



St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College
242 Cleveland St
Redfern NSW 2016
Australia

The Seventh
Saint Andrew's Patristic Symposium
23 – 24 September
2016

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Call for Papers

The seventh St Andrew's Patristic Symposium focuses on the personality, contributions and legacy of Saint John Chrysostom.

Keynotes

Professor Pauline Allen, FAHA (Australian Catholic University)

John Chrysostom after Chalcedon: A Useful Ecumenist?

John Chrysostom appears manifold times in the florilegia after Chalcedon, both in those pro- and anti-Chalcedonian. Perhaps because he was not properly speaking a systematic theologian and preached well before the Council of 451, he seemed to be acceptable to both sides. However, the picture is more complicated than that because we see him cited extensively by the anti-Chalcedonian patriarch of Antioch, Severus (512-518), in his homilies and letters as well as in the works of post-Chalcedonian Nestorians. Emperor Justinian I, Anastasius of Sinai, and John of Damascus also made grateful use of Chrysostom's work, leaving the impression that the Golden Mouth was a useful ecumenist and a man for all seasons.

Dr Wendy Mayer, FAHA (Australian Catholic University)

John Chrysostom: Moral Philosopher and Physician of the Soul

In the past two years a substantial body of scholarship has begun to appear that returns to the question of how in his thought and approach John Chrysostom was shaped by the Greek-speaking eastern Roman world into which he was born. This is a view that seeks to read through his own preaching and writing against 'pagan' philosophy and sophistic rhetoric and to move beyond twentieth-century concerns with where he sits within an 'Antiochene' theological and exegetical school. Emerging from this scholarship is recognition of the strong influence on John of the philosophical-oratorical tradition of psychagogy (guidance of the soul), with how his admiration for the apostle Paul and urban philosophical asceticism is shaped in response to the admiration among the pagan elites of Antioch for the ascetic-philosopher-emperor Julian, and how Graeco-Roman moral philosophical traditions, both Platonic-Aristotelian and Cynic-Stoic, as well as medical traditions that conceive of moral error as imbalance and therefore sickness of the soul, are dominant in his thought. In this paper we will draw out how together these ideas are producing a more holistic view of John Chrysostom's own perception of the role of sin as sickness and the priest as physician. In the process we will pay particular attention to the implications of this way of conceiving his ministry for how he treated different categories of the morally sick, in particular Jews, heretics, and the members of his own neo-Nicene Christian community.

Traditionally acknowledged as a great orator, scriptural interpreter and dedicated shepherd, in recent times the significance of Chrysostom is primarily assessed from the viewpoint of social history.

Very recently, his input to the notion of free will has opened new avenues for exploration. The Byzantine acclamation of Chrysostom as an ecumenical teacher and the references to him in the 14th century hesychast disputes would require further assessment.

A broader, interdisciplinary approach to Chrysostomian studies will cast further light on the various contributions of this venerable figure of early Christianity. This, precisely, is the object of our conference.

Given the traditional crossdisciplinary nature of our symposia, the conveners welcome proposals on the main theme and related or unrelated topics pertaining to patristic tradition. All approaches, from theological to philological, from hermeneutical to ethical, from pastoral to exegetical, from historical to spiritual etc., are welcome.

Conveners

Professor James Harrison (Sydney College of Divinity)
Dr Doru Costache (St Andrew's)
Dr Adam Cooper (John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family)
Dr Mario Baghos (St Andrew's)

Abstracts of up to 200 words should be sent to Doru Costache at dcostache@sagotc.edu.au, by the end of May 2016. The abstracts should be accompanied by brief biographical notes, detailing the qualifications and affiliations of the contributors.

Two bursaries of \$500 (each) will be available for Australian postgraduate students not based in NSW, generously offered by Australian Research Theology Foundation Inc. To win a bursary, postgraduate students should send their papers in full-length to Doru Costache at dcostache@sagotc.edu.au by the end of May 2016. The papers should not exceed 3,000 words, including footnotes. The winners of the two bursaries will be announced by the end of June 2016.

Contact dcostache@sagotc.edu.au
<http://www.sagotc.edu.au/patristic-symposia>