

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

PARALLEL PAPER PROGRAMME

(at 3 March 2026)

Parallel Papers Session 1

Tuesday 14 April, 15.00-16.40, Ushaw; six strands and two workshops

Strand 1 Exhibition Hall Chair: Prof. Paul D. Murray (Durham University)		
15.00-15.30	Dr Michael Hahn (Sarum College, Salisbury)	<i>Bonaventure on the Will, Synderesis and Annihilation: Scholastic and Mystical Theology</i>
15.35-16.05	Catherine Corbin (University of Oxford)	<i>The Seraphic Vision of St. Francis of Assisi</i>
16.10-16.40	Matthieu Bernard (Lyon Catholic University)	<i>Admiring the Extraordinary, Imitating the Ordinary: Bonaventura's sapiential Interpretation of Francis</i>
Strand 2 Francis Thompson Room Chair: Dr Liam Temple (Durham University)		
15.00-15.30	Dr Matthew Shadle	<i>The Franciscan Contribution to the Council of Trent's Decree on Justification</i>
15.35-16.05	Br Gregory Armstrong, OFM Cap (Oblate School of Theology)	<i>Mary's Christocentric and Ecclesiotypical Spiritual Life according to St. Lawrence of Brindisi</i>
16.10-16.40	Dr Simon Burton (School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh)	<i>Exploring Martin Meurisse's Cartographies of Scotist Logic and Metaphysics</i>
Strand 3 Presentation Room Chair: Dr Lorenzo Dell'Oso (Durham University)		
Theology, Philosophy, and Poetry: The Franciscan Convent at Santa Crose, Part 1		
15.00-15.30	Dr Claudia Appolloni (KU Leuven)	<i>Editing Peter John Olivi's De sacramentis: Philosophical and Theological Significance</i>
15.35-16.05	Dr Roberta Iannetti (University of Ferrara)	<i>Reconstructing a Franciscan Library: Paleographical and Codicological Investigations on the Manuscript Collection of Santa Croce (13th–14th Centuries)</i>
Strand 4 Meeting Room 1 Chair: Dr Rachel Davies (Australian Catholic University)		
15.00-15.30	Christopher Howard (University of Notre Dame)	<i>Becoming Francis: The Grace of Conversion in the Early Vitae</i>
15.35-16.05	Demetrio Yocum (University of Notre Dame)	<i>'Laudato si' and the Psalmic Imagination of Hope in Dante and Francis of Assisi</i>
16.10-16.40	Willem Marie Speelman, ofs (Franciscaans Studiecentrum)	<i>Transitus, or how Franciscan stories show the way to the mystery: a narrative approach of the "death's" in Franciscan stories</i>

Strand 5 Lounge Chair: Prof. Clare Watkins (Durham University)		
15.00-15.30	Alessio Aceto (Pontificia Università "Antoniano")	<i>The Franciscan Voice in the Church: Between the Middle Ages and the Present Day</i>
15.35-16.05	Christyann Helm, OFS (Pontifex University)	<i>Bartholomew of Pisa's Twelve Gifts of Poverty in the Life and Writings of Francis of Assisi</i>
16.10-16.40	Fr Peter O'Kane (Saint Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth)	<i>Life and Love Informed: The Franciscan Rules of Life</i>

Strand 6 Meeting Room 3 Chair: Fr Dr Liam Kelly OFM (Mary Immaculate College)		
15.00-15.30		
15.35-16.05	Dr Suzana Peran and Hana Kilijan (Catholic University of Croatia)	<i>Proclaiming St. Francis' Message in the Digital Age: Croatian Franciscans as Digital Creatives on Instagram</i>
16.10-16.40	Dr Skaria Thomas Kalloor, OFM Cap	<i>Francis Encounter with Sultan: A Key event for a positive Interreligious encounter today</i>

WORKSHOP 1 Seminar Room 1		
15.00-16.40	Fr Casey Cole, Fr Jason Damon, and Fr Roberto "Tito" Serrano	<i>Evangelisation is a Process, Not an Event</i>

WORKSHOP 2 Meeting Room 2		
15.00-16.00	Prof. Rik van Nieuwenhove (Durham University)	<i>Franz Liszt (1811-1886), virtuoso, romantic composer, Franciscan tertiary</i>

Parallel Papers Session 2

Tuesday 14 April, 20.00-21.05, Ushaw; four strands and two workshops

Strand 1 Exhibition Hall Chair: Prof. Karen Kilby (Durham University)		
20.00-20.30	Dr Hilary E Pearson	<i>Franciscan theology of creation and 21st century scientific knowledge</i>
20.35-21.05	Joachim Ostermann, OFM (Franciscans of Canada)	<i>A Franciscan Philosophy of Nature in a Steinian Key</i>

