devotional and service life of the parish, and by embracing, in the light of the gospel, complex issues in a contemporary European lived experience, has been 'transforming'. This work follows on from his MPhil dissertation research, which explored the challenges to authentic Christian witness in contemporary Nigeria. Onyewuchi is also a writer. He publishes at least twice a month on his blog, Omuma na Amamihe, researching and summarising themes which integrate spirituality and Christian theology. His current offering is *On Hope* by Joseph Pieper.



GEORGHE THEODOR AVRAM

Georghe Theodor Avram, a Jesuit from Romania, studied Christian theology as part of his formation for the Irish province of the Jesuits. On Palm Sunday he was ordained deacon in the Greek Catholic rite in the Holy Trinity cathedral in Bluj. Teo has been working as a chaplain in Belvedere College in Dublin. He will be ordained to the priesthood in autumn 2025.



A LECTURE IN HONOUR OF THE LATE JOSEPH VEALE, SJ

Literature, Ignatian Spirituality, and Narrative Experiences



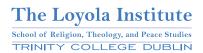
by CHRISTOPHER STAAB, SJ

Professor of the Practice in Ignatian Spirituality, Santa Clara University, Berkeley, California.

In the light of the insight of Fr Veale's writings Dr Staab's lecture will explore new images and languages to help us discover a spirituality for a time of epochal change.

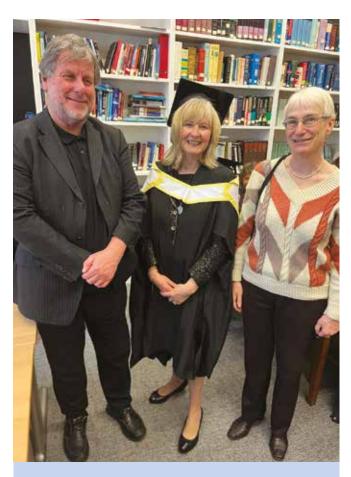
> Tuesday 10 June at 6.00, G16, ISE/Loyola Building, Trinity College Dublin.

To register, please email Loyola@tcd.ie
Places are limited, so please register as soon as possible.









Colette Varley (recipient of a Loyola Trust Scholarship) with Dr Michael Kirwan SJ and Dr Fáinche Ryan after her graduation with an MPhil in Christian Theology.



Dr Gusztáv Kovács, Hungary, President ESCT, Dr Fáinche Ryan, Ireland, Vice President of ESCT and Dr Lieven Boeve, Belgium, former President ESCT

The Good Person and the Beloved Planet



Dr Tim Middleton (Regents Park College, Oxford); Dr Nancy Rourke; Dr Michael Kirwan SJ; Sr Dr Katherine Rushton RSM (New Zealand; visiting scholar at Campion Hall, Oxford); Rev Dr Mark Scarlata (St Mellitus, London); Dr Nicholas Austin SJ (Campion Hall, Oxford)



Dr Nancy Rourke

On April 28, the Loyola Institute co-hosted, with the Irish School of Ecumenics, a seminar given by Dr Nancy Rourke, from St John Fisher University, Rochester, New York. She presented on the connection between Catholic moral theology and 'integral ecology', that is, the description of the ecological crisis promoted by Pope Francis in Laudato Si'. This encyclical invited us to see the earth as 'our common home', and consider how all the crises we face-political, social, spiritual, as well as ecological- are interrelated.

Catholic virtue ethics helps us to address these crises. Just as an individual person becomes virtuous by means of internal dynamics and patterns of desire, passions, and reasoning, so he or she is subject to swirling flows of influence in our society and our environment. 'Integral ecology' is an invitation to 're-imagine ourselves ecologically, cultivating our environments within and without'. Prior to her arrival in Ireland, Dr Rourke was a speaker at an international conference hosted by the Laudato Si' Research Institute at Campion Hall, Oxford. Theologians and scientists reflected together on the encyclical, on its tenth anniversary. Dr Michael Kirwan SJ was one of the panellists. The event had an especial poignancy, given the

passing of Pope Francis a few days

earlier.

The Loyola Institute is grateful for the generous support of the Loyola Trust (Carmelites (O.Carm.), Columbans, Jesuits, Loreto Sisters, Marists, Oblates, Society of African Missions).

Colloquium - Give Ear to My Cry: Exploring Prayer and the Bible





The Loyola Institute (TCD), Trinity Centre for Biblical Studies (TCD) and Boston College's Clough School of Theology and Ministry will jointly host a

Colloquium on 9th and 10th May, 2025 in the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College, Dublin.

This Colloquium, convened by Dr David Shepherd, will bring together internationally-recognized biblical scholars to hear the latest research.

We look forward to carrying a report of this Colloquium in our next newsletter.



Loyola Institute Open Evening

Monday 12th May, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Come and learn more about our postgraduate courses, including scholarships available and meet students and faculty.

Loyola Institute, Loyola/ISE Building,
Trinity College Dublin
All welcome



Trinity College Dublin Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath The University of Dublin

The Loyola Institute

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is dedicated to education and research in theology in the Catholic Christian tradition and offers degrees at postgraduate level, both taught and by research.

Scholarships available.

Further information: www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute
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