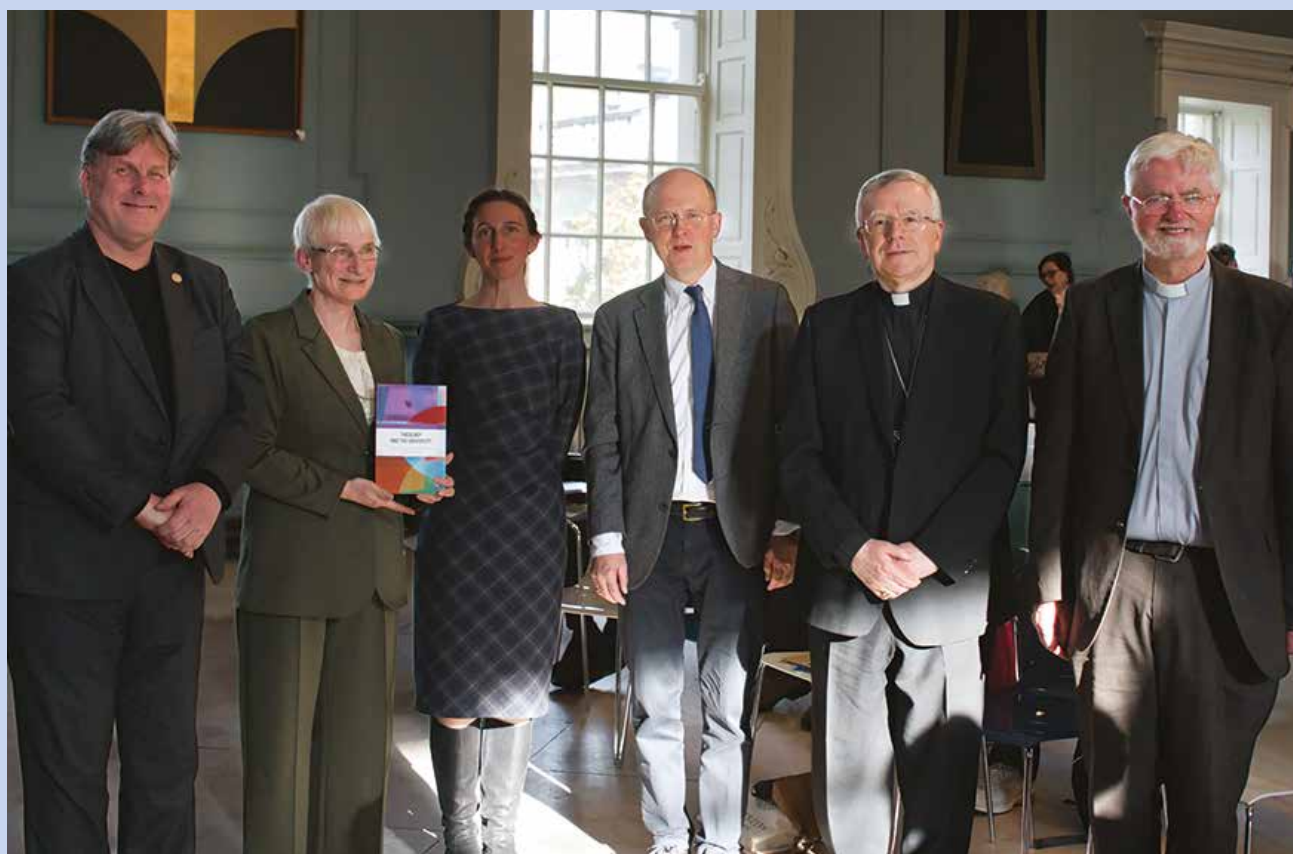


Loyola Institute Newsletter

Winter 24/25

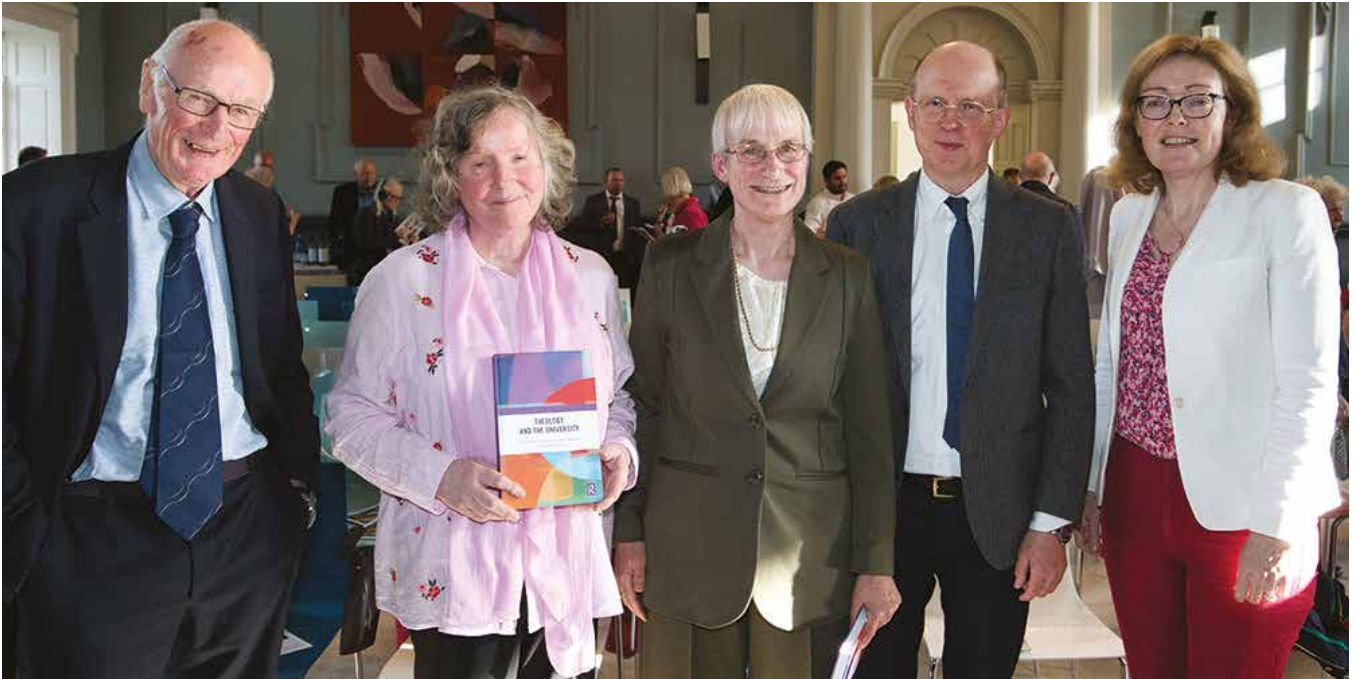
Theology and the University



The Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Luis Mariana Montemayor, with Dr Michael Kirwan SJ (the Loyola Institute); Dr. Fáinche Ryan (the Loyola Institute); Pr Judith Wolfe (University of St Andrews); Dr Josef Quitterer (University of Innsbruck); co-editor of the book; Fr. Tom Layden SJ (chair of Loyola Trust).

On 14 June the Loyola Institute, hosted an event to mark the publication of *Theology and the University* (Routledge, 2024), edited by Fáinche Ryan, Josef Quitterer and Dirk Ansorge. The book launch was

preceded by a lecture from Professor Judith Wolfe, of the University of St Andrews, entitled 'Being Theologians in a Secular Society'. The lecture began with a reading of 'The Sea of Faith', Matthew Arnold's



Contributors to *Theology and the University* (Routledge)
 (from L to R) Dr Cornelius Casey, Founding Director Loyola
 Institute; Dr Ethna Regan (DCU); Dr Fáinche Ryan,
 Dr Josef Quitterer (University of Innsbruck)
 with Professor Carmel O'Sullivan.



At the launch of *Theology and the University* (Routledge)
 in Trinity College Dublin were
 Dr Gillian Wylie (Head of School of Religion, Theology,
 and Peace Studies, Dr Fáinche Ryan (Loyola Institute) and
 Josef Quitterer (University of Innsbruck) and
 Professor Carmel O'Sullivan (Dean of Arts, Humanities
 and Social Sciences Trinity College Dublin).
 Prof O'Sullivan launched the book.



must be a place where intellectual virtues are cultivated, which enable a student to live well. She holds up the twin goals of *discovery* and *dwelling*: the discoveries of the sciences create our world, but we also need the humanities (specifically, theology and philosophy) so we can be at home in it. Theology serves therefore as a kind of 'tentacle' which reaches out to the other disciplines and enables necessary conversation.

