



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, to build authentic Catholic community, and to have fun with like-minded people.

Take a look at all the wonderful things happening across the country!

In this newsletter you will find:



Features from the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Bristol, the University of Lancashire and the University of Southampton

# London School of Economics and Political Science

UPDATE, INTERCATHSOC AND SPEAKING TRUTH IN LOVE



LSE hosted the first inter-Cathsoc social of the year, which had over 100 signups! It was a great opportunity for all those new to London to meet other young Catholics, especially those from other universities. The event was a bring your own food & drink social, hosted on top of the SU building on LSE's campus.

This event built upon the inter-Cathsoc events which were first hosted last year, which have proven to be a great way to connect with other universities!

LSE also held a joint event with KCL Cathsoc at St. Anselm & St. Cecilia's, Holborn. The evening began with Mass and was followed by a pizza social on the terrace of the Church. This was a great way to connect students with the local parish.

## I'm a Catholic, Ask Me Anything!

We have been running a weekly stall on the LSE campus with the sign "I'm A Catholic, Ask Me Anything". This way of connecting with our fellow students at LSE has been very fruitful, and we are grateful for the quality of conversations we have had. Almost all of our interactions have been incredibly respectful, even when entering into deep topics. Some of the most common questions we get are related to the Papacy and Church authority, and why evil and suffering exist if God is all-loving.



One of the most interesting questions we've received is: "How can I explain Jesus to a 5 year old?" - asked by a non-Catholic man married to a Catholic woman, raising a child. This stall is not a debate forum, it's a way for us to have genuine heart-to-heart conversations about topics that are on the hearts of everyone, believers and non-believers alike. It's about 'speaking the truth in love' (Ephesians 4:15).



# University of Bristol

UPDATE, GUEST SPEAKERS, AND FAITH AMIDST STUDIES

## About our CathSoc

This term has been a lively one for Bristol CathSoc! We've welcomed many new faces, as well as reuniting with some old ones. This term has also been packed full of exciting events. Here are a few highlights!

In a fun collab with Bath CathSoc, we hosted a charity fundraiser where we got to enjoy eating delicious pizza (kindly cooked by Angelo) whilst we played board games and made new friends! It was a brilliant way to spend a Saturday and allowed us to raise money to support the crucial work of CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) around the world.

This term we've welcomed many guest speakers who have come to enlighten us with their knowledge. Along with a fascinating talk on Lumen Gentium, 'QnA' session with one of our Chaplains, we also were honoured to welcome some Oxford Dominican Brothers to our Chaplaincy. The Brothers gave an interesting and engaging talk on "How to be a Catholic Student", which was a great source of advice and inspiration for all attendees. Pictured here are members of the CathSoc with the brothers after the talk. Many thanks for all our guest speakers who allow us to grow in knowledge of the faith!



Here is a photo from our CathSoc Bowling Night- where our members laced up their shoes and went to 'The Lanes' for a night of friendly competition. It was a great and joyful event and for many the first-time bowling in years! Social events such as these are what help us grow in friendship and community.

Finally, below is a picture from our annual "Saints and Sinners Party", which we hold in honour of All Saints Day. Here, attendees came dressed as their favourite Saints and got to enjoy drinks, snacks and laughter in celebration of this most sacred feast day!

## The Importance of Faith amidst Studies

There is a famous story about St Thomas Aquinas (one of our patrons!), which goes that, one night, Jesus appeared before him, saying "You have written well of me Thomas, what reward shall you have?". To this, St Thomas responded "Nothing but you Lord". With assessments and deadlines looming, it can be easy to forget about God in the midst of the chaos of university life. We can fill up our to-do-lists with worldly tasks and forget to cultivate our relationship with God- the task we were set on this earth to achieve. Though academia is important, it is crucial to remember that our worth comes not from our grades or achievements, but from the God who loves us more than we can ever know. As C.S.Lewis once said, "He who has God and everything else has no more than he who has God alone".



