

# 2015 Theology Symposium

## Call for Papers

It is with great pleasure that the St Andrew's Planning Committee invites all those interested in presenting a paper at the 2015 St Andrew's Inaugural Theology Symposium to submit the title of their proposed presentation, together with an abstract of 250 - 300 words by **Tuesday 30 June 2015**. The proposal should also be accompanied by the following contact details: a) title, b) name, c) institutional affiliation, d) postal address, e) phone number and f) e-mail address.

All submissions should be addressed to Dr Philip Kariatlis, [pkariatlis@sagotc.edu.au](mailto:pkariatlis@sagotc.edu.au).

### Guidelines for Papers and Proposals

Proposals need to be approx. 200 - 250 words.

If you are planning to present a paper and do not hold a doctorate, you are kindly asked to submit the entire paper by 15 June, 2015 together with your Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter which will assist the Submission's Panel.

1. It is expected that presentations will be allotted approximately 25 - 30 minutes leaving some brief time for Q&A.
2. Proposal need to clearly state a title, together with an aim and the line of argument that will be taken.
3. Those requiring the use of audio-visual equipment, need to indicate this in their proposal so that appropriate equipment can be set up for this.
4. All papers will be considered, even if not immediately related to the Symposium theme; first preference will be given to those which are more related to the theme of the Symposium.
5. The abstracts, once peer reviewed and accepted will be published on the Theology Symposium page of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College's website.



## Keynote Speaker

### Revd Dr John Chryssavgis

Revd Dr John Chryssavgis is Theological Advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarchate on Environmental Issues. He was Sub-Dean of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College between 1986-1995. He is the author of over twenty books and countless articles, many of which focus on the topic of environmental theology.



## Theme

### "The Earth is the Lord's: Environmental Theology and Ethics"

Whereas in the past, humanity as a whole typically had a congruous relationship with the world, today, living in harmony with the environment has become increasingly difficult with a more utilitarian attitude prevailing. Consequently, many people today concur that a serious review and a radical change of attitude of humanity's relationship with the material world needs to take place so as to create a radically new modus vivendi that will pay proper tribute to the world making it sustainable for future generations. In this regard it is timely to ask: how can the Christian Churches contribute towards a solution to today's ecological crisis? What difference can the Christian Gospel make in shaping the ethics of public discourse on this issue? How can we 'revalue' the worth of the world in which we live?

### Revd Professor Denis Edwards

Revd Professor Denis Edwards taught theology at Flinders University in Adelaide before joining the Australian Catholic University in 2014. He has taught mainly in Christology, Trinitarian theology and ecclesiology. In the light of evolutionary science he has been exploring a theology of the natural world.



### "Earth as God's Creation: A Theological Exploration of Pope Francis's Recent Teaching"

In 2002, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew issued a common declaration with Pope John Paul II on environmental ethics, in which they said that the ecological issues we face are not simply economic and technological, but moral and spiritual. They called for an inner change of heart that leads to a transformation of life-styles and patterns of production and consumption. In Jerusalem on 25th May 2014, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew signed a common declaration with Pope Francis that covered a range of important issues, including the safeguarding of the gift of creation. They declared that the mistreatment of our planet is tantamount to sin. Together they pledged their commitment to raising awareness about the stewardship of creation and appealed to all people of goodwill to consider living less wastefully and more frugally, and with more generosity, for the protection of God's creation and the good of God's people. In 2015 Pope Francis will issue an encyclical concerned with environmental issues, which promises to be an important development in church teaching on creation. This paper will offer an analysis of Pope Francis's new encyclical, exploring its theological foundations and its consequences for the way we live.

### Revd Dr Michael Trainor

Revd Dr Michael Trainor is a Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Australian Catholic University, Adelaide, as well as an Adjunct Lecturer within the Department of Theology at Flinders University. His research interests include the popular understanding of theology, the Gospels, the letters of St Paul, and the interface between archaeology and the Bible.



### "Heaven on Earth: Ecological Nuances from Luke's Gospel"

Conventionally, Luke's gospel has been interpreted anthropocentrically with the focus of Jesus' ministry exclusively concerned about the salvation of human beings. However such a focus has distracted us from recognizing another important focus of his mission—Earth. It is possible, indeed now even necessary, to see subtle ecological resonances throughout the gospel. In its opening chapters Luke's Jesus is Earth's child encircled by Earth's gifts (a 'manger' and 'bands of cloth'), as angels appear before shepherds (Lk 2.8-14) to celebrate Heaven's communion with Earth, the fruit of this child's birth. His public ministry is taken up with deeds and words that reveal a concern for all creation, for the human and non-human world. Even birds and pigs become important in his ecologically inclusive ministry. The angelic chorus of Lk 2 finds its echo towards the end of the gospel. It is reflected in the acclamation which the disciples give Jesus as they welcome him into Jerusalem surrounded by Earth's gifts (Lk 19.28-40). The gospel's celebration and healing of Earth culminates in the final chapter, as the Risen Jesus comes forth from Earth blessing all that lives and revealing God's presence within creation. Attuning ourselves to hear Luke's gospel from the perspective of Earth allows a freshness to emerge that resonates more readily with our ecological and environmental concerns.