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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

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 Kočandrl 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> Moderator: Fr Augustine Viorel Coman	<b>Small Group 2</b> Moderator: Petre Maican	<b>Small Group 3</b> 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 – Sylvana 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 Kočandrlé 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 Šírka*)

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