



**L-Università
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**NICAEA AND BEYOND:
IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

Thursday, 27th February 2025

Venue: Archbishop's Curia Old Refectory, Floriana

18:30 – Keynote Lecture

- **Prof. Alister McGrath** (University of Oxford)
A Christological Classic: The Historical Roots and Contemporary Significance of the Council of Nicaea

Friday, 28th February 2025

Venue: University of Malta, Valletta Campus

Plenary Session 1: The Historical Context

09:00 – Rev. Dr. Jonathan Farrugia (University of Malta)

The Concepts of 'Godhead' in the 4th Century: Tracing the Development of Christian Thought from Pre-Orthodoxy to Defined Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy

09:20 – Dr Petr Jandejsek (Charles University, Prague)

The practice of discernment at the Council of Nicaea: lessons for today's Church

09:40 – Discussion

10:10 – Break

Plenary Session 2: The Theological Content

10:40 – Prof. Dr Margit Eckholt (University of Osnabrück, Germany)

"The Communicating and Free God": The Ecumenical Confession of Nicaea and its Intercultural-Theological Relevance for a World Church

11:00 – Rev. Prof. Hector Scerri (University of Malta)

The Arian Heresy and the Council of Nicaea in the Letters of Gregory the Great

11:20 – Discussion

11:50 – Lunch Break

Plenary Session 3: The Philosophical Implications

14:00 – Rev. Prof. Mark Sultana (University of Malta)

14:20 – Prof. Gusztav Kovacs (Theological College of Pécs, Hungary)

Philosophy Behind the First Council of Nicaea

14:40 – Discussion

15:10 – Break

Plenary Session 4: Contemporary Debates and Controversies on Trinitarian Theology

15:50 – Prof. John A. Berry (University of Malta)

Nicaea and the Digital Age: Can Creedal Orthodoxy Survive Postmodernity?

16:10 – Prof. João Duque (Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon)

Nicaea and Beyond: Implications for Contemporary Humanity under Post-Humanist Tendencies

16:30 – Prof. Karlheinz Ruhstorfer (Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Germany)

Wholly God, Wholly Human? A New Interpretation of "Homoousios" for the 21st Century

16:50 – Discussion & Conclusion

Saturday, 1st March 2025

Venue: University of Malta, Valletta Campus

Plenary Session 5: The Canonical and Ecclesiological Implications

09:00 – Rev. Dr Mark Joseph Zammit (University of Malta)

The Church Between Universality and Particularity: Insights from the Council of Nicaea and Contemporary Ecclesial Reality

09:20 – Rev. Dr Kevin Schembri (University of Malta)

Fostering Order: Church Laws, Abuse, and the Council of Nicaea

09:40 – Discussion

10:10 – Break

Plenary Session 6: Teaching Nicaea Today and its Cultural Implications

10:40 – **Rev. Dr Joseph Ellul** (University of Malta)

Gnostic and Oriental Christian Communities in Pre-Islamic Arabia

11:00 – **Dr Marina Kiroudi** (University of Bonn, Germany)

We Believe...?! The Nicene Creed and Religious Education in the “Oikoumene” from an Orthodox Perspective

11:20 – **Prof. Mustafa Sahin** (Uludağ Üniversitesi, Turkey)

The Basilica Church in Lake Iznik: A Journey to Discover the Council Meeting Place

11:40 – Discussion & Conclusion of the Conference

