



WELCOME TO OUR

CathSoc United Newsletter



A CSN Update



Students up and down the country are hosting great events and activities throughout the week to help others grow in faith, build authentic Catholic community, and to have fun with like-minded people.

Take a look at all the wonderful things happening across the country, and let us know if you'd like to be featured in a future Newsletter!

In this newsletter you will find:



Features from CathSocs from Imperial College, the University of Bristol, the University of Manchester, and the University of Portsmouth

Imperial College

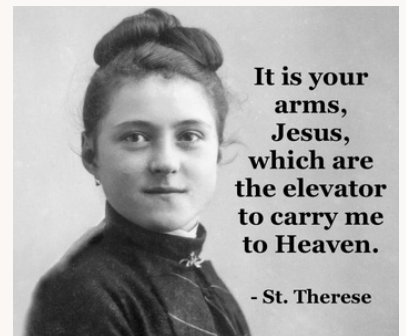
UPDATE, REFLECTION ON HOPE AND ON ASSISTED DYING



Praise God for a great term at Imperial CathSoc, lots of joy and times of fellowship in the quiet after exams. Highlighted in the photos is an event we hosted in May with almost 50 students: London's first Inter-CathSoc MOPS, a new monthly event for Imperial this year. It stands for Mass, fOod, Prayer and Social and has been a real blessing for us to get together and share our faith. We have had a great range of guest speakers; in May, Leo Borchardt, a leading Catholic from the world of law in the City of London. It was particularly encouraging to hear stories of people who made deeper Christian friendships and real accountability partners through meeting at MOPS. A good reminder that if surrendered to Him, Jesus does use our humble efforts for His glory and His kingdom. There have definitely been moments where the committee has been disorganised or missed opportunities, but to paraphrase Pope St John XXIII: it doesn't matter, as Jesus is the one who is really running the show!

Reflection on Hope

Not everything in life goes the way we expect it to. Yes, life can sometimes throw a giant pebble into the quiet waters, life can challenge you in the most unexpected way, life can beat you up and make you feel so small and powerless. Yet, there is hope. Faith is to see possibilities when what's in front seems like a dead end, faith is to understand the providence of God, faith is to trust His power and strength that prevails in our weaknesses and wounds. As St. Therese of Lisieux inspires us, let us take this 'elevator' of the arms of our Lord, and despite our inabilities and littleness, trust in Him completely, allowing Him to 'make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.' (2 Corinthians 9:8)



Reflection on Assisted Dying

The UK's latest attempt to legalise assisted dying—through the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill—has exposed serious tensions between legislative ambition and ethical scrutiny. Passed in the Commons by a very slim 23-vote margin, the bill's rushed debate and weakening of initial safeguards (like removing High Court approval) only highlight how little debate has been afforded to it. For our Catholic community, this represents not only a moral dilemma but also a direct threat to the Church's role in end-of-life care, with Bishops warning of pressure on Catholic hospices and a shift in how society values suffering. These concerns are sharpened by the current heatwave in London, which is straining health and social care systems—raising real fears about whether people may feel forced into assisted death due to inadequate support. As the bill moves to the Lords, it faces a crucial test: can it survive closer scrutiny, or will its weaknesses prove fatal to its passage?

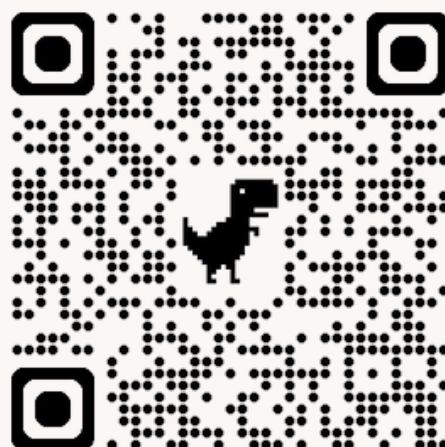
IMPERIAL WORDLE



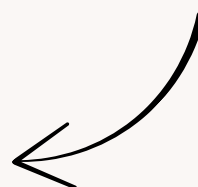
LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



LEVEL 3



University of Bristol

UPDATE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BALANCE, AND PRAYER



About our CathSoc

An important aspect of being a university student is finding the balance between working, playing, praying, and more. For this reason the UoB Cathsoc has conducted a range of activities to help the students achieve this.

For instance, the Easter formal allowed students to relax during deadline season while also connecting with other Catholic students.

A talk by Seraphine Rodrigues, a member of the Church, on Theology of the Body encouraged a deeper understanding of the Catholic teachings of building a family.



Lastly, some of the physical activities such as football and frisbee gave students the opportunity to enjoy some time in the sun and let loose after or during exam season.



We ended the year with the annual Cathsoc barbecue during where we were able to enjoy a lovely meal in beautiful weather while chatting with friends and peers before parting ways for the summer.



A REQUEST FOR PRAYER

- For our CathSoc community, that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit, and continue to grow in faith and friendship together in the community
- For all the alumni members, may God continue to illuminate the faith and hope in their heart as they go on the journey after leaving Cathsoc
- For our men's group, that they will have a new leader, that it will grow and be strengthened by faith
- For the upcoming Cathsoc re-treats, that we will gain peace and joy during the journey together with all other people who share the same faith

University of Manchester

UPDATE, FAITH BASED AND SOCIAL EVENTS, AND PRAYER

The 24/25 academic year has been a super year for the Manchester Catholic Society. We have seen our society grow and evolve with increased attendance. Two socials helped us to push the bar even higher...

