

The Third International Franciscan Studies Conference

Life and Love Transfigured:
Exploring New Horizons in the Franciscan Tradition

Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 April 2026
Durham UK

DRAFT SCHEDULE

(at 12 February 2026)

Organisers:

Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University

Sponsored by:

Capuchin Franciscans of Great Britain
Community of St Francis
Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood
Laudato si Wissenschaftsstiftung in der Missionszentrale der Franziskaner

Conference Directors:

Billy Crozier, Durham University
Fr Liam Kelly, OFM
Karen Kilby, Durham University

Conference Secretary:

Theresa Phillips, Durham University

Tuesday 14 April at Ushaw College

10.00am	<i>Optional Mass at St Cuthbert's Church, Old Elvet for any arriving early</i>	<i>St Cuthbert's Church, Old Elvet, Durham</i>
From 11.00	Registration Refreshments available in the Refectory	<i>Foyer at the Main Entrance, Ushaw</i>
11.30	Conference coach departs Durham Royal County Hotel (New Elvet, Durham DH1 3JN) for Ushaw	
12.00	Buffet lunch	<i>Refectory</i>
13.00	Welcome and Opening Words Including a video welcome from HE Cardinal Pizzaballa	<i>Exhibition Hall</i>
13:15	Session 1: Theology Keynote Panel (2x30mins & 30 mins Q&A) Richard Cross (University of Notre Dame, Indiana): 'What the procession of the Holy Spirit tells us about the nature of love' Dan Horan (St Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana): 'Becoming the stories we tell: A Franciscan Theology of narrative and imagination'	<i>Exhibition Hall</i>
14.45	Short break and move to rooms for Session 2	
15.00	Session 2: Parallel Paper Session 1 (20mins & 10 mins Q&A)x3, with 5 mins between papers <u>OR</u> Workshop <u>OR</u> Tour of Ushaw Chapels and Library (15.00-16.00) – tbc	<i>Exhibition Hall, Francis Thompson Rm, Presentation Rm, Meeting Rm 1, Lounge, Meeting Rm 3, Seminar Rm 1</i>
16.40	Close of Parallel Paper Sessions and move to St Cuthbert's Chapel	
17.00	Opening Vespers Presider: Bishop Stephen Wright, Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle Preacher: Br Richard Hendrick, OFM Cap, Capuchin Franciscan Province of Ireland	<i>St Cuthbert's Chapel</i>
18.00	Move to the Refectory	
18.15	Conference Dinner	<i>Refectory</i>
20.00	Session 3: Parallel Paper Session 2 (20mins & 10 mins Q&A)x2, with 5 mins between papers <u>OR</u> Workshop	<i>Exhibition Hall, Francis Thompson Rm, Presentation Rm, Meeting Rm 1, Lounge, Seminar Room 1</i>
21.05	Evening Prayer in panel rooms	

21.15	Close of conference day	
21.30	Conference coaches depart for Durham city from Main Entrance	

Wednesday 15 April Ushaw College and Durham City

07.00	Optional Early Morning Mass	<i>St Cuthbert's Church, Old Elvet, Durham</i>
0815	Conference coach departs Durham Royal County Hotel (New Elvet, Durham DH1 3JN) for Ushaw	
09.00	Session 4: History Keynote Panel (2x30mins & 30 mins Q&A) Michael Cusato (Scholar-in-Residence, St. Bonaventure Friary, NY): 'Mortality Transfigured: Francis of Assisi confronts Setback, Failure, Illness and Death' John McCafferty (University College Dublin): "Places, Seasons, Cold Regions': writing Franciscan history then and now'	<i>Exhibition Hall</i>
10.40	Refreshments and move to rooms for Session 5	<i>Refectory</i>
11.20	Session 5: Parallel Paper Session 3 (20mins & 10 mins Q&A)x3, with 5 mins between papers <u>OR</u> Workshop <u>OR</u> Tour of Ushaw Chapels and Library (11.45-12.45) – tbc	<i>Exhibition Hall, Francis Thompson Rm, Presentation Rm, Meeting Rm 1, Lounge, Meeting Rm 3, Seminar Rm 1</i>
13.00	Lunch	<i>Refectory</i>
14.00	Session 6: Parallel Paper Session 4 (20mins & 10 mins Q&A)x3, with 5 mins between papers <u>OR</u> Workshop <u>OR</u> Tour of Ushaw Chapels and Library (14.30-15.30) – tbc	<i>Exhibition Hall, Francis Thompson Rm, Presentation Rm, Meeting Rm 1, Lounge, Meeting Rm 3, Seminar Rm 1</i>
15.40	Refreshments	<i>Refectory</i>
16.15	Move to conference coach at Main Entrance	
16.30	Conference coaches depart for Durham city	
17.30	Evening Prayer at Durham Cathedral (<i>optional</i>)	<i>The Quire, Durham Cathedral</i>
18.15	Conference delegates arrange own dinner in town	

19.45	<p>Session 7: Public Lecture (<i>hybrid</i>)</p> <p>Fr Casey Cole, OFM (Digital Evangelist and Creator of Breaking in the Habit podcast): ‘Healing Wounds: A Franciscan Mission in a World Misshaped by Screens’</p> <p>Close with a short prayer led by Fr Casey Cole, OFM</p>	<i>ER201, Elvet Riverside, New Elvet, Durham</i>
21.00	Close of conference day	

Thursday 16 April Elvet Riverside, New Elvet, Durham

07.00	Optional Early Morning Mass	<i>St Cuthbert’s Church, Old Elvet, Durham</i>
09.00	<p>Session 8: Spirituality Keynote Panel (<i>2x30mins & 30 mins Q&A</i>)</p> <p>Darleen Pryds (Franciscan School of Theology, University of San Diego): ‘Reclaiming the Legitimacy of Somatic Wisdom: Lady Jacopa and the Role of Caregiving in the Franciscan Tradition’</p> <p>William Hyland (University of St Andrews): ‘Bonaventure on the Presentation of the Lord: a Call to Universal Witness and Holiness’</p>	<i>ER140 Elvet Riverside</i>
10.30	Refreshments and group photo	<i>ER143, ER144 & ER145 Elvet Riverside</i>
11.15	Session 9: Plenary Panel Session	<i>ER140 Elvet Riverside</i>
12.30	Closing Remarks	
12.50	Closing Prayer	
13.00	End of Conference	