Theology and the University demonstrates this connection. The essays, drawn from a range of European perspectives, explore the contested role of the contemporary university, and theology's place in it. Theology, finally, is identified as a source of hope: as Dr Linda Doyle (Provost and President of Trinity College), asserts in her Foreword, 'the university needs the challenge of theology', offering its unique store of wisdom. 'And theology needs the challenge of the university.'

poem which expresses the melancholic withdrawal of religion in the face of nineteenth-century science. What we see now, however, is that the notion of the 'human', which for Arnold was to replace religious faith, now suffers the same crisis of credibility: 'We lost our sense of humanity when we lost our sense of God'.

For Professor Wolfe the university requires something wider than the criticism and unmasking of power. It

Watch Professor Wolfe's lecture [here](#).

Contemporary Challenges for a Synodal Church: Symposium

On June 14th, Emmet O'Regan, PhD candidate, organised and hosted a mini-symposium on behalf of the Loyola Institute and the Young Adult's Curatorium of the European Society for Catholic Theology. This took place in Regent House, above the Front Arch of Trinity College Dublin. This symposium, titled "Contemporary Challenges for a Synodal Church", preceded the book launch of *Theology and the University*. Emmett began the symposium giving an overview of the important work of the European Society for Catholic Theology. A number of current and alumni Loyola postgraduate students gave presentations on their research, focusing their presentations around the significance of Pope Francis' vision of a "synodal Church." Many thanks to the following research and postgraduate candidates, Ursula Halligan, Ruairí Meyler, and Catherine Swift, for their wonderful contributions on the day!



Louise Gordon (PhD student at St Patrick's College, Maynooth); Emmet O'Regan (PhD student at Trinity College, Dublin) and Frances O'Callaghan (graduate of MPhil in Christian Theology, Trinity College Dublin).

Teaching Excellence



We are delighted to celebrate with Pr. Jacob Erickson, who was a recipient of the School Award for Teaching Excellence

for the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, 2024. The event brochure contains a lovely citation from one of Jake's students: "Dr. Erickson's method of teaching creates an atmosphere which is empowering and inclusive. He is able to hear his students' voices, recognise their potential and reflect it back, so that we the students come to hear and appreciate our own unique gifts and are motivated by the conviction that we count in this world."

A Family Affair



Criminologist & Lay Minister, John Deane, pictured with his eldest daughter, secondary school teacher Genevieve Deane-O'Keeffe, who both recently received their MPhil degrees from the School of Religion, Theology, & Peace Studies at Trinity College Dublin.

John graduated with an MPhil in Christian Theology (with Distinction) and Genevieve in International Peace Studies.

Loyola Institute at EuARE

In May, Alex Cupples of the Loyola Institute organised a wonderful session on “The early Irish church: new approaches” at the 7th Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion which met at Palermo. The aim was to promote the theological study of the early Irish church from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Furthermore, the participants were all concerned to avoid the older model of a distinctive and isolated ‘Celtic’ Christianity and to work instead within a paradigm of active engagement with the writings of the Late Antique and Early Medieval Church Fathers. In order of presentation, the papers were: Catherine Swift (Loyola Institute and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick) on *The Collectio Canonum Hibernensis and Pope Gregory’s Pastoral Rule*; Jiachun Xu (Dept of History, TCD) on The Days of Creation according to the Isidorian Computists and the Augustinian Theologians in seventh-century Ireland; Alex Cupples on *The pre-Carolingian Renaissance Eucharist in the Antiphony of Bangor: an attempt to reconstruct* and Daniel Watson (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies) on *Natural Revelation and Philosophical Theology in early medieval Ireland*.



Alexander Cupples PhD candidate with co-chair Dr Catherine Swift at panel session on theology & the early Irish Church.



Loyola students and staff enjoying themselves after the formal conference sessions in Palermo.

The papers were both innovative and stimulating, with very considerable use of unpublished materials. Coming from different institutions and with different disciplinary backgrounds, the ensuing discussion was a lively affair with a variety of viewpoints being raised and vigorously defended. Indeed, the structure of the session meant that this discussion was an integral part of the whole event, in which those attending also took active part and the conversations spilled over into the more social occasions subsequently.

A visible appetite for the development of a research group bringing together scholars on an ongoing basis has been identified. This has been quietly growing since the Palermo conference and plans are afoot for another at EuARE 2025. Alex Cupples is to be warmly congratulated for organising such a successful and productive initiative.