Strand 2 Presentation Room Chair: Prof. Rik Van Nieuwenhove (Durham University)		
Theology, Philosophy, and Poetry: The Franciscan Convent at Santa Croce, Part 2		
20.00-20.30	Dr Lorenzo Dell'Oso (Durham University)	<i>Illumination and humane litterae: from Peter of Traribus's Lectura on the Sentences to Dante's Vita nova</i>
20.35-21.05	Dr Steffano Pelizzari (University of Bergamo)	<i>The Ghost of Epicurus in Dante's Florence</i>

Strand 3 Meeting Room 1 Chair: Dr Michael Hahn (Sarum College)		
20.00-20.30	Joe Allen (St Mary's University Twickenham)	<i>Noble Simplicity and Sacred Liturgy in the thought of S. Francis and Franciscanism</i>
20.35-21.05	Fr Jonathan St. Andre, TOR (Franciscan University of Steubenville)	<i>The Spirit of the Lord and the Franciscan Proclamation of the Word- Challenges and Opportunities</i>

Strand 4 Meeting Room 3 Chair: Dr Anupama Ranawana (Durham University)		
20.00-20.30	Okehie Ihemkwuaba Cosmas	<i>St. Francis and the Cry of the Poor: Lessons for Today's Youth in Africa</i>
20.35-21.05	Victor Sagayam Zackarias (Jnana Deepa Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Theology)	<i>Love Transcending Borders: St. Francis of Assisi and the Spirit of Interreligious Dialogue for Peace Today</i>

WORKSHOP 1 Lounge		
20.00-21.05	Sr Gabriel Davison (Poor Clares of Arundel)	<i>Franciscan Music</i>

WORKSHOP 2 Francis Thompson Room		
20.00-21.05	James Michael Wahl (Durham University)	<i>Good Dirt: Celebrating the Spirit of Francis in the Parish</i>

Parallel Papers Session 3

Wednesday 15 April, 11.20-13.00, Ushaw; five strands and two workshops

Strand 1 Exhibition Hall Chair: Dr Lorenzo Dell'Oso (Durham University)		
11.20-11.50	Moses Aaron Angeles (San Beda University)	<i>Pax Christi: An Inquiry into the Centrality of Christ in St. Bonaventure's Philosophy of Being</i>
11.55-12.25	Lorenzo Garcia (University of Notre Dame)	<i>Simplicity, Unity, and Immensity in Bonaventure's Understanding of the Memory as an Image of Eternity in the Itinerarium Mentis in Deum and Disputed Questions on the Mystery of the Trinity</i>
12.30-13.00	Ryuta Ishida (Doshisha University, Japan)	<i>Is Matter the Mere Potentiality? Bonaventure and Olivi on Hylomorphism</i>

Strand 2 Francis Thompson Room Chair: Dr Liam Temple (Durham University)		
11.20-11.50	Dr Martin Stone (Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore)	<i>Rebuilding the Intellectual Apostolate in the Nineteenth Century: The Franciscans and Ontologism</i>
11.55-12.25	Davide Marino (Pontificia Università Gregoriana)	<i>Saint Francis on the Index: Narratives of the Poverello under Papal Censorship (1896–1904)</i>
12.30-13.00	Dr Anne-Marie Misconi (SOAS, University of London)	<i>The Capuchin Franciscans of Constantinople (1907 – 1916): A Social-Historical Perspective</i>

Strand 3 | Presentation Room | Chair: Fr Dr Liam Kelly OFM (Mary Immaculate College)

11.20-11.50	Marco Antonio Prieto Caso (KU-Leuven)	<i>The legacy of Francis of Assisi in the debate on contemporary political theology: The concept of "poverty" as a theological-political category in Leonardo Boff</i>
11.55-12.25	John Celichowski, OFM Cap. (Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, Detroit)	<i>Enduring in Peace: How the Franciscan Charism Can Help Save Democracy</i>
12.30-13.00	Fr Faustino dos Santos, ofm (Fordham University)	<i>Francis of Assisi and the Canticle of the Creatures as a Proposal for a Countercolonial Theology</i>

Strand 4 | Meeting Room 1 | Chair: Prof. Clare Watkins (Durham University)

11.20-11.50	Andy Lewis (St Bonaventure's, London)	<i>An Educational Approach to Franciscanism: London 2026</i>
11.55-12.25	Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame)	<i>The Abiding Relevance of Saint Bonaventure's Theology for Ecological Conversion in the Spirit of Integral Ecology</i>
12.30-13.00	Andrew Baker, TSSF	<i>Francesco Giorgi and the Harmony of the World</i>

