

Recollection Lectures, Pusey House, Michaelmas 2019

Wednesday of 2nd, 4th and 8th weeks at 4.00pm. Tea and coffee provided at 3.30pm in the Hood Room before the 4pm lecture.

Wednesday, 29th January, 2nd week, 4pm

“Jesus and the Prophets: Reading the Transfiguration 'in conversation with' Islam”

-Dr. Ida Glaser, International Academic Coordinator, The Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies

The transfiguration stands at the heart of each of the synoptic gospels; and John's gospel arguably begins with an exposition of the transfiguration (Jn 1:1-14). Christian-Muslim dialogue has often discussed the latter passage, because Jesus is called 'God's Word' in the Qur'an and because the Qur'an is viewed by Muslims as God's directly-given words. Such discussion usually focuses on the nature and pre-existence of the Word rather than on the glory revealed through that Word.

In this lecture, Dr Glaser shall put Luke 9, with its account of the transfiguration, into 'conversation' with the qur'anic accounts of Jesus. In particular, she shall interact with Islamic understandings of prophets and prophethood, and read the transfiguration as revealing how Jesus relates to the prophets. That raises the question of Muslim views of how Muhammad relates to the other prophets, and therefore of how Islam relates to a biblical world-view.

Wednesday, 12th February, 4th week, 4pm

Digito Dei: Sacraments and Semiotics through the theology of Hugh of Saint Victor

-The Rev'd Dr. Ruben Angelici, Vicar of South & New Hinksey, Oxford

What is a sign? How does a sign signify? And if Sacraments are ‘sacred signs,’ how can we understand sacramental theology?

As the Christian understanding of sacrament is inherently rooted in philosophical notions of semiotics, this lecture will be an effort to engage with twentieth and twenty-first century debates in sacramental theology, while at the same time, offering a response from the tradition of the Church to contemporary philosophical positions on sign-theory, general signification, and interpretation, which – from the post-structuralist crisis – have found particular expression in Umberto Eco's semiotics. Through a ressourcement of the theology of Hugh of

Saint Victor, this talk will examine questions on the theological relationship between ontology, epistemology, and signification (in both its facets of interpretation and production of signs), to describe a type of semiosis that is neither completely univocal, nor thoroughly equivocal, but an intermediate progression between the two extremes.

Wednesday, 11th March (8th week), 4pm

St Ephrem's poems on Lent

-Dr. Sebastian Brock, Reader in Syriac Studies, Wolfson College and the Oriental Institute, Oxford

The poet and theologian St Ephrem (d.373) was proclaimed a Doctor of the Universal Church exactly 100 years ago. Among his hymns is a small collection of poems on the Fast of Lent. Dr Brock shall introduce these poems and and explore their main themes.