

Call for Abstracts

We welcome two types of abstract proposal, traditional and round table.

Traditional

Please send title, abstract (of up to 300 words) contact details, including institutional affiliation to:

Professor John Lydon:
john.lydon@stmarys.ac.uk

and/or Dr Caroline Healy:
caroline.healy@stmarys.ac.uk

Roundtable

Roundtable discussions are spaces for small groups to explore with others a problem of practice or work in progress. If you would like to talk through this challenge with others who might be in a similar position, write up a summary of your challenge or work in progress and we will coordinate roundtable discussions.

Closing date for abstracts:
31st December 2024

Notice of acceptance will be by
31st January 2025

Costings

- Conference Registration Fee: £100
- Day Delegate rate: £50 per day, inclusive of all catering and refreshments whilst on campus
- Campus Residential Rate (student Accommodation) £205 for the total stay (en suite accommodation including all catering/refreshments on campus).
- Dinner Cruise Cost: £76 per head (optional)
- Concessions for students: £25
- For those who wish to source hotel accommodation, we recommend the Lensbury Hotel – www.lensbury.com

Registration for the Colloquium

Please use this link to registration:
[G.R.A.C.E International Colloquium - 16th-18th June 2025 | St Mary's University Online Store](#)

Special Issue

A special issue of the international peer-reviewed journal, *International Studies in Catholic Education*, the first ever international and interdisciplinary journal devoted to the systematic study of Catholic education, edited by Professor John Lydon in collaboration with the GRACE Steering Committee, is being planned as a result of this Colloquium. Those who wish to have their paper considered for this special issue will be invited to submit their papers by the end of December 2025.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



Second Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education International (GRACE) Colloquium

CALL FOR PAPERS

Mission and Identity in Catholic Education in the 21st Century: Theory and Practice

16th-18th June 2025

in St Mary's 175th Anniversary Year

Confirmed speakers include

Professor James Arthur
Harvard

Josephine Shamwana-Lungu
Diocese of Lusaka

Rev. Professor Rodel Aligan OP
University of Santo Tomas, Manila



The Colloquium

In St Mary's University's special 175th anniversary year, the Steering Group is proud to host the second international Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (GRACE) Colloquium, continuing St Mary's tradition of being the leading university in the UK with a Catholic identity. You are invited to submit papers on contemporary Catholic education on the theme of 'Mission and Identity in Catholic in the 21st Century: theory and practice'.

Catholic education has a global span, with the power to dynamically influence students, create futures and provide enrichment in the wider community and society. The discipline of Catholic education in the past 20 years has emerged as an ever-developing interdisciplinary research field, drawing from education, theology, religion, philosophy, ethics, sociology and history. Catholic education researchers have made significant theoretical contributions to the field, especially in the areas of spiritual capital; Catholic school leadership formation; the maintenance of distinctive religious charisms among lay headteachers, religious education and achieving a balance between academic standards and a holistic education.

The landscape of Catholic education continues to experience significant developments and challenges. The notion of the perennial aspects of Catholic education, in constant dialogue with the transitional educational landscape, will be welcomed. The extent to which Catholic school teachers, leaders and governors embrace the challenge to embed core Catholic education principles and maintain their integral mission, while acknowledging a range of factors challenging the holistic perspective canonised in Catholic tradition, will be sought for this colloquium.



Building on the first GRACE Colloquium 2024, communities of practice will feature prominently in the GRACE Colloquium 2025. Researchers and practitioners are invited, therefore, to submit abstracts addressing this topic. The Steering Group welcomes abstracts from both researchers and those involved in the daily reality of leading schools and education institutes 'on the ground'.

GRACE

Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (G.R.A.C.E) is an international research-based partnership between scholars in Australian Catholic University; Boston College, United States; Edith Cowan University; University of Glasgow; Mary Immaculate College, Limerick; University of Notre Dame Fremantle, Australia; St Mary's University in Twickenham, London., Edith Cowan University, Australia. As an emerging community of practice (Wenger, 2000), G.R.A.C.E. provides an original opportunity for scholars of Catholic education, theology, philosophy, history and social sciences in our respective countries to affirm, study, collaborate and respond meaningfully to challenges we face in the field.

Toward this end, our initiative:

- Seeks a deeper study of ecclesiology and Christian anthropology and its significance for Catholic education
- Pursues new theories of Catholic education based on empirical research
- Strengthens a global argument for the importance of faith-based schools in a plural society
- Attunes educators' abilities to notice, engage, and celebrate the presence of God's grace in the world

This partnership promotes research and learning to develop the head, heart and hands of Catholic education.