

The European Society for Catholic Theology

The aim of the European Society for Catholic Theology is to promote the academic discipline of Catholic theology primarily at the intersection where Church and society meet. As a systematic reflection on 'faith seeking understanding', Catholic theology engages in interdisciplinary research and education which is loyal and yet constructively critical vis-à-vis the Church, while at the same time meeting the highest academic standards. The organization aims to encourage the communication, promotion and support of theological education, research, and services. ESCT publishes a bi-annual journal, ET-Studies, in which the diverse problems that challenge contemporary theological debate in Europe are explored and discussed. Authors are cordially invited to contribute. Every two years the society organizes an international congress.

For membership details see our website www.esct.hu

Former Presidents

Peter Hünemann

Tübingen, Germany (1989–1995)

Honorary President

Hans Van Der Ven

Nijmegen, Netherlands (1995–1998)

Gerhard Larcher

Graz, Austria (1998–2001)

Leo Karrer

Fribourg, Switzerland (2001–2004)

Lieven Boeve

Leuven, Belgium (2005–2009)

Eamonn Conway

Limerick, Ireland (2009–2011)

Sigrid Müller

Wien, Austria (2011–2013)

Martin Lintner

Brixen, South Tyrol (2013–2015)

Pierre Van Hecke

Leuven, Belgium (2015–2017)

Marie Jo-Thiel

Strasbourg, France (2017–2019)

Milos Lichner

Bratislava, Slovakia (2019–2021)

Margit Eckholt

Osnabrück, Germany (2021–2023)

Gusztáv Kovács

Pécs, Hungary (2023–2025)

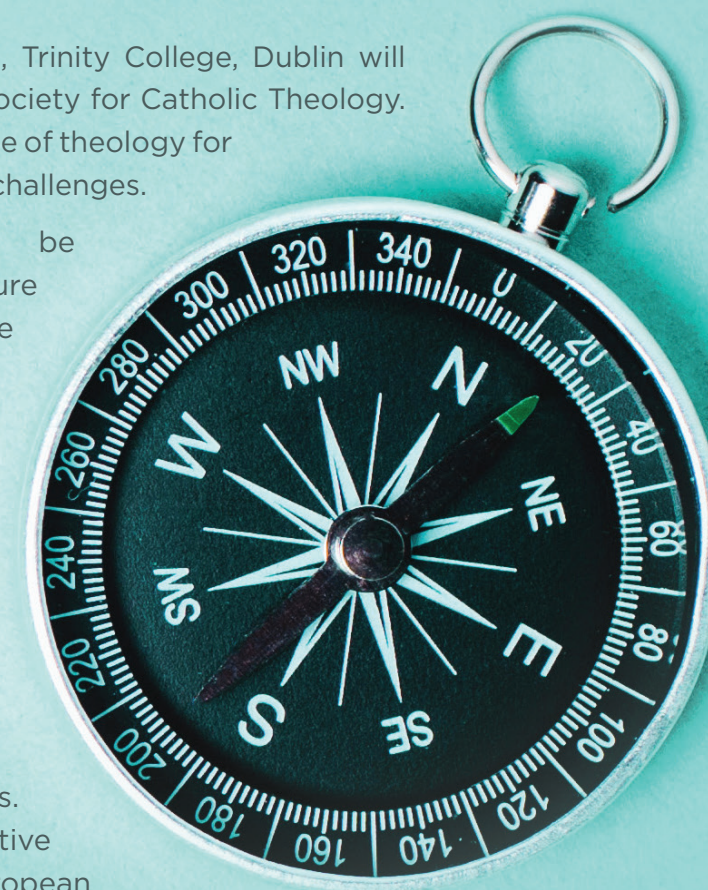
Ad Theologiam PROMOVENDAM

The tasks of theology in Europe today

20th to 23rd of August 2025 – 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. 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.



This conference is sponsored by the Loyola Institute Trust.



