

KOINONIA

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH

MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022

The Waldegrave Drawing Room,

St Mary's University

Twickenham, London



On Monday 5th September, following 18 months of preparation, *Koinonia* was formally launched in the beautiful surroundings of the Waldegrave Drawing Room, St Mary's University, Twickenham.

The core principles are simple: as Catholic schools of whatever type, sharing a common vision, united by our values and enjoying a high degree of trust, both within and between our institutions, we should use this very special relationship as a force for good:

Developing our staff

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Enriching our pupil experience

Strengthening our core identity as excellent places of research-rich learning, great places to work and faithful Catholic schools



'A distinctive feature of its (the Catholic school's) ecclesial nature is that it is a school for all, especially the weakest.'

Instruction of the Congregation for Catholic Education, 'The Identity of the Catholic school for a culture of dialogue' (2022) (#22)

A POWERFUL STATEMENT OF INTENT

Many of our *Koinonia* schools are schools of the Portsmouth diocese, though not all. *Koinonia* reflects the excellent relationships which exist between the schools, and also our role in helping deliver the Bishop's vision for education. Therefore, it was important to have, as our special guest, Catherine Hobbs, [second from left], the Diocesan Director of Education for the Diocese of Portsmouth.



The trust and commitment shown by our school leaders is powerfully matched by that of our partner University, St Mary's, Twickenham.

Committing to a three-year partnership and underpinning our desire to be research-rich institutions, Vice Chancellor, Anthony McClaran spoke of St Mary's longstanding commitment to teacher formation, its deeply-held Catholic identity and how *Koinonia* represents an exciting addition to this most honourable tradition.

*"Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much."* **Helen Keller**

As you know, the task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom' **Pope Benedict XVI** address to educators, St Mary's University, 2010



A WIDE RANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MARK THE OCCASION

Our guests included senior staff from St Mary's, academics, school Governors, Headteachers, students and Diocesan representatives. The atmosphere was one of thanksgiving for what has been achieved and a sense of positive anticipation about what is to come. Our schools have endured, and in many ways, many have thrived, during this most challenging of times. We have never had so clear a lesson in the centrality of moral purpose to our mission as schools, and our individual calling as educators, as in recent years.



"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." **Henry Ford**

EVERY ENTERPRISE, WORTHY OF ITS NAME. CARRIES RISK

Programme Director, Simon Uttley, charted the Koinonia story, from its inception as the subject of an in-house research paper four years ago to today's launch. He emphasised that the fast-moving educational landscape was a fact of life for school leaders, and for leaders of universities, but that a commitment to deep collaboration, research-rich teaching and an ever-clearer understanding of the uniqueness of Catholic learning institutions transcended such passing, though all-too-frequent, political groundswells. Simon also paid tribute to the late Professor Anthony Towey, a founding architect of CERRL and a much-loved member of the university community, who had been so supportive of this venture.



KOINONIA – OUR INTERNATIONAL REACH AND AFFILIATE PROGRAMME

In the last year we were delighted to welcome into the *Koinonia* family our first International Affiliate, St John Bosco, -Bardejov, Slovakia. Pictured with Simon is, to his left, Sue Matthews, who, as Executive Co-ordinator, has been critical in what has so far been achieved. On Simon's right, Martin Smilnak, Headteacher of St John Bosco and passionate about developing a collaborative approach.

*Schools working together
leads to better results*

*UK Department for
Education, (2010) The
importance of teaching:*



Moving forward, we have been approached by several schools outside the Catholic family who have expressed an interest to join us, on the understanding they embrace our core principles with due regard to their own ethos. This is being carefully considered, as is sharing our template with other groups of schools, such that they can progress in a similar way.

THE CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND RELIGIOUS LITERACY

Professor Annalise Gordon, professor of education at the Institute of Education, St Mary's, a member of the Koinonia Steering Group and an integral part of the St Mary's contribution to the Koinonia story, spoke on the place of the Cerrl Research centre at St Mary's. Understood principally in the context of schools, colleges and parishes, the work of the Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy (CERRL) embraces dialogue with the wider religious, social and cultural matrices of our time. Identifying *Koinonia* as a natural fit and an exciting venture for the research centre, she went on to foreground the many ways St Mary's is committed to ongoing development of teaching staff, through its range of high-quality programmes.



So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 1 Corinthians 3:7.



KOINONIA IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSOR,
SECURUS SOFTWARE REPRESENTED BY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MR BERNARD
SNOWE, AND BY EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,
MR DEREK ALLEN

'A true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which, as man, he is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, he will share.' *Gravissimum Educationis – Declaration of Christian Education, (1965) (#1)*

KOINONIA MEANS FELLOWSHIP AND THE ARCHETYPE OF FELLOWSHIP IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST



It was entirely fitting that the launch of *Koinonia* began with the celebration of the eucharist, in the beautiful surroundings of the University chapel, led by university chaplain Fr Peter Newby. While it is true that much of *Koinonia*'s reach is found in the delivery of technical support for schools, its foundation is entirely an action of faith, driven by the unique relationships that exist between Catholic schools. At the eucharist, we believe that Christ is present in the fullness of his divine and human natures; it means that he is present under the sacramental appearances with the totality of his divine attributes. In our schools we believe he is present in our mission of education.

FOLLOW THE *KOINONIA* STORY, THE ONGOING WORK OF THE CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND RELIGIOUS LITERACY AND ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY



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