

FROM THE PRINCIPAL, Father Dragos Herescu



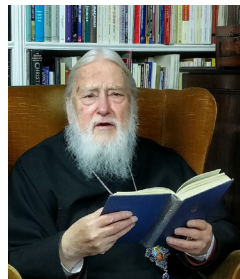
**Dear Friends,
Supporters, and
Students of IOCS,**

I am delighted to share with you our 2022-23 Christmas and New Year's Newsletter. We hope that you will get a sense of all the activities that the Institute has been engaged in this past year, but also that you will take note of the rich list of events that IOCS is planning in the New Year. I do hope that you will think of these as opportunities to join in, either on-site or via the internet, or that you will spread the word about them to your friends.

For the Institute, 2022 has equally been a year of both great rejoicing and of deep sadness. We have felt a renewed sense of support from many of our friends and donors, especially those who responded generously to our two major fundraising and development appeals: the Saint Sophrony Doctoral Scholarship (with the blessing of St John the Baptist Monastery in Essex) and our appeal for the establishment of a Lectureship in Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies at the Institute. We are still some way towards reaching our fundraising goals for these two projects. If you can help, either by donating or by letting potential donors know about them, please do. The Newsletter has more details about these projects and how you can help, on the following pages.

This year, all of us at the Institute mourned the passing to the Lord of two extraordinary people, who have been part and parcel of the IOCS family: our beloved Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, one of the Founding Fathers of the Institute, almost 25 years ago, and Dr Christine Mangala Frost, one of our Research Associates and a dear personal friend.

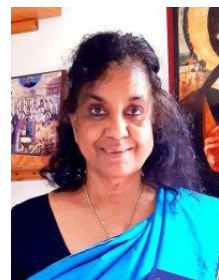
Metropolitan Kallistos stands above and beyond anyone else in the last two decades as the person who shaped, in spirit and by direct action – both by teaching and benefaction – the identity and direction of the Institute in Cambridge. He was involved with the Institute from the very beginning and served as Chair of Trustees for many years, then continuing as a Director and President of IOCS until his falling asleep in August 2022. His letter of support for the foundation of the Institute, dated 25th May 1999, spells out both his faith in the role of IOCS for Orthodoxy in Britain (and beyond) and a vision for the Institute, which stands true until today, i.e., a centre rooted in the treasures of Orthodoxy, with a witnessing vocation and open to Christians of all traditions.



"I am convinced that the Institute will make a positive and greatly needed contribution to the life of the Orthodox Church ... [and] it will also assist the growing number of other Christians who wish to obtain a serious knowledge of the Orthodox tradition. [...] This is a deeply encouraging venture, of the utmost importance for the future witness of Orthodoxy in this land, and it deserves the fullest support."

Dr Christine Mangala Frost dedicated much of her mature research years, at the Institute, to the same vision of generous Orthodoxy, in dialogue with other Christians and even other faiths. Because of her initial upbringing and background in Hinduism, as an Orthodox Christian of more than 30 years, Mangala became an authoritative voice in addressing aspects of inter-religious dialogue and spirituality pertaining to Orthodoxy and Hinduism. She lectured and wrote with

clarity and discernment on Yoga and the Christian Faith, meditation and prayer (the Jesus Prayer). Her most recent book, 'The Human Icon: A Comparative Study of Hindu and Orthodox Christian Beliefs' (2017) was an extraordinary tour de force addressing the differences and points of similarity between Christianity (Orthodoxy in particular) and Hinduism, as both religions seek to realise the divine potential of every human being. Above all, I knew Mangala as a committed follower of Christ, living out, with delicacy and love, what I have come to call "the holiness of daily life" – which often remains unseen (except to the Lord), and becomes clear to everyone else when the person departs to the Lord.



The Institute has been blessed to share so much of its history with righteous, erudite, and generous figures like that of Metropolitan Kallistos and Mangala. We continue to pray for them and continue our bond of love, even as we honour their legacy and vision by our witness, research, and teaching as the Orthodox centre in Cambridge.

