



Loyola Institute Newsletter

Winter 2018/2019

Learners worldwide invited to discover the iconic 'Book of Kells' through Trinity's free online course

Dr Fáinche Ryan, Director of the Loyola Institute, is one of the contributors to this fascinating free online course which will allow learners worldwide to explore the history of Ireland through the remarkable Book of Kells – one of the world's most famous medieval manuscripts.

The course has been designed by academics from the School of Histories and Humanities, the School of Religion and staff from the Library, and is run in association with *FutureLearn*. The course is aimed at anyone with an interest in Ireland, medieval studies, history, art, religion and popular culture.

"Growing up in Ireland I always knew that the Book of Kells was a great Irish treasure. But it wasn't until I began to study it from the point of view of theology that I began to appreciate the wealth of insight to be gleaned from this important manuscript. It is a text both of great beauty, and of great learning," says Dr Ryan.

"The more I learn about the Book of Kells, the more amazed I am at the scholarship of the people of these islands, perched as it then was at the edge of the Western world. In this course we hope to share something of this 'learned beauty'. A particular richness of this course for me has been the opportunity to work with art historians and colleagues in the Library. The intersection of art and theology, and insights into the work of the custodians of the manuscript, adds greatly to the course."

The course, "The Book of Kells: Exploring an Irish Medieval Masterpiece", is open for access from the 8th October to the 4th November. If you choose to take this free course, you'll have access for the duration of the course (08/10/2018 – 04/11/2018) plus 14 days, regardless of when you join. Register at <http://bit.ly/BookofKellsMOOC> or see the link on the Loyola Institute website: www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute.



Papal Visit Loyola Institute Experts



Photo: Pamela McLoughlin

Loyola Institute academics provided expert comment to a range of national and international media organisations on the occasion of the Papal visit at the end of August. Coverage included:

Fáinche Ryan, Director of the Loyola Institute, was interviewed for an article in the *Irish Independent* and contributed to a panel discussion on RTÉ TV's live coverage on the Saturday of the visit, as well as to a panel discussion on *Morning Ireland* on the Sunday. She also did interviews with CBC (Canada) and Sky News, and participated in a discussion on *Newstalk Breakfast*.



Siobhán Garrigan, Loyola Professor of Catholic Theology, provided expert comment to the *Sunday Business Post*, wrote an opinion piece for the *Sunday Times*, and was interviewed by German broadcaster ARD.

Siobhán Garrigan, Loyola Professor of Catholic Theology

Loyola Institute Lecture Series

Wednesday, 31st October at 7.30pm

Dr. Patrick Riordan S.J.

Does Common Good Mean Anything?

Wednesday 28th November at 7.30pm

Dr Ann Buckley

Singing and Prayer in the Middle Ages

Venue:

**Loyola Institute, Loyola/ISE Building,
School of Religion, TCD (Lincoln Place entrance).**

**To join our mailing list
simply email Helen at loyola@tcd.ie**

New Intake for M.Phil. in Christian Theology

The second year of Loyola's MPhil in Christian Theology got off to a great start with 16 students enrolling, a mixture of full-time and part-time, and a great variety of ages and experience. The buzz around the building on Monday and Thursday evenings is great. The first cohort of full-time students submitted their dissertations at the end of August, and are now awaiting news of graduation. The decision of the Institute to focus on post-graduate students, for both research and taught degrees, is proving fruitful. This year a new module, Reading Classical Texts, is being offered. Taught by a variety of professors it is proving popular. We are delighted that Fr Mikhail Nasonov will contribute in the area of Orthodox theology



2018/19 M.Phil. class on the steps of the Loyola/ISE building with Michael Kirwin S.J. one of the lecturers on the course.

Congratulations to the recipients of Scholarships for M.Phil in Christian Theology 2018/19

Sean O'Riordan Scholarship awarded to Sophia White

Thanks to the generous support of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.

**The Dominic Barberi Studentship
awarded to Fergus Higgins**

Thanks to the generous support of the Passionist Provinces of Britain and Ireland (St Joseph's Province and St Patrick's Province).

The Spiritan Mission Scholarship to Marie Douglas

This scholarship is thanks to the generous support of the Irish Spiritans.

**The Religious Education Teacher Scholarship
to Sean Barry**

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Loyola Trust.*

**The Loyola Trust Scholarships to Philip Carron, Jim
McCaffrey and Martin McMullan**

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Loyola Trust.*

*The Loyola Trust is funded by the Augustinians, Carmelites (O.Carm.), Columbans, Jesuits, Loreto Sisters, Marists, Oblates, Society of African Missions.