# University of Lancashire

## UPDATE, ALL SAINTS DAY, AND A SAINTS PUZZLE

Lancashire CathSoc had a great start of the year with Fresher's events like Games Night, CathSoc BBQ and Pizza Bible Study! We are blessed to have new students joining our CathSoc in search of faith and fellowship. Students are also engaging with the Mass by becoming altar servers, readers, EMHC and musicians.

Every Wednesday, we celebrate student Mass at the Oasis Centre and in the evening, we come back to watch and discuss the Bible Timeline Course by Jeff Cavins. Fun fact: this timeline inspired The Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us feel less overwhelmed reading the Bible by exploring Scripture with a better context of the history, tradition and geography of each period.



On Sunday evenings, we gather with students and young adults from St. Wilfrid's Church to have dinner together and discuss 'The Mystery of God: Who God Is and Why He Matters' by Bishop Robert Barron. This has brought out many deep and insightful conversations.

To celebrate All Saints Day, we had a dress up party to share the stories of our favourite saints. There were prizes, photobooths, games, pumpkin carvings of Christian symbols, candied apples to remember the blood and sacrifice of martyrs and lastly ended the night with a Litany of Saints back in the Church.



## A REQUEST FOR PRAYER

ON CHALLENGES BEING FACED TODAY

- Keeping up our spirits despite the looming winter season and exam preparations



### Upcoming:

- CastleRigg Retreat: 'Living Your Catholic Faith'
- Blackpool Illuminations Christmas trip!

# LANCASHIRES WORD SEARCH



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CATHERINE	FRANCIS	RITA	THERESE	JOSEPH
CHRISTOPHER	BERNADETTE	CARLO		
AUGUSTINE	IGNATIUS			



# University of Southampton

## UPDATE, JUBILEE OF HOPE AND A RETREAT

### Jubilee of Hope

This summer, we went to Rome for the Jubilee of Youth. It was an incredible time, where we got to celebrate our faith together while meeting students like us from all around the world, exploring a new country together and celebrating life together. Undoubtedly, the most special moment was the Vigil at Tor Vergata, where over one million young people gathered in Adoration with the Holy Father. Thank you to our Chaplains and the volunteers who made this unforgettable experience possible.



### Spiritual Retreat

As every November, we spend a weekend in the Isle of Wight to disconnect from our daily lives and reconnect with our friends, ourselves and God. This year the theme was: "You are the light of the World". Over the weekend, we celebrated Mass, had confessions, reflected and discussed, and played and prayed together. On Saturday evening, we visited a nearby castle, hosted an amazing talent show and finished with Adoration. The scenery could not have been better, with deer surrounding the retreat house.