Cathy Swift

Catholic Theology Scholarship Winners Celebrated

A recent reception in the Loyola Institute celebrated the award of scholarships for post graduate studies in Catholic Theology at the Loyola Institute.

The scholarships were awarded by Irish religious orders, and the Loyola Institute is very grateful for this support which makes post graduate studies in Catholic Theology accessible to a wide range of students who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

The awards and recipients for 2024/25 are:

The Blessed Dominic Barberi Studentship, awarded by the Passionist Provinces of Britain and Ireland- St Joseph's Province and St Patrick's Province, was granted to Deirdre Clancy.

Two Sean O'Riordan Scholarships, awarded by the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, were granted to Alan Garrigan and Esther Adejayan.

The Bridget Clancy Scholarship, awarded by the Sisters of St John of God, was granted to Emily Murtagh.

The Loyola Trust awarded three scholarships to MPhil students: Frank Amarchie, Mary Dolan and Brian Flannery.



Alan Garrigan winner of a Sean O'Riordan Scholarships, awarded by the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, with Dr Fainche Ryan of Loyola Institute.



Emily Murtagh, winner of the Bridget Clancy Scholarship for MPhil in Christian Theology at Loyola Institute, TCD (awarded by the Sisters of St John of God) with Sr. Geraldine Fitzpatrick (Congregational Leader, SSJG).



Deirdre Clancy winner of The Blessed Dominic Barberi Studentship, awarded by the Passionist Provinces of Britain and Ireland- St Joseph's Province and St Patrick's Province, with Dr Fainche Ryan of Loyola Institute.

Dr Fainche Ryan Delivers Barat Lecture

Dr. Fainche Ryan was delighted to be invited by Mount Anville to deliver the annual Sophie Barat Lecture. The Barat Lecture is named in honour of The Foundress of The Society of The Sacred Heart, St Madeleine Sophie Barat.

Fainche's lecture highlighted the significance of the message of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and St. Julian of Norwich for all of us today.



Ireland to host major European Theological Conference - *Ad Theologiam Promovendam*, The tasks of theology in Europe today

The next biennial congress of the European Society of Catholic Theology (August 2025), organised by vice-president Fainche Ryan, will be hosted by the Loyola Institute at Trinity College Dublin. The congress will address the relevance of theology for contemporary Europe, with its many challenges.

During the days of this congress the formative influence of Christianity on European culture will be reflected upon, and consideration given to whether,

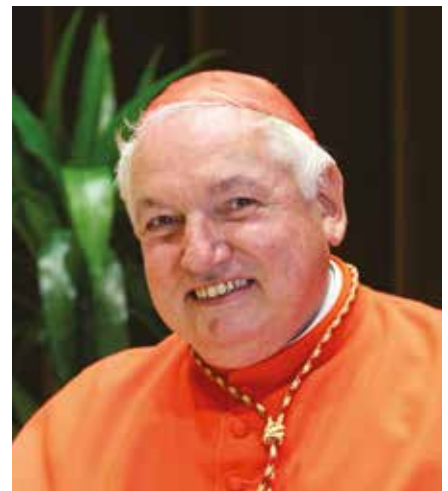
and how, it might be influential today. Underpinning the discussion is the ongoing search to better articulate the mystery that is God, and flowing from this an ever-deepening understanding of how the church is to understand its vocation, the mission given to it. Theology, to be alive, must allow itself to be addressed by questions of culture and society and at once seek a way to bring its understanding and its wisdom to contemporary discussion in politics, society, and church.



Prof Janet Soskice,
University of Cambridge, UK



Prof Paulo Rodrigues,
Université Catholique de Lille, France



Cardinal Marc Aveline, Marseille, France
(photo Gael Barerra)



Prof Antonina Wozna, Katholisch -
Theologische Fakultät Graz, Austria

Ad Theologiam **PROMOVENDAM**

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



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



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School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
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See the Loyola Institute website for further details and to book.

Dr Fáinche Ryan

Presentation to the Association of Catholics in Ireland



Dr Fáinche Ryan recently gave a paper to the Association of Catholics in Ireland entitled “The Eucharist – What do we believe . . . and what difference does it make?”

This talk was recorded, and you can watch it [here](#).