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

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



Theologians together in Europe
www.eurotheo.eu



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Wednesday 20th August

11.30 – 13.00 College Chapel Tour followed by the history of Trinity College Dublin

Dr Edward McParland, Fellow Emeritus,
Corinna Salvadori Lonergan, Fellow Emeritus

13.00 Buffet Lunch Long Room Hub

13.45 – 16.15 Junior Scholar Papers: Long Room Hub, Loyola Institute Building

16.30 – 17.00 Research Funding: Maureen Burgess, Research Officer,
Long Room Hub

Registration Opens 16.00 Burke Theatre, Arts Block

17.30 Official Opening – Welcome address

Prof. Carmel O’Sullivan, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Fr Tom Layden, SJ Loyola Trust Chair

Prof. Dr. Kovács Gusztáv, President of the European Society of Catholic Theology: *ESCT and the Role of Friendship for Theology*

18.00 Opening Lecture: *Have we Forgotten God, the Creator?*

Prof. Janet Soskice, Emeritus Professor of Philosophical Theology, University of Cambridge and the William K. Warren, Distinguished Research Professor of Catholic Theology, Duke University Divinity School

Chair: Dr Fáinche Ryan (Vice-president, ESCT)

19.00 – 20.30 Reception, Atrium

Thursday 21st August – MacNeill Theatre, Hamilton Building

9.00 Reading *The Signs Of The Times*

Prof. Tomáš Halík, Charles University, Prague

Chair: Dr Harm Goris (The Netherlands)

10.00 Early medieval Irish theology on the continent. *St Columbanus, St Gall and the Irish manuscripts at the Abbey Library of St Gall*

Prof. Franziska Schnoor

Chair: Dr Catherine Swift (Ireland)

11.00 – 11.30 Tea/Coffee

11.30 – 13.00 CHALLENGES I

Issues at the End of Life: Bridging Evidence-Based Bioethics and Theology

Prof. Paulo Rodrigues, Université Catholique de Lille, France

Issues at the Beginning of Life? Doing Bioethics in an Ecumenical Context

Prof. Sigrid Müller, University of Vienna, Austria

Chair: Dr Annette Langer-Pitschmann (Germany)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 18.00 Parallel Paper Sessions Loyola Institute Building and MacNeill Theatre

18.00 – 19.00 Young Scholars meeting organized by the Young Curatorium
Loyola Institute Building

Friday 22nd August – MacNeill Theatre, Hamilton Building

9.00 *Petite théologie de la mission*

Cardinal Aveline, Archbishop of Marseille, France

Chair: Dr Michael Quisinsky (Editor-in-Chief ET Studies)

10.00 *From Scholars to Designers. From Leaders to Networkers. Doing socially relevant theology*

Prof Antonina Wozna Urbanczak, Katholisch-Theologische Fakultät Graz

Chair: Prof. dr. Ana Thea Filipović (Croatia)

11.00 – 11.30 Tea/Coffee

11.30 – 12.15 CHALLENGES II

11.30 – 12.15 *Specific Patterns of Spiritual Abuse – the German Context*

Dr. Barbara Haslbeck, Archdiocese of Munich and Freising

Chair: Prof. Dr. Dominik Opatrný (Presidium, ESCT)

The Need for Ecclesial Reform

Prof. Eugene Duffy, Emeritus Lecturer, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

Chair: Zuzana Svobodová (Czech)

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch and meetings of Regional Sections

15.00 – 17.30 Parallel Papers

18.15 Congress Eucharist, St. Andrews: Presider Archbishop Eamon Martin

Book Prize Presentation: President of the Evaluation Committee,

Prof. Dr. Margit Eckholt

20.00 Congress Buffet Loyola Institute Building

Saturday 23rd August – MacNeill Theatre Hamilton Building

9.00 – 10.00 *Theology and Mission in an Age of Artificial Intelligence*

Msgr Fr Paul Tighe, Titular Bishop of Drivasto, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Chair: Prof. Dr. Gusztáv Kovács (Presidium, ESCT)

10.00 – 10.30 Tea/Coffee

10.30 – 11.30 *Theology, Europe and the Persistence of War*

Prof. Mark Chapman, University of Oxford

Chair: Dr Mateja Pevec Rozman (Slovenia)

11.30 – 12.00 Closing Remarks

12.00 – 13.30 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CATHOLIC THEOLOGY MacNeill Theatre