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## **Burning Bush: Places of Transformation Re-Directing People towards the Holy**

International Scientific Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Conference  
11-14 June 2026, Fortna, Hradčanské náměstí 184/3, Praha 1

**Organised by:** The European Regional Development Fund project “Beyond Security: Role of Conflict in Resilience-Building” (reg. no.: CZ.02.01.01/00/22\_008/0004595),  
Charles University Centre of Excellence: Theological Anthropology in Intercultural Perspective (No. UNCE/24/SSH/019).

Protestant, Catholic and Hussite Theological Faculties of Charles University

**Working Language:** English

### **THURSDAY 11 JUNE**

16.00 Registration and coffee at Fortna  
16.40 Ivana Noble: Introduction to the Theme: Burning Bush: Places of Transformation  
Re-Directing People towards the Holy  
**17.00 – 18.30 SESSION I: The Burning Bush** (*moderated by Pavol Bargár*)  
Burning Bush in the Biblical Exegesis – Eva Vymětalová Hrabáková and Dominik Dostál  
Burning Bush and Transforming Fire in Literature (Tolkien) – Pavel Hošek  
Burning Bush in the Art History – Kornélia Kolářová Takácsová  
Presentation of two volumes of Theological Anthropology – Zdenko Širka  
19.00 Evening Meal

### **FRIDAY 12 JUNE**

9.00 Prayer  
**9.30 – 10.30 SESSION II: Burning Bush in the Hesychast Spirituality** (*moderated by Milutin Janjić*)  
Burning Bush Movement and Its Impact in Romania, Lebanon, France – Viorel Coman  
What Kind of Transformation has the Hesychast Renewal Inspired – Petre Maican  
**11.00 – 12.00 SESSION III: Configurations of Transformation in Modern Theology** (*moderated by Kateřina Kočandrle Bauer*)  
Places of Transformation in Fr Sergius Bulgakov’s Theology – Regula Zwahlen  
The Sacredness of Place and Robert Doran’s Notion of a World Cultural Humanity – Gerry Whelan  
12.15 Lunch



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**14.00 – 15.30 SMALL GROUPS I** (each speaker – 20 min + 10 min discussion)

| <b>Small Group 1</b><br>Moderator: Fr Augustine Viorel Coman                                                       | <b>Small Group 2</b><br>Moderator: Petre Maican                                                                         | <b>Small Group 3</b><br>Moderator: Tim Noble                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                    | Bedřiška Kotmelová: Rituals in end-of-life care from the perspective of Chauvet's symbolic conception of the world.     | Marek Kita: The Secular City and the Triple Temptation of the Church. Reflection in the Context of the Experiences of the Church in Łódź (Poland).      |
| Milutin Janjić: From “Come and See” to “Go and Meet”: Burning Bush Spaces of Mission between Liturgy and Diakonia. | Ioannis Psomas: Human Dignity and the Movement from Image to Likeness: A Communal Account of Synergetic Transformation. | Andrei Meleshko: From Aristocratic Space to Spaces of Moral Resistance: The Transformation of Vocation in the Lives of Andrey and Klymentiy Sheptytsky. |
| Pavel Pola: The Burning Bush and The Living Flame of Love.                                                         | Veronika Matějková and Josef Prokeš: The Place of Young People between Stability and Pilgrimage.                        | Štěpánka Paluchníková: A Travelogue of Ideas on Divine Hiddenness and Nearness.                                                                         |

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

**16.00 – 17.30 SESSION IV: Materiality of a Promise – The Promised Land** (*moderated by Tim Noble*)

Materialities of the Promised Land – Silvana Kandel Lamdan

Promised Land as a Source of Conflict and as a Source of Hope in Times of Crisis – Monika Šlajerová (online)

**18.00 INTER-RELIGIOUS ROUND TABLE: Pilgrimage across Lands and Cultures** moderated by Ivana Noble and Kateřina Kočandrl Bauer (spiritual places on a move – personal and communal dimensions of pilgrimages, religious and secular interactions, analysis of examples today) – Kristián Dembický, Jozef Murín, Hana Říhová, Sylvie Wittmann, Jiří Hazlbauer

## SATURDAY 13 JUNE

9.00 Prayer

**9.30 – 10.30 SESSION V: Culture and Its Ways of Cultivating Places** (*moderated by Petr Jandejsek*)

Cultivating Places of Encounter – Benjamin Simon

Resisting Places of Exclusion – Pavol Bargár

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break



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**11.00 – 12.00 SESSION VI: Places that Nourish** (*moderated by Zdenko Širka*)

Looking after the Earth as a Way of Transformation – Jan Zámečník and Petr Jandejsek

12.15 Lunch

**14.00 – 15.30 SMALL GROUPS II** (each speaker – 20 min + 10 min discussion)

| <b>Small Group 4</b>                                                                                                    | <b>Small Group 5</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>Small Group 6</b>                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Moderator: Marion Carson                                                                                                | Moderator: Veronika Matějková                                                                                                                       | Moderator: Zdenko Širka                                                                                                                |
| Jozef Murin: Church as Refuge?<br>The Ecclesiological Proposal of Jan Konzal.                                           | Ondřej Fischer: Friedrich<br>Nietzsche's Holy humanity.                                                                                             | Olena Chemodanova: "How lovely<br>is your dwelling place, Lord<br>Almighty!": Sacred Spaces in<br>Modern British Orthodox<br>Theology. |
| Klára Suchomelová: Between<br>Ashes and the Whirlwind:<br>Integrating Fragility and Trust in<br>Job's Narrative.        | Marieke Maes: Captivity and<br>Philosophy: Paul Ricœur on the<br>Human Person and Religion.                                                         | Roman Shvets: Human<br>Transformation in the Time of<br>War.                                                                           |
| Michaela Kušnieriková:<br>Therapeutic Spaces as Places of<br>Transformation: Theological and<br>Political Perspectives. | Barbora Šmejdivá: Becoming a<br>Habitable Self: Domestic Space,<br>Christian Practice, and Human<br>Transformation in Adichie's Purple<br>Hibiscus. | Hants Temene: Bridging the gap<br>between spirituality and daily<br>conduct in the Haitian context.                                    |

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.30 – 19.00 PILGRIMAGE – Hana Říhová and Kateřina Kočandrl Bauer

**SUNDAY 14 JUNE**

9.00 Liturgy at Fortna

10.30 Coffee break in refectory

**11.00 – 12.00 SESSION VII: Places Cultivating Hope** (*moderated by Ondřej Fischer*)

The Magdalene at the Tomb: Resurrection, Trauma and Spiritual Transformation – Marion Carson

Places Inspiring Peace when the World Goes Mad – Tim Noble

12.15 – 12.45 FINAL DISCUSSION – Reflection on the conference – Tomáš Sixta  
(*moderated by Ivana Noble*)

13.00 Lunch



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