Thank you to all who continue to actively support the Institute by donations, goodwill, and prayers. We are very grateful to you because we recognise this help as a blessing. We would not be able to do what we do without your help. The Institute needs continued and growing support, so we welcome and pray that God will grow the number of those lending their aid to us!

I wish you all a blessed Feast of the Nativity of the Lord and a Happy New Year!

ONLY £5 PER MONTH: APPEAL FOR THE IOCS E-LIBRARY COLLECTION

This is an appeal to our friends, supporters, and online followers of IOCS: we need your help in improving and updating our electronic library collection. To this end we are asking you to consider lending or renewing your support to the Institute by making a suggested **£5 monthly donation (roughly \$5.88 or €5.70)**.

Why do we need your help? The Institute is teaching overwhelmingly by distance learning – particularly since the pandemic. Our students and researchers rely greatly on our burgeoning online collection. This demand increases every day, so we need to purchase a significant

number of e-books or pay for access to e-journals – which would complement our existing physical library here in Cambridge (photo – bottom of page).

So, please help us in our mission to provide students, from all over the world, access to relevant and up-to-date library resources in electronic format. You too could benefit from our electronic collection one day!

If you can, do set up a £5 per month donation (or more, if you are able).

If only 100 of our friends were to donate, we could already reach a comprehensive and sustainable e-book collection this academic year!

You can set your donation at: <https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/donate-to-the-iocs-e-library-collection/>



APPEAL FOR THE LECTURESHIP IN ORTHODOX AND ECUMENICAL STUDIES

The Orthodox ecumenical perspective of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge (IOCS) is unique: it translates its daily ecumenical practice into theological structures that speak fluently to both East and West. This we have witnessed in our daily interactions with colleagues and friends from the Cambridge Theological Federation over two decades.

Today radicalising discourses and anti-ecumenical attitudes tend to dominate. Orthodox unity itself is being challenged. Thus we feel that a balanced, critical yet open Orthodox voice

for dialogue and reconciliation is essential. Through IOCS that voice is here already, but it needs support to succeed. Setting up a Lectureship in Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies, in perpetuity, will ensure that Orthodoxy remains an essential part of the ecumenical dialogue in Cambridge. This will keep an open portal both towards the wider Christian world for the Orthodox, and towards the riches of Orthodoxy for the other traditions.

Our fundraising goal is to secure funds for an initial 3-year period, at £45,000 per year.

For more info please go to: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/appeal-for-the-iocs-lectureship-in-ecumenism/

PATRONS OF THE APPEAL

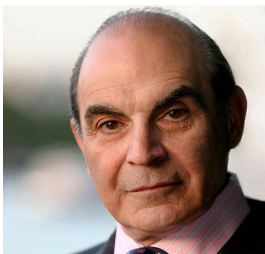


† Metropolitan Kallistos Ware
(1934-2022):

Our former President gave his endorsement for this Lectureship not long before his passing to the Lord:

'I am pleased to have been asked to be a Patron of the appeal launched by the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies to raise funds to establish a Lectureship in Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies.

The Institute has been providing a unique study centre over the past 23 years and I believe that this position will add greatly to its continuing resources and contribution. I give my blessing to this appeal and to the work of the Institute and am pleased to be associated with it.'



Sir David Suchet:

'Since my conversion to Christianity in 1986 and still ongoing, I've been continually confused, frustrated and often in despair when I witness the Christian faith and its Church, the faith to which I adhere as a faith which is and has been for centuries divided either by heresy, schism or politics. I am