The Second Vatican Council reminded us that the Eucharist is ‘*the source and summit of the Christian life*’ (Lumen Gentium 11), while Augustine, in a homily on the Eucharist advised “*It is your own mystery that you are receiving! You are saying “Amen” to what you are . . .*”

Visiting Scholar

In Michaelmas term 2024, we welcomed Jens Van Rompaey, a Visiting Scholar from the University of Leuven (Belgium). Jens is working on Synodality; during his week with us he took part in a colloquium entitled ‘Synodal Musings’, along with two of our own doctoral students, Ursula Halligan and Emmett O’Regan. Jens’ presentation was entitled “Switching on the light of synodality? Anecdotal experiences



Jens Van Rompaey, University of Leuven (Belgium) was a visiting scholar at Loyola Institute.



Emmett O’Regan, Jens Van Rompaey, KU Leuven and Ursula Halligan

from a Belgian theologian in the 2023 Prague synodal meeting.” This was followed by a drinks reception and a ‘thank you’ to the congregations who have donated so generously to the Loyola project by means of scholarships. Jens also gave a seminar on his own work, and led a postgraduate Political Theology class on the subject of secularisation.

Welcome Dr Euan Grant

The Loyola Institute is delighted to welcome a new member of the academic staff. Dr Euan Grant joins us on a fixed term contract, to assist with teaching and researching theology in the Catholic tradition. He comes to us from the University of St Andrews, where he completed his doctorate on the theology of human nature and the doctrine of original sin, followed by a post-doctoral Gifford Fellowship at St Andrews.



Conversations that Matter



Dr Michael Kirwan SJ. gave a talk as part of 'Lismore's Conversation that Matter series'. His theme was "Becoming other than we are: Is there a better way of doing politics?"



Dr Fáinche Ryan and PhD student Ursula Halligan.

In October, Dr Fáinche Ryan and PhD student Ursula Halligan travelled to Leuven, Belgium, to participate in a European Doctoral Colloquium on the challenges of peace ethics for the EU's foreign and security policy.

The group visited COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union in Brussels, and met the senior advisor at the European Institute of Peace, Sergio Jaramillo.

Mr Jaramillo was the former EU Peace Commissioner who oversaw the disarmament of the FARC in 2017.

Doctorate Awarded



Congratulations to Dr Paul Corcoran on his recent doctoral graduation for a thesis entitled "Receiving with grace the grace of living: Christian wonder and the poetry of Patrick Kavanagh". Pictured with Paul, are Prof Fáinche Ryan, director of the thesis, Prof Anna Chahoud, Dept of Classics, Fr Peter Sexton SJ, TCD chaplain.

Theology of Homelessness



Professor Siobhan Garrigan

Siobhán Garrigan’s next book, *A Theology of Home in a Time of Homelessness*, is currently in publication with Cambridge University Press (CUP). The book argues that for theology to combat homelessness, it needs to gain a much clearer idea of what it means by ‘home’, and it explores what would be involved in one possible approach: imagine home as participation and not possession. As a University Chair who was required to serve as Head of School, Prof. Garrigan received no payment for her work in that role, but she did receive a research allowance and she is using that allowance to make her new book freely available to all online. It should be downloadable from CUP in early 2025.

New Masters in Theology and Social Justice

Professor Siobhán Garrigan is delighted to announce a new **Masters in Theology and Social Justice**, with PG Certificate and PG Diploma exit routes. She developed the course over the past two years with Loyola colleague Dr. Jacob Erickson and in close collaboration with the Director of the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Dr. 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. Applications are expected to open in February 2025.

Homebrewed Christianity Conference

Jacob Erickson was one of the speakers for this year’s Theology Beer Camp in Denver, Colorado, 17-19 October, organized by Homebrewed Christianity. He spoke about the theologies of lament and the politics of the climate crisis, and joined in discussion with well known public theologian Brian McLaren. Over 600 were in attendance, with a greater virtual audience. Speakers also included theologians, ethicists, and historians such as Ilia Delio, Catherine Keller, Gary Dorrien, Joerg Rieger, Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Diana Butler Bass and Tripp Fuller.

As Erickson argued, “If theology is to be anything in the present moment, it must be embodied, political threnody—a creative and rebellious mourning song not just for what has been lost, but for how we, singing with this earth collective, demand possibilities of love, justice, and mercy.”

