

# LECTURES, TALKS and CONFERENCES

PUSEY  
HOUSE  
OXFORD

M I C H A E L M A S T E R M 2 0 2 3

## FAITH IN PUBLIC LIFE

*Talks with prominent people serving in, or around, politics and public service, and known to be people of faith, or to support the place of Christianity in the public sphere.*

**Monday 13th November, 6.30pm (6th Week)**

*Maurice, Lord Glasman*

Lord Glasman is a Labour peer, a lecturer in political theory, and founder of the 'Blue Labour' movement. He is a member of his local synagogue, the Stoke Newington New Shul.



## THE LIFE AND THOUGHT OF E L MASCALL

**8th–9th November (5th Week), Pusey House and St Stephen's House**



Pusey House is holding a conference in Oxford on the 8th and 9th November 2023, dedicated to the life and thought of the great twentieth century Anglo-Catholic priest and theologian E L Mascall.

Eric Lionel Mascall was Professor of Historical Theology at King's College London, and the Church of England's leading Thomist theologian. A member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, he also taught at Lincoln Theological College and Oxford, before retiring to the parish of St Mary's, Bourne Street, London.

Our conference, organised under the auspices of the Pusey House Centre for Theology, Law and Culture, and with the cooperation of St Stephen's House, will discuss various theological, ecclesiological, sacramentological and pastoral themes in Mascall's work. A full programme will be made available soon, but speakers will include:

Peter Webster

Rowan Williams

Lucy Gardner

Philip Moller, SJ

Robin Ward

Clinton Collister

*Please contact [pusey.conference@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pusey.conference@stx.ox.ac.uk) with any enquiries, or to reserve tickets.*

D E U S S C I E N T I A R U M D O M I N U S

## RECOLLECTION LECTURES

Lectures on great ideas and figures of Christian history. Held at 4.00pm in the Ursell Room, with tea & coffee served 3.15–3.45pm in the Hood Room

### Wednesday 25th October 2023 (3rd Week)

*Augustine the Poet*

The Revd Dr Cally Hammond (Dean, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge)

Augustine of Hippo was a man with a visionary prayer life. Dr Hammond explores devotional elements in his writings as a kind of poetry which gives shape to expressive forms of faith.



### Wednesday 8th November 2023 (5th Week)

*'God did not choose to save the world by talk'. E L Mascall on the Incarnation and its Consequences*

The Revd Christopher Smith (Vicar, St Alban's, Holborn)

'Actions speak louder than words', said Mascall, 'and this is consummately true of the redemption of the human race.' Fr Smith examines some aspects of Mascall's Christology, and in particular the consequences of the permanence of the Incarnation for our human nature and for the Church.



### Wednesday 15th November (6th Week)

*Augustine's Asceticism and the Malaise of the Modern Self*

The Revd Dr Mike Michielin (Rector, St John's, Kingston, Canada)

Dr Michielin argues Augustine's notion of the self in the *Confessions* and *De Trinitate* is shaped by Christian asceticism. He compares this to contemporary acedia, prescribing a rule of prayer as a treatment.



### Tuesday 21st November (7th Week)

*The Idea of an A Priori Law*

Dr Ralph Walker (Emeritus Fellow, Magdalen College, Oxford)

Kant believes in a moral law that is not given by God: it is something in its own right. The truths of logic and arithmetic seem to have a similar status. In the case of morals, of course, it is often held that they have their source in the will of God, though Aquinas – aware of the Euthyphro Dilemma – is clear that they have their source in the nature of God, not His will. This talk develops this strange but familiar concept of an a priori law.



### Wednesday 29th November (8th Week)

*That You May Have Life: On the Gift of Life in Creation*

The Revd Prof Simon Oliver

(Van Mildert Professor of Divinity, Durham University)

Whilst pre-modern religious and philosophical traditions shared the conviction that life is the fundamental purpose of the universe, the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw a reversal of this imaginative framework. Increasingly, life was seen as a strange aberration in a dark corner of an otherwise dead universe. The animate could be reduced to the inanimate; life was understood as little more than complex material and mechanical processes. Animals were, quite literally, machines. Only human life could, under certain circumstances, be understood as purposeful and value laden. This encouraged a sharp sundering of human from non-human life and humanity's alienation from nature.



Can the Christian doctrine of creation provide a more integrated and intelligible understanding of life? This paper will seek to provide a positive answer to this question, in conversation with twentieth century philosophers such as the Jewish thinker, Hans Jonas, and the phenomenologist, Maurice Merleau-Ponty. The paper argues that that the basic processes of life such as metabolism are of crucial metaphysical and ethical significance, and that life is fundamentally gift.