however convinced that what unites all Christians is far greater than what divides us. I'm therefore delighted and encouraged to learn that the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge (IOCS for short) is now launching a fundraising appeal for a Lectureship in Ecumenical Studies. Given the context of today and what is happening in politics and religion, especially with the frightening escalation of wars and barbaric terrorism in the name of religion, Christianity can no longer afford to exist as a faith which is perceived as and indeed is a faith that is divided. The cliché is true: united we stand, divided we fall. ***Since its inception, the IOCS in Cambridge has manifested a generous and open Orthodoxy and continues to have a welcoming and inquisitive attitude toward the treasures of the Spirit in other Christian traditions – whilst at the same time, of course, remaining firmly in touch with the richness of Orthodox theology.*** As such the IOCS is perfectly placed to become the balanced, critical and open Christian voice in ecumenical studies. This voice is not only to be welcomed, but is essential and if Christians take seriously our Lord's prayer that we all be one (John 17:21), then Christians must do everything we can to collaborate with other Christians who essentially believe the same about the historic faith grounded in Jesus the Christ. I am therefore really delighted to support this appeal for a Lectureship in Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies as

a Patron, and may I please encourage you all to lend your financial support – and, if this is difficult, to lend your prayerful support – to this most essential project.'

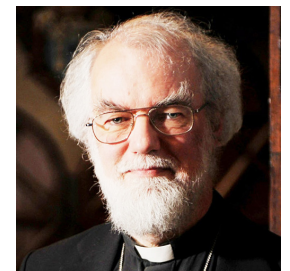


Dame Mary Tanner:

'The Orthodox have been major contributors to the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century and continue to be so today. Orthodox scholars and church leaders have made important contributions to the work of the World Council of Churches, not least of all to the Faith and Order Commission which seeks to understand and overcome things that keep churches apart. They are also involved in many bilateral dialogues and national and regional councils of churches. As a result, many Christians have come to treasure gifts they have received from Eastern Christianity.

The Cambridge Theological Federation is blessed to have the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies as one of its member institutions opening up, for those studying for ministry or undertaking research, the riches of Orthodox thought, art and liturgy. Many alumni of the Federation speak with gratitude for this when looking back at their time in the Federation. The plan that IOCS now has to set up a Lectureship in

Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies is an exciting one with the potential of strengthening further the Orthodox contribution within the Federation but much more widely as well. It deserves support. I know how much my own life and work has been enriched by encountering Eastern Christian thought and spirituality.'



Archbishop Rowan Williams:

'One of the most promising developments in academic theology and religious studies in recent years has been a deeper engagement with the rich and complex heritage of Eastern Christianity in all its forms. This is not simply about texts and traditions, however; the living experience of Eastern Christian communities – in Eastern Europe, in the Middle East, in all sorts of diaspora situations – is more visible and more significant in the Western world than ever. It is essential to have a context where careful and honest scholarship in these matters is nurtured, and where there is the opportunity of interaction with the best of British scholarship in theological, historical and sociological disciplines. ***The proposal of a new appointment in Cambridge is a profoundly positive and exciting one, a natural outgrowth from the sterling work done by the IOCS over the years, and it deserves the strongest support.***

METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS WARE AND THE FOUNDING OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES IN CAMBRIDGE

By Revd Dr John A. Jillions

Father John was the founding Principal of IOCS (1997-2003). He is currently a Visiting Professor at the Institute while also being associated with the Faculty of Theology at Fordham University. His latest book, Divine Guidance: Lessons for Today from the World of Early Christianity appeared in 2020 at Oxford University Press.

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware is universally associated with the University of Oxford, but for 25 years he was also intimately involved in the details of founding, inspiring, directing, and nurturing the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge. I worked closely with him from its early days in 1997 and then as its first principal from 1999 to 2003. The details of his involvement and how this project that began as an improbable dream came to life should be a matter of record as we mourn his passing.

