



europäische allianz katholischer frauenverbände
european alliance of catholic women's organisations
alliance européenne d'organisations féminines catholiques

andante Study Days 2026

25th–28th September 2026

Walsingham, Norfolk, England

March 2026

20 years of andante: The future is now. 20 Jahre andante: Die Zukunft ist jetzt. 20 ans d'andante: l'avenir, c'est maintenant.

Dear Members and Friends of **andante**,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the next **andante** Study Days.

Synodality promises listening, dialogue, and shared decision-making. Yet for many women, this transformation in the Church remains elusive.

After two decades of giving European women space to learn and build strength together, **andante** asks:

If the change we hoped for has not happened:

- How can we work together to make vital changes in the Church?
- How can we strengthen the resilience and influence of women in the synodal process?
- How can we organise ourselves to create a future that is truly participatory and equal in a world where democracy is threatened?

As **andante** marks its 20th anniversary, we gather not only to reflect, but to act. Through input from inspiring speakers, shared exchanges, and practical workshops, we will seek new ways to make women's participation visible and effective. Together, we will identify concrete steps towards a Church and world where equality, dialogue, and shared leadership are lived — not merely discussed.

This anniversary is a recommitment: the Church won't transform through documents alone, but needs courageous women and communities who dare to act now.

The theme “The Future Is Now” challenges us to move beyond waiting and wishing. It calls us to embody the renewal we long for — in how we lead, how we listen, and how we act together. Synodality can still become transformative, but only if we take responsibility for making it real in our churches, our organisations, and our societies.

There is no future without us.

We warmly invite you to join us from 25–28 September 2026, to celebrate, to learn, and to act. Together, let us make this future visible happen — here and now.

The Study Days will start on Friday, 25th September 2026, with supper and end on Monday, 28th September 2026, after breakfast. Registration via our website is already open.

andante Secretariat: secretariat@andante-europa.net • www.andante-europa.net

IBAN: NL68 INGB 0005 1432 88 • BIC: INGB NL2A

Friday, 25th September 2026

Arrival, Supper, Welcome Evening

Saturday, 26th September 2026

The future is now

Morning keynote speeches and presentations:

A Chance of a Lifetime?

- Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ, theologian at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge University, Great Britain

It is 5 past 12. Women's leadership in action in the Church of the future

- Dr Irme Stetter-Karp, president of the Committee of German Lay Catholics (ZDK), Germany

Report about *andante's* representation at the CINGO of the CoE

- Sabine Slawik, representative of *andante* at CINGO, Germany

Afternoon workshops:

How can Catholic Social Teaching help women AND Catholic women's organisations reduce structural disadvantage in society?

- Dr. Maria van den Muijsenbergh, Emeritus Professor of Health Disparities and person-centred integrated primary care, president of Katholiek Vrouwendispuut (KVD), The Netherlands

Surprisingly different catholic. A huge step forward: securing the future of a Catholic women's organisation,

- Katharina Jost Graf, co-president of Frauenbund Schweiz, Switzerland

Yoga with meditation

- Paula D'Attoma, yoga therapy practitioner, Great Britain

Sunday, 27th September 2026

Building the Future Together

Morning keynote speeches and presentations:

Rooted and Rebellious: A Young Catholic Woman's Journey to Leadership and Authentic Community

- Julia Osęka, Theology and Religion Research Master's student at KU Leuven, Synod on Synodality Delegate, Poland

Does synodality have the potential for transformation for women?

- Dr Avril Baigent, Co-Founder and Director of the School for Synodality, Diocese of Northampton, Great Britain

Afternoon working and plenary sessions

Organising for Change. Collecting all learning and inspiration and putting them into an action plan for *andante* and member organisations

- Weronika Felcis, co-president of *andante*, and Agnieszka Zarzyńska, member of CoCoA *andante*, Poland

Closing plenary session

***andante* Mass and Liturgy**

Monday, 28th September 2026

Departures

Programme outline

**In the evening,
Jubilee Celebration
20 years of *andante***



Participation

We want to invite women from all levels of the andante member organisations – from the local, the regional, the diocesan and the national levels, as well as Friends of andante and other interested women to come to the Study Days.

As our working languages are English, French and German, it is necessary that the participants are proficient in at least one of these languages. There will be simultaneous translation provided and discussion groups in all three languages.

Registration

Please note you must register via our website www.andante-europa.net for the Study Days.
Registration is now open.

Costs/Participation fee

The deadline for registration and payment is 30th June 2026.

Participation fee: 500€

Member Organisations from Eastern Europe: 150€

Transport cost from Norwich Airport/Norwich Railway station to the conference centre: pay on the spot £ 25 approx.

The unsubsidised price p.p. is much higher. We would be very grateful to all those who can afford to pay a fee of 850 €.

The participation fee includes accommodation, all meals, coffee/tea during the breaks, interpretation and technical services.

There is an opportunity to share rooms. So please specify in the registration form with whom you would like to share.

Please note that the full payment of the fee at the *andante* bank account is due with the registration. Your place is secure only after we receive your payment.

ANDANTE Europese Alliantie v.Kath. Vrouwenver

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Address of the Conference Centre

Walsingham Anglican Pilgrimage Centre

The Milner Wing, Common Place, Walsingham. NR22 6BP

<https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk>





Walsingham Anglican Pilgrimage Centre The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Founded by the Lady Richeldis in 1061, destroyed by Henry VIII in 1538, and restored in 1922, the Shrine has had an eventful history across nearly a thousand years. This medieval place of pilgrimage, which rivalled Canterbury as a destination, was visited by thousands of pilgrims from all across Britain and Europe. It became known as 'England's Nazareth' because of the vision which Lady Richeldis experienced. Today, after 350 years of post-Reformation neglect, the past 95 years have witnessed the dramatic restoration of pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Travel information

The nearest airports are Norwich (KLM via Amsterdam) and London Stansted (STN). If you fly to Stansted, there are direct trains from Stansted Airport to Norwich Station.

We will organise one transfer from Norwich Airport and Norwich Station. The time for the coach will be Friday, 5 pm at Norwich Station and 5.30 pm at the airport (to meet the KLM flight from Amsterdam in the afternoon). The return coach to Norwich Airport and Norwich Station will leave on Monday after breakfast. Transfer costs will be approximately £25 to be paid in Walsingham.

You can book trains yourself approximately 3 months before the event. Ticket prices will be far lower the more in advance you book. If you want to go by train to Kings Lynn or Sheringham (the nearest train stations), you can also personally book a taxi. The taxi fare from Sheringham to Walsingham is £35, from Kings Lynn station to Walsingham is £57.50, and from Norwich airport to Walsingham is £57.50

Further practical information will be sent to all participants later. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. For any questions, please contact: secretariat@andante-europa.net

We are looking forward to welcoming you, renewing old friendships and making new ones, celebrating our jubilee, as well as sharing a very interesting programme in Great Britain.

For the Coordinating Committee of **andante**

Sophie Rudge

Weronika Felcis

Sophie Rudge and Weronika Felcis, Co-Chairs