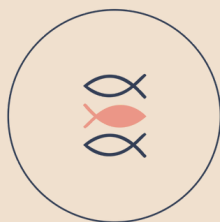
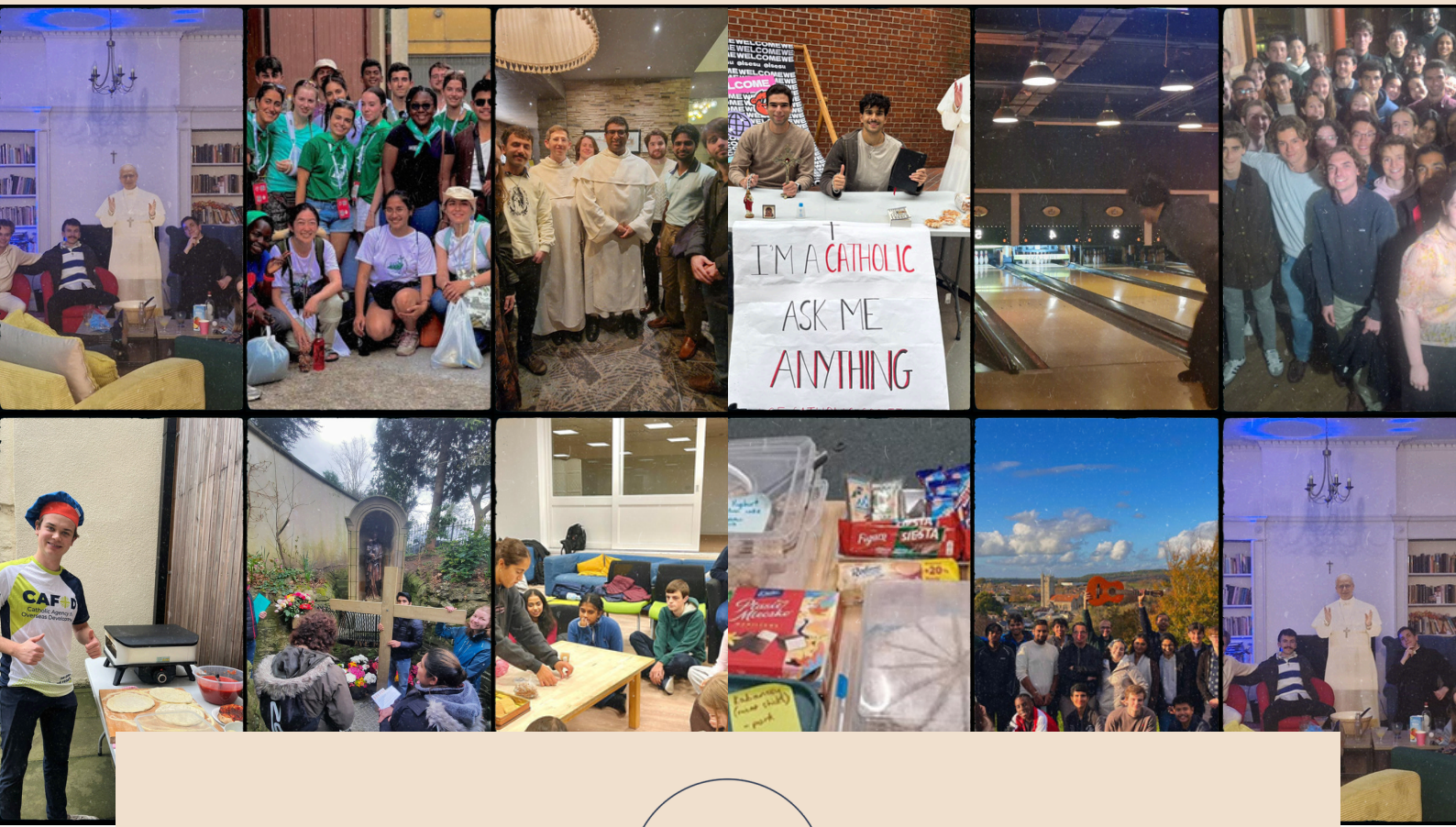
### Academic Year

We started the year with a BBQ organized by our friends the Catenians. We've also had the opportunity to volunteer in neighbouring churches and have had exciting discussions in our weekly CathSoc nights. This semester, we're trying to answer the question: "Why are we Catholic?". Our goal with CathSoc is to help everyone understand their faith, whether they are new to it or not. We've also hosted workshops, like Rosary bracelet making in October, where we learnt why we pray the Rosary, and got to take piece of CathSoc home.



All in all, this year CathSoc has been growing in friendship, faith and numbers, where people come to enquire about the faith but stay for the community. We pray this only continues to improve and to remind ourselves to always have God in the centre of everything we do.





Catholic Student Network

Thank you for reading our CathSoc United  
Newsletter - Autumn Edition 2025.

Please pray for all students who are boldly  
stepping out in faith to share the Good  
News on university campuses across the UK.

If you are part of a CathSoc and you'd like to  
be featured in a future CathSoc United  
Newsletter, please get in touch!