Strand 5 | Meeting Room 3 | Chair: Andrew Doyle

11.20-11.50	Dr Barbara S. Spies, OFS (Felician Village, Wisconsin)	<i>Keeping It Franciscan: Guidance for Mission Leadership after Sponsors Depart</i>
11.55-12.25	Neal Dunnigan, OEF (Order of Ecumenical Franciscans)	<i>Repair My Church: A Unitarian San Domiano Experience</i>
12.30-13.00	Carie Moore (Franciscan School of Theology)	<i>Presence over Power: Franciscan Teaching as a Spiritual Model for Gentle Parenting</i>

WORKSHOP 1 | Lounge

11.20-13.00	Rachel Davies (Australian Catholic University)	<i>Bonaventure's Mystical Itineraries: An Immersive</i>
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WORKSHOP 2 | Seminar Room 1

11.20-13.00	Lauren Randall (Durham University)	<i>Mixing medieval inks and having a go a writing on parchment</i>
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Parallel Papers Session 4

Wednesday 15 April, 14.00-15.40, Ushaw; six strands and one workshop

Strand 1 Exhibition Hall Chair: Prof. Rik Van Nieuwenhove (Durham University)		
14.00-14.30	Fr Adam J. Lalonde, SJ (University of Toronto)	<i>Ordering the Word to order the World: Language Arts and Sermon Composition in Jean de la Rochelle, O.F.M.'s Processus negociandi</i>
14.35-15.05	Lorenzo Centini (Charles University, Prague)	<i>Is the body relevant? Matthew of Acquasparta and Peter John Olivi studies on our bodily dispositions</i>
15.10-15.40	Garrett Galvin, OFM (Franciscan School of Theology, University of San Diego)	Nicholas of Lyra and the Interpretive Spirit of Francis of Assisi

Strand 2 Francis Thompson Room Chair: Dr Nomi Pritz-Bennett (Durham University)		
14.00-14.30	Tomasz K. Mantyk (Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń)	<i>Blessed Salomea of Cracow and Saint Hyacinth of Poland - competing miracle workers from Franciscan and Dominican orders</i>
14.35-15.05	Kirsty Schut (University of King's College, Halifax)	<i>Lay Death and Burial in Franciscan Habits</i>
15.10-15.40	Małgorzata Krasnodębska-D'Aughton (University College Cork)	<i>'In the field of poverty': The stigmata and Franciscan identities in late medieval Ireland</i>

Strand 3 Presentation Room Chair: Prof. Paul Murray (Durham University)		
14.00-14.30	Jonathan M. Wright (University of St Andrews)	<i>"In Him We Live and Move and Have our Being:" Franciscan Contributions to the Nature-Grace Debates</i>
14.35-15.05	Bro. Cristofer Fernández, OFM Conv. (Le Moyne College)	<i>Sister Mother Earth, Sister Death, & Transfigured Franciscan Ecology</i>
15.10-15.40	Fedor Nekhaenko (Cornell University)	<i>Angels after Francis: the first Franciscan angelology</i>

Strand 4 Meeting Room 1 Chair: Dr Michael Hahn (Sarum College)		
14.00-14.30	Christopher Ottershaw (Sarum College)	<i>Revisiting Saint Clare's disabilities and illness as a sign of holiness</i>
14.35-15.05	Hau Chi Chau (Oblate School of Theology)	<i>Holy Protest: Angela of Foligno's Mystical Cry and the Reimagining of Franciscan Peace</i>
15.10-15.40	Jennifer C. Lane (Brigham Young University)	<i>The Franciscan Legacy of Christus patiens: The Late Medieval Invitation to Compassio</i>

Strand 5 | Lounge | Chair: Dr Anupama Ranawana (Durham University)14.00-
14.30

14.35- 15.05	Nils Kampschulte (Hochschule für Gesellschaftsgestaltung)	<i>Franciscan Commons in Practice: Church Forests as Spaces of Care in the Anthropocene</i>
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15.10- 15.40	Friar Michael Lasky, OFM Conv. (General Delegate for JPIC)	<i>Franciscan Mariology in Mosaic: The Apse of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Canticle of Creation</i>
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Strand 6 | Meeting Room 3 | Chair: Eden Watkins (Durham University)

14.00- 14.30	Christopher Barber (University of Aberdeen)	<i>Blessed are those on the margins: a hermeneutic of neurodivergent belonging in God's tapestry</i>
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14.35- 15.05	Harry Evans (Durham University)	<i>The Position of Transgender Communities within Franciscan Thought</i>
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15.10- 15.40	Colleen A. Grady (St. Thomas University, Florida)	<i>A Church for the Poor: Encountering the Fringes Through The Social Teachings of Pope Francis</i>
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WORKSHOP | Seminar Room 1

14.00- 15.40	Simon Cocksedge	<i>Becoming Prayer: Franciscan Approaches</i>
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