



AGENDA

The Annual General Meeting will be held
on Tues 4th November at 5.00 pm
in Aula Magna (first floor hall), London Jesuit
Centre, 114 Mount Street London W1K 3AY

AGENDA – Formal business

Item

- 1 Welcome by the Chairman and Prayers
To receive the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024.
- 2 To appoint the independent examiner of the next financial statements.
- 3 To declare elected those candidates nominated for positions with no more candidates than vacancies.
To confirm vice-Presidents retiring by rotation and appointed during the year
- 4 Presentation to winner of Catholic Young Writer 2025
- 5 *Officers, Staff and Volunteers are available to answer questions from members.*

The meeting will be followed at 18.00 by Mass, followed by a reception.

Martin Foley

Secretary

CATHOLIC YOUNG WRITER AWARD

Sponsored by the Catholic Union of Great Britain Charitable Trust

News of the 2025 Award

The Catholic Young Writer Award was launched over 30 years ago by The Keys, the Catholic Writers' Guild of England and Wales. It was taken on by the Catholic Union some 15 years ago, as the Guild found it was growing too fast for a small organisation to run. Perhaps we might however take this as a good moment to thank Antony Tyler CBE, who as Master of The Keys initiated the project and helped to make it the success it has become over the years.

The 2025 Award attracted 124 entries from Catholic secondary schools across Britain. A major new challenge for the Award – as for so many of us in so many fields – is Artificial Intelligence, AI. It is all too easy for any school pupil simply with a few clicks to get an essay written in any style he or she wishes. To combat this, we ruled that all entries for the 2025 Award must be hand-written only.

The question set was CS Lewis' statement on Christ:

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd either be a lunatic on a level with a man who says he's a poached egg, or else he'd be a devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse”. (1952).

The winner of the Award will be announced at the Catholic Union AGM on November 4th and wins a £50 cash prize, plus some books. There will be a large number of runner-up prizes (books) which will be posted to the various schools.

Warm thanks to the Catholic Union team, especially Louisa Collyer-Hamlin who has been wonderful at tackling the entries as they arrive by email, and to Fr Christopher Pearson of the Church of the Most Precious Blood at London Bridge who has been the Post Restante for the essays arriving by mail.

We believe the Award is making a useful contribution to the task of helping young Catholics to explain and defend the central truths of the Faith, and to become enthusiastic evangelists in their turn.

Joanna Bogle

Catholic Young Writer Award 2025