

The Meaning of Money Colloquium

Organisers

Dr Agnieszka Wincewicz-Price

Dr Jonathan Price

Dr Mehmet Ciftci

Pusey House, Oxford

Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th November 2025

One might think that economists are best suited to explain the meaning of money. However, most academic economists hardly ever publish on the meaning of money. Their definitions of money as a medium of exchange, unit of account, and store of value do not get us far in understanding either the major dilemmas or great opportunities that money creates. Avoiding the meaning of money is arguably what allows economics the conceit of being a ‘value-free science’.

Yet, money is not simply a neutral, if scarce, resource, but also a powerful instrument. It is also malleable enough to become an end in itself, and even - as Jesus warns us - one’s master. Even Marx perceived it as ‘very intricate, full of metaphysical quibbles and theological quirks’. And it can be a great blessing: the reverse side of Christian charity is often the reception of money as a gift. The use of money has profound consequences, not merely for the ‘health’ of balance sheets and financial systems, but more importantly for the health of society and of one’s soul.

Speakers and participants from business, the academy, and the Church will consider the value of approaching the meaning of money from the perspective of virtue ethics.

- What is money (for)?
- Does money have a moral character?
- Is money necessary for human flourishing?
- Which virtues are needed to use money in a way that promotes human flourishing?
- Could we speak sensibly of a theology of money?
- What should the relation of the Church be to money?

The Conference includes public lectures at 4pm on Wednesday 5th November by Professor Bruni and Dr Klammer. Tea and coffee will be served in the Hood Room from 3:30 pm.

More information available [here](#).

Tickets (£25 or £10 for students/unwaged) [here](#).

Please email pusey.conference@stx.ox.ac.uk with any queries.

Conference Schedule

Wednesday 5th November 2025

1:45–2:00. *Welcome to the Conference and opening remarks by Dr Jonathan Price.*

Session 1

2:00–3:30.

2:00–2:30. Lord Griffiths: ‘Does money have a moral character?’

2:30–2:45. Q&A.

2:45–3:15. Edward Skidelsky: ‘Avarice as a spiritual vice’

3:15–3:30. Q&A.

3:30–4:00. *Coffee Break.*

Public *Recollection* Lectures. Moderated by Dr Jonathan Price

4:00–4:30. Luigino Bruni: ‘Jesus as the “good money-changer”’

4:30–5:00. Arjo Klammer: ‘The limited role and the problematic meanings of money in the human economies’.

5:00–5:20. Q&A with both speakers.

Evening Divine Service (*optional*)

5:30–6:00. Evensong. Preacher: The Reverend Paul Gismondi.
(Roman Catholic Mass available at Blackfriars next door at 6pm)

Dinner (*by invitation*)

7:00–7:30. Drinks Reception in the Library.
7:30. Dinner in the Hood Room.

Thursday 6th November 2025

Morning Divine Service (*optional*)

7:30–8:00. Morning Prayer.
8:00–8:30. Mass (Anglican Communion service; Roman Catholic Mass is available at Blackfriars next door at 7:30am).

A light breakfast will be served in the Hood Room to those who attend Morning Prayer/Mass.

9:00–9:30am. *Opening remarks by Dr Jonathan Price.*

Session 2

9:30–11:00.

9:30–10:00. Brad Barlow: 'Is money necessary for human flourishing?'
10:00–10:30. Edward Hadas: 'Money, Time, and Greed: A Moral Ontology'.
10:30–10:40. Sister Margaret Atkins OSA. Response to previous papers.
10:40–11:00. Q&A.

11:00–11:30. Coffee break.

Session 3

11:30–1:00.

11:30–12:00. Luke Bretherton: 'Does the Christian tradition's historic opposition to usury have something to teach us today about the power of money?'
12:00–12:15. Q&A.
12:15–12:45. Lyndon Drake: 'Imperial power and monetisation in ancient Israel and the Bible'.
12:45–1:00. Q&A.

1:00–2:00. Lunch break.

Session 4

2:00–3:30.

2:00–2:30. Philip Booth: 'How can Catholic Social Teaching help us to understand better the meaning and virtuous use of money?'

2:30–2:45. Q&A.

2:45–3:15. Ben Nicka: 'Reintegrating Investing in the Moral Order as a Method of De-Commodifying Money'.

3:15–3:30. Q&A.

3:30–3:50. Comfort break.

Session 5

3:50–5:20.

3:50–4:20. Robert Skidelsky: 'What is money good for?'

4:20–4:50. Gordon Menzies: 'Echoes of the Bible in behavioural research on money'.

4:50–5:05. Q&A.

5:05–5:20. Agnieszka Wincewicz-Price: Summary Remarks.

Evening Divine Service (*optional*)

5:30–6:00. Evensong.