First, some background. I'd written to Bishop Kallistos in early 1994 to ask about doctoral studies in New Testament at Oxford and received an encouraging reply. But in the end, largely to become familiar with Orthodox life in Greece, I went to the University of Thessaloniki to study under Prof Petros Vassiliadis and write a dissertation on divine guidance in the era of the New Testament. After a year in Greece, he recommended that I continue my doctoral research in Cambridge. So in August 1995 I arrived in Cambridge with my wife Denise and our three young sons, and took up a desk at Tyndale House, an exceptional residential biblical research library. Ecclesiastically, I was on leave of absence from the Orthodox Church in America and was serving under Metropolitan Anthony Bloom in the Diocese of Sourozh. I was attached to the parish of St Ephraim in Cambridge, which at the time was served by Bishop Basil Osborne who would come up from Oxford to serve the Divine Liturgy at St Edmund's College for the small community.

For me this was a temporary academic leave and I fully expected to return to the United States to serve and teach after completing my PhD. When those plans unexpectedly

fell apart in early 1997 my wife and I were not sure at all what to do next. We took some time to seek counsel from others, pray, and consider what we might do to serve the Orthodox Church if we stayed in England. Most obviously, although there were plenty of gifted theologians, there was no theological college for the formal study of Orthodox theology. Could a plan be put together to start an Orthodox studies program in Cambridge?

I tested this thought with Prof David Ford, the Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. He had been instrumental in arranging for Metropolitan Anthony Bloom to receive an honorary doctorate from Cambridge in 1996. He was especially hopeful about bringing a young Orthodox scholar from Russia as a visiting scholar, Igumen Hilarion Alfeyev, himself a brilliant patristics student of Bishop Kallistos. Prof Ford said this seemed the right moment to think of a



Bishop Kallistos with IOCS students at St Peter's Church, Cambridge (c.1070), on a study weekend in 1999.

role for Orthodox theology in Cambridge. He was concerned that there was a great gap between what Oxford and Cambridge were doing on this score. Cambridge needed to have much more on the Christian historical tradition of Eastern Orthodoxy. But he was even more intrigued by the idea that Orthodox theology need not be relegated to the "church history" basket but had much to offer contemporary dialogue about modern theology. "I am interested in the links that the Orthodox attention to mystery, the mystical, and the suprarational can bring not only to Christians

of other denominations, but to the experience of other religions.” He emphasized that we could indeed think of the very long term in Cambridge, “in terms of oak trees,” because of the nature of Cambridge University: we can expect it to last long past our own generation.

Prof Ford suggested that we might think about organizing a conference on the future of Orthodox theology and theological education that would bring together the best Orthodox minds from around England. And he invited me to attend the “Future of Theology” seminars which were just then getting underway in the Faculty of Divinity. The next year, working with Bishop Kallistos, we took up Prof Ford’s suggestion and held just such a conference on Orthodox theology, featuring as speakers Bishop Kallistos, Prof Andrew Louth and Elisabeth Behr-Sigel.

In the meantime, Denise and I started sketching out initial plans for the vision of such a school and on March 15, 1997, I called Bishop Basil, the assistant to Metropolitan Anthony, to broach the idea for an Orthodox theological college in Cambridge. He was excited about this and said he would speak with Met Anthony and then Bishop Kallistos about our plans and advised writing a formal draft proposal. He thought that the natural place would have been Oxford, and as far back as Nicolas Zernov there had been hopes for an Orthodox theological college there, but he said “we’ve been trying for years and nothing has ever happened.” So he felt that this was perhaps the right moment to try something else.

On March 31st we sent the draft plan to Bishop Basil and Metropolitan Anthony, then in May after some tweaking to Bishop Kallistos, Prof Andrew Louth, Fr Ephrem Lash, Fr Michael Harper, Fr Sergei Hackel, Prof David Ford and many others, and there was a very encouraging response. But by late summer I hadn’t heard back from Bishop Kallistos, and was getting anxious. Without him the project could not go forward. In August 1997 I was in Oxford first with Metropolitan Anthony for the annual conference of the Diocese of Sourozh and then for a weeklong summer course on “St Basil’s *On the Holy Spirit*,” taught by Prof Andrew Louth and Bishop Kallistos. During the Sourozh conference Bishop Kallistos immediately put me at ease when we met briefly after lunch following the Dormition liturgy, and we agreed to speak at length the following



Bishop Kallistos presents The Philokalia to Prince Philip in 2001.

week when I was back in Oxford for the summer course. He said in his vigorous, deliberate, expansive way, “Yes. I am in favour. I am supportive.”