Theology Beer Camp is a unique three-day conference that brings together of theology nerds and craft beer for a blend of intellectual engagement, community building, and fun. Organized by Homebrewed Christianity, this event features a lineup of well-known podcasters, scholars, and theology enthusiasts who come together to “nerd out” on theological topics while enjoying loads of fun activities.



Loyola Institute’s Dr Jacob Erickson speaking in Denver Colorado, Photo Credit: @emilyarnold

The Kircher Network



The Kircher network of Jesuit higher education institutions had two meetings over the summer. This network consists of eight universities and twenty smaller centres (including the Loyola Institute). Michael Kirwan attended the General Assembly of presidents and deans at the University of Deusto in Bilbao. This was given over to work on the network's strategic plan, and to considering the challenge of Artificial Intelligence in higher education. The assembly included a visit (with eucharist) to the sanctuary of St Ignatius at Loyola. A conference at Comillas University in Madrid followed, on the theme of Christian Eschatology in the present world.

Public lecture: 'Theology after Gaza'



On 25 September 2024, The Irish School of Ecumenics (ISE) and the Loyola Institute co-hosted a public lecture by Rev Pr Mitri Raheb, a prominent Palestinian theologian of liberation based in Bethlehem. A packed lecture theatre heard his presentation on 'Theology after Gaza: Decolonising the Bible', which gave an overview of the theological and scriptural complexities of the Palestine-Israel conflict. The event was chaired by Pr. Siobhán Garrigan, the Loyola Professor of Theology.

Loyola Institute and Boston College (School of Theology and Ministry)

In December 2023, Trinity College reached an agreement of cooperation with the Jesuit university Boston College. This has borne fruit with joint initiatives, involving members of the Loyola Institute and staff from BC. Last year we welcomed the distinguished professors James Keenan SJ and Cathleen Kaveny, for a lecture and response on 'Pathways to Holiness'. Boston scholars will be making a similar visit to Dublin in December 2024. Under the guidance of Pr. David Shepherd, plans are under way for two colloquia on biblical studies (one in Dublin, the other in Boston), involving scripture scholars from Trinity and from



Prof. David Shepherd

Boston's School of Theology and Ministry. The first of these will be in Spring 2025, on the theme of 'The Bible and Prayer'. Further details of this very exciting cooperation will appear through the Loyola website, and in future newsletters.

Loyola Graduate among First Lay Funeral Ministers at Clogher Diocese



Congratulations to Frances O'Callaghan on her new ecclesial role, which, as she noted 'is the recognition of the universal call to holiness inherent in my baptismal vows.'

Catholic Theology Association (GB)



Durham University

The annual conference of the Catholic Theological Association (GB) took place at St. Chad's college, University of Durham, in September 2024. Its theme was Christian Anthropology, based on the Vatican theological document, "What is Man?" The keynote address was given by Simon Gainé OP (from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome; Simon is also a member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission), who explored intellectual disability, and what it is to be made in the image and likeness of God. Other contributions included a biblical analysis from Pr. Jessie Rogers (St Patrick's, Maynooth), and a number of presentations which returned to the theme of vulnerability, for example the role of prayer in advanced dementia. Michael Kirwan, who has in recent years been president of the CTA, was part of a panel considering the work of the theologian Karl

Rahner SJ. The challenge of Artificial Intelligence to our understanding of the human being was the focus of one session; this included a presentation by Sheila Keegan, currently a research student at Trinity College.

The CTA has committed to publishing a book series with Messenger Publications, Dublin. Last year saw the publication of *Synodality and the Recovery of Vatican II: a New Way for Catholics* (edited by Stephen McKinney, Thomas O'Loughlin, and Beáta Tóth), with a chapter by Michael Kirwan. A second volume, on the 'sacramentality of creation', is due to be published in time for the 2025 conference.

Michael Kirwan and Sheila Keegan Groome.

Shelia has recently been appointed Director of the Lumen Dominican Centre

Advent Concert

On Thursday December 12th at 6pm, the Loyola Institute and the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies will host an evening of Advent music and readings. This will be led by *Vox Hiberniae*, an Irish ensemble of vocals, harp, flute, whose sacred music weaves Scripture with music to facilitate contemplation. The evening will conclude with festive refreshments. Please see the Loyola Institute website for further details.



The Loyola Institute

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

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.

Please see the Loyola Institute website for further details

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Trinity College Dublin

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