

Ecumenical Patriarchate

Deanery of Great Britain and Ireland

St Albans Conference 28th - 31st May 2010

All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney, St. Albans

“Healing and Transformation in Christ”

***With the participation of Archbishop Gabriel of Comana,
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch in Western Europe***



***“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.”* Isaiah 40:31**

***“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.”* Isaiah 35:1**

***“All things work together for good to those who love God.”* Romans 8:28**

How, when confronted by loss and suffering, can we move forward with hope, seeing crisis as opportunity to open ourselves to transformation and renewal, through the healing power of Christ?

Healing and Transformation in Christ Main Talks

- Friday pm** **I. “Behold I Make All Things New”:
Renewal and Transformation**
Address by Archbishop Gabriel of Comana
- Saturday am** **II. Loss, Grief & the Healing Process**
Father John Breck
- III. Christ Healing the Emotional Life:
Through Conflict to Wholeness**
Frank Johnson
- Sunday am** **IV. Forgiving and Being Forgiven**
Father David Gill
- Monday am** **V. Healing and Hospitality**
Nancy Forest

Discussion Groups & Workshops

These groups meet for *two ninety-minute sessions, Saturday and Sunday afternoon.*

Please indicate your first three choices on the application form (one group for both days).

Note: Each group marked with an asterisk (*) relates to the talk of the same number and subject, providing an opportunity to further explore aspects of that talk.

Places will be allocated on a “first come first served” basis.

You will be told to which group you have been assigned on arrival at the conference.

A Discussion Group *has a specific theme introduced by the leader who then guides discussion.*

A Workshop *is a practical session with strong teaching input from the leader.*

1. Discussion Group The Sacrament of Reconciliation (in Russian)
Father Alexis Struve

What is the role of repentance in the process of healing? The sacrament of reconciliation is crucial in promoting the unity of the person and of the Church. How do we experience this sacrament in our parish communities?

***2. Discussion Group Loss and the Experience of Grief**
Lynn Breck, Wendy Robinson

How do we deal with the reality of “loss” in our life and the grief that inevitably accompanies it? Loss of a loved one, of a job, of our health, or within the Church, can deeply affect our lives. We will give a brief introduction on the grieving process, with some insights regarding the example of Christ’s own grieving. How can we learn to grieve appropriately and surrender our situation and our entire life into the hands of Christ?

***3. Discussion Group Christ Healing the Emotional Life**
Frank Johnson, Deacon Ian Thompson

We will focus on understanding the purpose of the emotions, including anger, and how they can be used creatively or misused. Reference will be made to both Winnicott and St Gregory Palamas on the development of the true self.

***4. Discussion Group Forgiving and Being Forgiven**
Father David Gill, Amal Dibo

We will focus on understanding this essential process at the heart of healing and the quest for wholeness, to enable healing of psychological and spiritual wounds and to enable a person to enter into the fullness of the life of grace and holiness. The process involves discernment, courage, a committed response to the challenge of the Gospel and hard and sometimes painful effort.

***5. Discussion Group Healing and Hospitality**
Nancy Forest, Father John Musther

Christian hospitality can be seen as a series of concentric circles, in which the Eucharist is at the center and informs all the other circles at every level: marriage, children, family, friends, strangers. How can hospitality be healing, for the practitioner and the recipient? How can we tell whether our motives are honest and God-centered, or selfish and ego-centered? How can we overcome our fear of hospitality?

6. Discussion Group Peacemaking

Father John Breck, Jim Forest

How do we make peace with those who have wronged us? How do we pray for them? What does it mean to love our enemies? What is the real meaning of “turning the other cheek”: when is it strong, when is it cowardice? How should we understand our often deep-seated need to seek a “just” retribution or “true” justice? Can even a “just” punishment ever heal our wounds, or can this only happen in Christ?

7. Discussion Group Prayer of Intercession

Father John Lee

Day 1: We will look at intercessory prayer: praying for loved ones and for enemies, praying for healing, holding people up to God.

Day 2: We will look at sacraments of healing, in particular Holy Unction.

8. Workshop Using Your Voice

Karin Greenhead

Your voice is your whole body. This workshop will include physical and vocal exercises to improve breath support, tone production, resonance, range, intonation and articulation, for readers and singers.

9. Workshop Liturgical Singing and Structure of Services

Annemarie de Visser

We will continue our journey through Church Music, exploring things as requested.

Round Table (Monday morning)

“Behold I Make All Things New”: Renewal & Transformation

Chair: *Karin Greenhead*

Panel: *Archbishop Gabriel of Comana, Jenny Musther, Maria McMylor, Father Alexander Fostiropoulos, Deacon Peter Scorer*