As one can imagine, the course on the Holy Spirit was mesmerizing, interspersed with meals and informal conversation with the two professors and about a dozen students from around the world. When we finally spoke at length about plans for an institute in Cambridge, Bishop Kallistos gave his full-throated backing. He said there had been several proposals in the past to start something in Oxford but they’d all come to nothing. And he admitted that he felt most at home with individual students rather than starting an institution. He’d thought of starting a house of studies for years in Oxford, but some freshness was needed to get a new initiative off the ground, and that’s what Cambridge appeared to have at that moment. The theological climate there might be better for such a pan-Orthodox project to get going both because of the clear welcome from the Faculty of Divinity, and because of the well-organized Cambridge Theological Federation which brought together a number of theological colleges of different denominations. He agreed that the best approach would be for Metropolitan Anthony to write to Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira asking him to appoint Bp Kallistos and Prof Louth to a working group.

At the first organizational meeting of the pan-Orthodox “Working Group” on March 26, 1997, at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, Bishop Kallistos led the list of well-known participants, which included Bishop Basil, Prof Andrew Louth, Fr Ephrem Lash, Fr Sergei Hackel, Fr Michael Harper, Revd Dr John Binns (Great St Mary’s, the

METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS OF DIOKLEIA (1934-2022)

University Church of Cambridge), and others. Revd Joy Tetley represented the Cambridge Theological Federation and Dr Eamon Duffy the Faculty of Divinity. Metropolitan Kallistos would summarize key points periodically and was fully engaged—as he always was—in the broad picture but also the details.

I worked for the next two years with Bishop Kallistos and the Working Group to prepare for the Institute's opening in 1999. In May 1999, he wrote:

Its foundation has my full and enthusiastic support, and I am happy to have been from the very beginning an active member of the Working Group which is making plans for its establishment...

The Institute formally opened its doors to students in September 1999, and Bishop Kallistos was there as Chairman of the Board and teaching regularly. Two years later, in June 2001 Bishop Kallistos welcomed HRH Prince Philip, chancellor of the University of Cambridge to learn about the fledgling Institute and encourage support. And just now in 2022, only a few weeks before his repose, Metropolitan Kallistos was again writing in support of the Institute, this time encouraging the campaign to fund a Lectureship in Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies:

I am pleased to have been asked to be a Patron of the appeal launched by the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies to raise funds to establish a Lectureship in Orthodox and Ecumenical Studies.

The Institute has been providing a unique study centre over the past 23 years and I believe that this position will add greatly to its continuing resources and contribution. I give my blessing to this appeal and to the work of the Institute and am pleased to be associated with it.

I hope the time will come when Metropolitan Kallistos' legacy will be recognized and made permanent through a lectureship in his name in the University of Cambridge. Indeed, around the time of his birthday last year (September 10), and after a few preliminary conversations with others, I wrote this to Metropolitan Kallistos to seek his blessing for this idea:



Bishop Kallistos in his study in November 2016, delivering a lecture for the IOCS Certificate course by Distance Learning—lecture which is now part of the course's curriculum

When I think back to my earliest conversations with Prof David Ford, he emphasized that the key to permanence in the university would be an endowed university lectureship in the Faculty of Divinity. Over the past twenty years all the Institute's development efforts have been rightly directed toward support of the Institute itself, but maybe this is the time for a major international campaign to establish something like a "Metropolitan Kallistos Ware Lectureship in Eastern Christian Studies."

But before going any further we would need your blessing, so I would like to know your thoughts about pursuing this.

Ten days later Metropolitan Kallistos replied:

Dear Fr John,

Thank you for your message of 10 September, passed on to me by Simon Jennings. I am somewhat surprised by the proposal that a lectureship might be established in my name. If that were to prove possible, I would of course feel highly gratified. Please keep me informed about the development of your plans.