Faith Seeking Understanding 2018/2019

We are delighted to be running our fourth Faith Seeking Understanding theology course. This course is aimed at those interested in understanding their faith more deeply. It is organised by four School Trusts (Jesuits, Le Chéile, Spiritan and Loreto). Aimed in previous years at teachers, this year we are delighted to open it up to a wider audience. This course is intended to meet the need for practicing Catholics to be more literate about their faith and to introduce people to the wealth of theological insight that is available in the Catholic tradition. This course is run over a series of six evenings from October to April. While the course commenced on 10th October, it may be possible to join the series at a later date. Applications to Ruth Douglas at the Jesuit Education Desk: education@jesuit.ie.



Loyola Institute Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics Jacob J. Erickson joined the Provost of Trinity College Dublin and colleagues from the Arts and Humanities in London in May to celebrate the work of the Trinity Long Room Hub and speak about the role of ethics in today's world.

Gathering of Jesuit Third Level Institutions

"You have the challenge, the responsibility and the opportunity to make a very valuable contribution to the world, and I know that you have the capacity to do it." This was the challenge posed by King Felipe VI of Spain when he spoke at the opening of the International Association of Jesuit Universities conference, held at Deusto University (Bilbao) in July.

This was a gathering of more than 200 Jesuit third level colleges and associated institutions. All the major Jesuit universities were represented. Dr. Fái nche Ryan, Director of the Loyola Institute, and Dr. Con Casey were among the 300 delegates attending the week-long conference, whose theme was "Transforming Our World Together".

The Superior General of the Jesuit congregation, Fr. Arturo Sosa S.J., attended and addressed the conference. In a meeting with people working in Europe he emphasised the important contribution that institutes of higher education have to the European project, in particular at this critical time. He also identified the important role that theology plays in this regard.

Remember their sins no more?



Dr David Shepherd of Loyola Institute, organiser, with some of the speakers and participants

In a world in which genuine forgiveness seems as rare a commodity as ever, the Loyola Institute was delighted to sponsor a symposium this past spring (11-12 May) which offered scholars and the public an opportunity to explore where and in what forms forgiveness may be found in ancient Hebrew texts which are foundational for Western religions and the cultures which they have influenced over the last two millennia. In considering questions like, 'how and in what ways does God forgive?' and 'where if at all do we see reconciliation between people in the Old Testament and what does it look like?' this distinguished group of scholars helped to facilitate a constructive conversation of critical relevance for communities of faith and cultures which find it difficult to forget and even harder to forgive. Presenters included: Anthony Bash (Durham), Dianne Bergant (Chicago), Richard Briggs (Durham), David Firth (Bristol), David Lambert (Chapel Hill), Gordon McConville (Gloucester), David Reimer (Edinburgh), David Shepherd (Dublin) and Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer (Aberdeen)



Dr Fái nche Ryan with King Felipe VI of Spain

Amoris Laetitia

Edith O’Nuallain, Loyola Institute M.Phil. student 2017/2018

Pope Francis’ recent Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family, *Amoris Laetitia*, *The Joy of Love*, was the topic of an inspiring one day seminar presented in Loyola Institute in June 2018.

Prof Michael Kirwan began by placing *Amoris Laetitia* within the context of Pope Francis’ ‘Year of Mercy’, a theme later picked up and developed by Prof Fáinche Ryan. Michael pointed out that overly pious images of the family are divorced from the reality of most family’s experiences. Indeed, Jesus often adopted an ‘anti-family’ stance towards the Jewish ideal of family, insofar as he called people to a new way of belonging, a new way of ‘being family’.



From left to right in photo: Dr Michael Kirwan S.J., Dr Fáinche Ryan, Irish Jesuit Provincial Leonard Moloney S.J., and Dr Con Casey.”

Prof Cornelius Casey spoke of the intriguing references Pope Francis makes throughout *Amoris Laetitia*, including Buddhist and Hindu masters, Martin Luther King, poets, and even the film *Babette’s Feast*. Here Pope Francis models the type of listening and discerning badly needed in the Church today if the authority of the Christian moral tradition is to be invigorated for contemporary times. For Con the most important message to take away from *Amoris Laetitia* is to keep discussions open.

Prof Fáinche Ryan also emphasised Pope Francis’ message of mercy, focusing on his call for the Church to accompany the weak and suffering. The controversial question on whether divorced and re-married Catholics should be allowed to receive communion is best contextualised in terms of Pope Francis’ reminder that communion ‘is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.’

Everyone left the seminar with a better understanding of *Amoris Laetitia*, albeit still with some questions, as well as answers.

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

We are delighted that papers delivered at Loyola Institute events have featured in both *Studies* and *Doctrine and Life*.

The Loyola Institute was pleased to co-host the Annual Ecumenical Chaplaincy Lecture 2018 on the theme “Fully human, fully Christian, fully alive”: can God’s glory be announced in the 21st Century? Photographed: Rev Dr Julian Hamilton, Ecumenical Chaplain TCD; speaker, Dr Alan Roxburgh and Dr Fáinche Ryan.

The Loyola Institute

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

is dedicated to education and research in theology in the broad Catholic 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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Trinity College Dublin

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