

# Christianity in the Middle East today: Present challenges and future perspectives



*Joint Conference of the Centre for Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College, University of London and the Living Stones of the Holy Land Trust in association with the Centre for World Christianity, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London*

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Marie Eugenie Room, Heythrop College, University of London

**All are welcome**

**Conference fee £15.00 per day**

(to be paid on the day)

For further information please contact

Kristian Girling <k.girling@heythrop.ac.uk>

## **Conference Programme:**

### **Friday**

**Conference Introduction and Welcome 10:50-11:00**

Mary Grey (Chair of Trustees, Living Stones and Emeritus Professor, University of Wales, Lampeter) and Anthony O'Mahony (Director Centre for Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College)

**Christianity in Iraq: Present challenges and future perspectives 11:00-12:30**

Erica Hunter (School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London), Suha Rassam (ICIN), Kristian Girling (Heythrop College, University of London)

## **Friday (continued)**

**Lunch** 12:30-13:15

**Coptic Christianity in contemporary Egypt** 13:15-14:15

Mariz Tadros (Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex)

**The Armenian Church and Tradition Today** 14:15-15:15

Rev. Vrej Nersessian (Emeritus, Oriental Department, British Library)

**Break** 15:15-15:45

**Syriac Christianity in the modern Middle East** 15:45-16:45

Sebastian Brock (The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford)

**Reflections on Eastern Christianity and Muslim-Christian relations in Syria - a western Christian perspective** 16:45-17:30

Revd. Andrew Ashdown (Theology Group, Living Stones of the Holy Land Trust)

## **Saturday**

**Christianity in Syria: Present challenges and future perspectives** 10:30-12:00

Rev. Nadim Nassar and Huda Nassar (Awareness Foundation & Theology Group, Living Stones of the Holy Land Trust),

**One More Bridge to cross: Syrian Refugees in Greece on their Way to Paradise**  
12:10-13:00

Gerasimos Makris (Associate Professor of Social Anthropology at the Panteion University, Athens)

**Lunch** 13:00-13:45

**Christianity in the Holy Land** 13:45-14:45

Sr Bridget Tighe FMDM

**Christian churches in Jordan: political, religious and communal context** 15:00-15:50

Paolo Maggiolini (Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) and the Catholic University of Milan)

**Break** 15:50-16:00

**Christianity in Jerusalem: social relations, border makings and their crossing**  
16:00-16:40

Georgios Tsourous (School of Anthropology, University of Kent)

**Final Reflection – The Future of Christianity in the Middle East** 16:40-17:30

Hratch Tchilingirian (The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford);  
Anthony O'Mahony, (Heythrop College, University of London)

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