

# DONOHUE CHAIR 2018

*The Sir Daniel & Countess Bernardine Murphy Donohue Chair  
in Eastern Catholic Theology at the Pontifical Oriental Institute*



## Prof. Anthony O'Mahony

*Reader in the modern history of Christianity and Director for the Centre for  
Eastern Christianity at Heythrop College University of London.*

# "Jerusalem and Eastern Christianity: Presence, Encounter and Challenge"

**Venerdì 11 MAGGIO 2018 - Ore 16:00**

**PONTIFICIO ISTITUTO ORIENTALE - AULA MAGNA**



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"In modern times the historical vocation of Jerusalem has been identified as a meeting place for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The encounter of these three religions in a city which represents a shared sacred space continues to present a challenge for their peaceful coexistence. Today the question of the identity of Jerusalem has come to have an international role of great importance and sensitivity. The City of Jerusalem and the Holy Land since the fourth century have been important places in the religious imagination of the Christian East. Eastern Christian churches, through their presence in the Holy Places, and centuries of pilgrimage have uniquely contributed to transforming Jerusalem into a shared Christian sacred space. The 'rediscovery' of the Holy Land in the nineteenth century brought about a profound revival in the physical presence of the Eastern Christian churches in the Holy Land, attracting religious and pilgrims from across the broad expanse of religious cultures which make-up the Christian East. Today, however, Christianity in the Holy land has found its presence significantly challenged from a number of directions: war, interreligious and ethnic conflict, emigration, and a fragmented ecclesiology for nearly all of the twentieth century and into the first years of the twenty-first century. The situation of Christianity in the Holy Land is not only of local significance for Jerusalem, but has become a meeting-point in the ecumenical encounter between the Eastern and Western churches in the context of global Christianity. This lecture will explore the relationship between Eastern Christianity and Jerusalem in the context of modern history and its contemporary religious significance."

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