May God give you a blessed life now that you are retiring from parish ministry. Please come and see me whenever you come to England.

With my prayers and blessing, and my love in Christ,

† Metropolitan Kallistos

"Your old men will dream dreams" (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17). I hope this dream may, by God's grace, eventually become reality, to the glory of God whom Met Kallistos served so fully and so remarkably as scholar, monk, priest and bishop.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2023



ENGAGING WITH THE PRESENT. AN ORTHODOX PATHWAY

SHORT ONLINE COURSE:

5, 12, 19, 26 May, 2 June 2023; 5-7pm BST

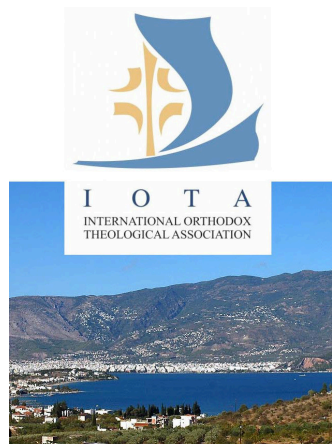
1. New Testament exegesis (Revd Dr John Jillions)
2. Orthodox tradition speaks to ecology (Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff)
3. Ecumenism and Panorthodoxy (Dr Razvan Porumb)
4. The Orthodox Church between internal and external secularisation (Fr Dragos Herescu)
5. Orthodox theology in the 21st century: modern and postmodern challenges (Dr Christoph Schneider)

This standalone course is meant to provide a glimpse into Orthodox attitudes towards modern-day questions and issues - but it can also constitute a 'taster' for our Master of Arts programmes (in *Christian Spirituality East and West* and *Contemporary Faith and Belief in the Global Context*) as the level of teaching and class discussions will follow our postgraduate course standards.

Email us for more info at info@iocs.cam.ac.uk.

Don't miss the FREE ONLINE TASTER DAY for Cambridge Theological Federation Master of Arts programmes - on 25 February, 2:30pm GMT. Write to info@iocs.cam.ac.uk for details.

PARTICIPATION IN IOTA CONFERENCE - Volos, Greece, 11-14 January 2023



The entire IOCS core staff and many of the Institute's associate scholars will participate in the forthcoming IOTA (International Orthodox Theological Association) 'Mega'-Conference on 'Mission and the Orthodox Church' - hosted next year by our friends and partners at the Volos Academy - with presentations on a wide range of themes, among which: **Revd Dragos Herescu** on 'Orthodoxy Today: Negotiating Its Identity between Secularisation and Migration', as well as participation in the Round Table on 'Theological Education in the 21st Century'; **Dr Christoph Schneider** on 'The Mediation of Love: Reflections on S. Kierkegaard, V. Solovyov and P. Florensky', and participation in the book launch event of Nicholas Loudovikos' *Analogical Identities: The Creation of the Christian Self*; **Dr Razvan Porumb** on 'Nicolae Steinhardt's Paradigm of Cultural and Existential Ecumenism' and participation in the Round Table on 'Orthodoxy after the 11th WCC Assembly: Challenges and Perspectives'; **Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff** will participate in the Round Table on the SWO project (Science and Orthodoxy around the World) as well as chairing the IOTA permanent group on 'Science and Theology' and the Session on 'Theology of Creation, Environment and Place'; **Revd Dr**

Demetrios Bathrellos on 'Genesis 1-2 and the Foundations of Orthodox Sexual Ethics', as well as participation in the book review of Marcus Plested's *Wisdom in Christian Tradition*; **Revd Dr John Jillions** on 'Divine Guidance' and "We Cannot But Speak of What We Have Seen and Heard" (Acts 4:20): Personal Conscience and the Religious Authorities in the New Testament' - **plus many other IOCS speakers and presentations (click for programme).**