Lent Food drive - our whole committee wished to put our faith into action. So, during Lent we started food drives to help local foodbanks. The scheme was a huge success. New students came to the chaplaincy to help, our community came together to support the scheme, and all were eager to donate. We were able to send 32kg of food to a local foodbank in the first week alone!

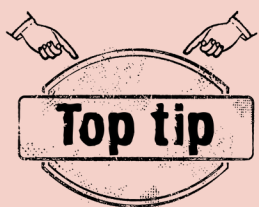
Our most popular social event this year was our Murder Mystery Night. We planned a mystery where one committee member was murdered after a clash at a committee meeting. We were all suspects! Following a series of clues uncovered by our Chaplain Fr Phil, members, in teams, followed these clues - whether general knowledge or questions on our faith - to find the murderer! This brought in a whole load of new people to our society - one of whom is now on the MMU committee!

These two events highlighted to us that although our consistency was key in growing our society this past year, new and fresh ideas that align with what members want is essential in reaching above and beyond. This could be helpful for your society if you think that attendance has plateaued - something a little different could break it!



A REQUEST FOR PRAYER

- For 10 members of our community who have recently been received into the Church!
- We recently passed the 8th anniversary of former student Pedro Ballester. He is in the beginning stage of a path to sainthood - you can read about on the website 'Pedro's Story'
- Five people are about to be received! Please pray for our catechumens as they prepare



To keep your faith strong during the summer, ensure good community, routine, attendance, and friends. Find a young adult community to chat with; build routine in prayer; go to Mass! Go to confession! Go to your local Church and spend time in front of the tabernacle; and finally, just because you are not at university, it does not mean that all those friends you have made in the Catholic Society suddenly disappear! Keep in touch, find time to go to Mass together or pray together over the phone!

University of Portsmouth

ALL THINGS ROSARY PROCESSION!

You should do a Rosary Procession!

“On Saturday 10th May 2025, the University of Portsmouth led a Rosary Procession from St John's Cathedral to the Guildhall Square.

My initial motivation behind a Rosary Procession was last year in 2023, it stemmed from the idea of having more of a sense of community in St John's Cathedral - which is the main Church that people in the Portsmouth area go to.

In the spring of this year, I later advocated for one to take place in a committee meeting where I brought it up. It was only in the meeting when Sister Yadira and Jerrin explained to me the complexities behind such a Church gathering. I later walked home that day feeling very dismayed, so I came up with a plan and thought of everything they had mentioned from phoning the council and getting parishioners to help from the Church. After all, I had never been to one nor organised one, so I spent time learning how to organise one.

A few risk assessments later, a phone call to the parish, and a consultation with the council, I was then given the green light from my committee to make such an event happen!

We began with a mass, where we all processed out of the Cathedral where we congregated around St John's Statue at the West End, where our procession then began.

It started off with our Chaplains giving a brief introduction. I led the first decade from the cathedral to the park.



Then the rest of the committee members led the subsequent decades from the incoming President Sonya, Antonio the incoming Secretary, David our incoming Treasurer, Chaplain Jerrin and of course Fr James the Parish Priest completing the last decade.

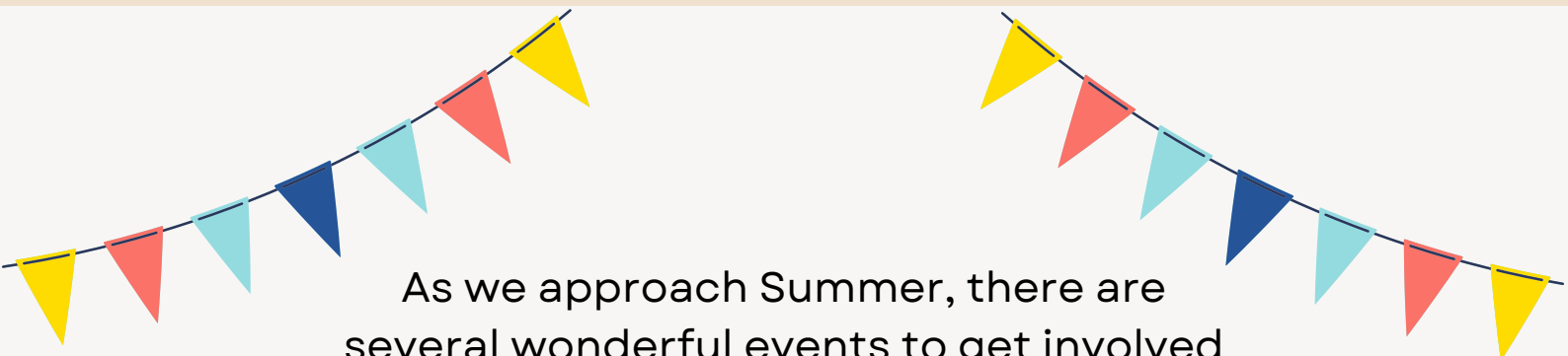
A few beautiful Marian hymns (hand picked by our Mass Coordinator Oakley) back from the Guildhall to the grotto, Fr Tom our Chaplain then completed the Litany. For us to soon all sit down and have a drink together in the Church hall in friendship and faith.”

(Nathan Pinto, President)



WILL YOUR CATHSOC DO ONE?

Summer Events



As we approach Summer, there are several wonderful events to get involved with! Here are just a few - head to our website to find out more

ST BENEDICT WEEK

NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK

WEBELIEVE

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM IN
REPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

CELEBRATE FESTIVAL

BIG CHURCH FESTIVAL

DAVID'S TENT

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

YOUTH 2000 SUMMER FESTIVAL

www.catholicstudentnetwork.co.uk/events