

## CAN WE LIVE **WITHOUT FEAR** TODAY?



# CONVERGENCE OXFORD 2024

**Oxford, UK – Convergence, a ground-breaking cultural initiative - free and open to everyone - fostering dialogue among individuals from diverse backgrounds, is set to debut its inaugural edition at Corpus Christi College in Oxford on March 23-24, 2024. This transformative event aims to create a shared space for discussing pressing societal challenges amidst an era of risk and uncertainty.**

Oxford, UK – Convergence is a new cultural initiative that offers a shared dialogue space for people with different backgrounds, cultures and viewpoints on some key issues in today's world. The inaugural edition of Convergence will take place at Corpus Christi College in Oxford on March 23-24, 2024.

The title of the inaugural edition is "Can We Live Without Fear Today?". This topic will be addressed by discussing 5 challenges of our contemporary times: Mental Health, Artificial Intelligence, Neuroscience, War and Reconciliation, and Financial Crisis.

Along with these five meetings, Convergence 2024 will feature two other events: (1) "Provocations", a small-scale exhibition, curated by Chie Wach and Irene Garlanda, about the journey from uncertainty to certainty made possible by a Christian encounter;

(2) "Come together, now and then!", a musical evening based on the Beatles. With the aid of the Fab5, a Liverpool-based band, some of the Beatles' greatest hits will be commented on and sung together.

Prof. Giuseppe Pezzini (University of Oxford), co-founder of Convergence and local organiser of the 2024 edition said: "Old ideologies are coming back, accompanied by an exacerbation of culture wars.

Social cohesion seems on the verge of collapsing, with a worsening of the economic gap, and a radicalisation of the conflict between different factions, cultures, and generations.

Technology and social media often do not help, and many people are entrapped in bubbles filled with anger and loneliness, no longer understanding each other.

In front of these challenges, some look for ways to escape reality. Some pursue total individualism.

And others put their faith in ideologies which can lead to hatred, violence and polarisation. Are there any other ways? Convergence reflects the attempt to offer a common space for everyone who has the desire to walk this different way. A space of convergence, where different paths can come together on our journey to understanding our complex reality”.

Prof. Maria Ubiali (University of Cambridge), one of the founders of Convergence explained: “We want to address these challenges with intellectual courage, passion and curiosity through discussions, meetings, exhibitions, arts and music.

Rather than aiming to offer definitive answers to these pressing issues, Convergence reflects the attempt to discuss different views and concerns about common points of interest, with the desire to question ourselves and share what we value the most”.

Convergence is organised by professionals and academics from diverse backgrounds who share a history in the Catholic Movement of Communion and Liberation.

The event is free and open to all, providing an inclusive platform for dialogue and exploration.



## Press Contact:

For tickets and more information,  
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