LECTURE SERIES 2023

(PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE - FINAL TITLES TO BE CONFIRMED)

15 February: Theme of the day: **Church leadership.**

15 March: Theme of the day: **The Gift of Language.**

3 May: Theme of the day: **An Orthodox perspective on healthcare chaplaincy.**

31 May: Theme of the day: **Orthodox Anthropology** (guest speaker Revd Dr John Behr).

28 June: Theme of the day: **Justification and Deification (A Lutheran-Orthodox dialogue).**

The speaker lineup will also be confirmed shortly - do keep an eye on our email notifications and our website (please email us at info@iocs.cam.ac.uk, if you are not yet on our emailing list and wish to be included).



FROM OUR COMMUNITY

'WHEN A SUPERVISION BECOMES A DOCTORAL SEMINAR

Report from the field by Jeremy Ingpen

'Two years into a planned four-year PhD I can report that the overall IOCS programme is very rigorous and the quality of bi-monthly supervisions is very high. What this means to me is a developing collegial conversation between myself and an outstanding supervisory team - Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff and Revd Dr Michael Plekon - on aspects of Orthodox theology as seen from the 'French School' of Saint-Serge, run through a screen of detailed Patristic sourcing, and grappling with some of the most essential questions of the translation of theological language. This discourse is at the highest level.

'I am happy to report that, for doctoral theological research, IOCS is in the Premier League.'

Jeremy Ingpen is a Ph.D candidate at IOCS, preparing a post-career doctorate on the French Orthodox theologian, Olivier Clément. He studied at Oxford University, Reading University, Rutgers University, Warwick University and the Institut Saint-Serge.



EXPLORE OUR UNIQUE MA COURSES:

❖ **MA in Contemporary Faith and Belief in the Global Context.** This course will enable students to join a timely conversation about the role of faith and belief in the contemporary world.

❖ **MA in Christian Spirituality East and West.** Through this programme students will join a lively debate on the meaning and the role of spirituality in the context of the Christian traditions as well as in today's multi-cultural and multi-religious environments.

Both these courses can be followed entirely by Distance Learning, although certain modules will also be taught on-site for residential students. Some modules will be available by block teaching in Cambridge over one or two weeks. This degree is awarded by Anglia Ruskin University. Fees for the whole course start from £3,650 (\$4,500) per year, the Distance Learning pathway being priced the same for UK, US and all international students.



'The MA at IOCS is nothing but a life-changing and transformative experience, undoubtedly, due to IOCS's high-calibre faculty and fellow students.'

(Sergei Baranov, MA alumnus, Russia/USA)



FEAST OF SAINT CATHERINE - 25 November 2022

On the evening of 25 November 2022, the Institute celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Catherine, Patron Saint of our IOCS, at Wesley House, Cambridge - an informal event for which the theme of reflection was "Orthodoxy and interdisciplinarity".

The event started with a thanksgiving service, followed by a brief presentation from guest speaker Mircea Iliescu on the potential interaction between science and theology. The festive gathering concluded with a reception which allowed Orthodox and ecumenical friends to (re)connect and enjoy their communion together.

Recordings of the service as well as Dr Iliescu's presentation can be found on our YouTube channel.



KING CHARLES AND ORTHODOXY (AND IOCS)

from *The Telegraph*, 14 December 2022: 'How King Charles became 'Defender of all Faiths' by Catherine Pepinster:

'The King's interest has taken him to some of Orthodoxy's most sacred places, especially the monasteries on the Greek island of Mount Athos, where he has frequently stayed for spiritual retreats. There he lives like a monk, in a cell, rising at 5am for a day of prayer. There have been journeys, too, to visit the graves of two of his most devout Orthodox ancestors: Princess Alice and her aunt Elizabeth, Grand Duchess of Russia, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, who founded a religious institution to serve the poor and was made a saint by the Russian Orthodox Church.

'... Like other Christians, the Orthodox's most sacred book is the Bible, but almost equally precious is the *Philokalia*, a collection of ancient manuscripts by revered sages. It is this text that matters most to the King, Lord Chartres says: "He has a really deep feeling for it".

'According to Father Dragos Herescu, of Cambridge University's Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, "People who read the *Philokalia* want to take a step further in enhancing their knowledge of the theology of the Orthodox Church. It helps understand scripture and, for us, scripture and tradition go together. They are two sides of the same coin."

'One of the foremost translators of the *Philokalia* into English was Philip Sherrard, who profoundly influenced the King with his conviction that the ecological crisis was evidence of a deeper spiritual crisis, and that it was Orthodox tradition that could save the fragmented secular world.'



CERTIFICATE IN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES by DISTANCE LEARNING



» Our Distance Learning course is based on our Cambridge face-to-face courses. You will be taught by experts drawn from the United Kingdom and around the world.

» Lectures and materials will be available at any time and anywhere for private study.
» The modules of the course are taught as separate units, so students may join the course at any time.

» We offer the 'Cambridge experience' by providing our students a constant connection with specially assigned tutors to circumvent 'the loneliness of the long-distance learner'.

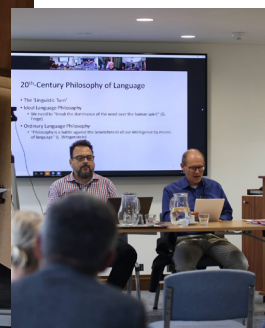
ENROLMENTS EVERY OCTOBER, DECEMBER, FEBRUARY, APRIL & JUNE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROL PLEASE WRITE TO US AT info@iocs.cam.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022



The IOCS international conference on 'Pavel Florensky for the 21st Century' (14 – 16 September 2022) took place in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere, both online and on-site in Cambridge. The event was co-organized with Prof Bruce Foltz (Eckerd College, FL) and featured an impressive array of speakers: **Dr Clemena Antonova**, **Prof Paul Gavriluk**, **Prof John Milbank**, **Dr Alexei Nesteruk**, **Dr Anke Niederbudde**, **Dr Avril Pyman**, **Prof Pawel Rojek**, **Harry Moore** and **Dr Christoph Schneider**.



As the Institute is funded through individual donations from our benefactors and friends, your contributions – one-off or regular - will enable us to continue our work within the academic environment of Cambridge as well as our outreach mission to the world.

Yes, I would like to support the work of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies – Cambridge

It only takes a few minutes to establish a regular donation to the Institute online via our Donations page (click here or visit: <https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/donations>)

Alternatively you can use the Standing Order below:

GIFT BY STANDING ORDER

To the Manager of _____ Bank/Building Society

Branch Address: _____

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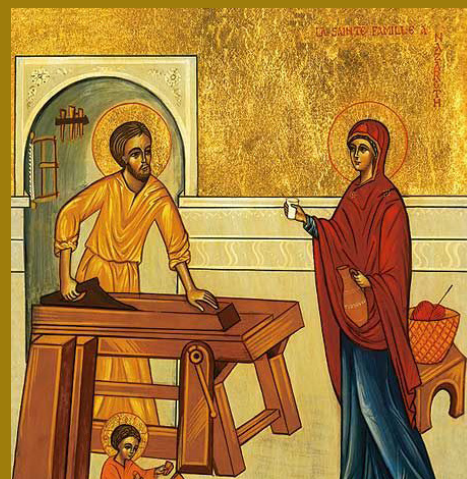
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The Abbot of the Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of St John the Baptist, Archimandrite Peter

An icon of Saint Sophrony the Athonite, a bearded man with a long white beard, wearing a yellow robe and a halo. He is holding a cross in his right hand and a chalice in his left hand.

CHRISTMAS IOCS QUIZ

Two give-away IOCS mugs to reward the first two correct answers to the question: What does the little robin resting on the Institute's logo on the front cover signify - or what does that symbol mark? Send answers back to info@iocs.cam.ac.uk :-)



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