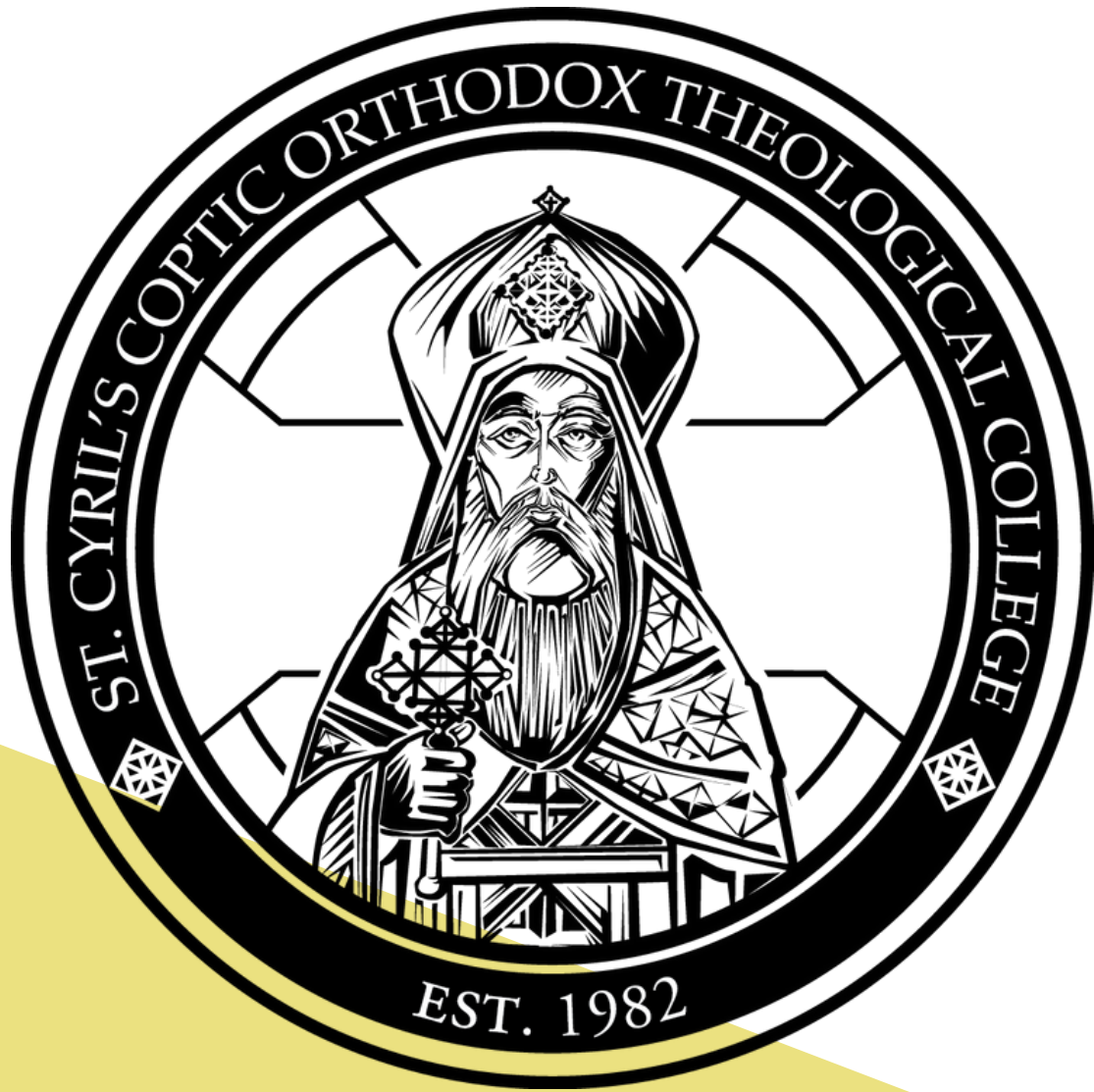


WITH THE BLESSING OF HG BISHOP DANIEL,  
COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF SYDNEY



ST CYRIL'S COPTIC ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

# 2023 Annual Report



SYDNEY  
College of Divinity  
An Australian University College

# Units Offered in 2023

## Semester One

**Introduction to Christian Arabic**  
Prof Rifaat Ebied

**Philosophy and the Church Fathers**  
Dr Samuel Kaldas

**Patristics after Chalcedon**  
Michael Ibrahim

**Syriac I: Reading and Grammar**  
Prof Rifaat Ebied

**Pastoral Counselling: Marriage and Family**  
Kirolos Saleeb

**St John Chrysostom: Patristic Profile**  
Assoc. Prof Doru Costache

**NT Greek II**  
Dr Seamas Macdonald

**Early Christian Liturgy**  
Dr Andrew Mellas

**The Art of Prayer: A History**  
Rev Dr Anthony St Shenouda

**Apocalyptic Literature: Daniel & Revelation**  
Prof Edith Humphrey

**Coptic A (MQ)**  
Dr Malcolm Choat

### STUDENT TESTIMONIAL: NINETTE BASILY

Studying the pastoral counselling course on grief, loss, and trauma has been an enriching and eye-opening experience.

Gaining an understanding of the intricate emotions and physical response to grief, loss and trauma has allowed me to gain insight into God's intentional design for humanity and the role He gave us to support each other through life's journey towards Him.

Having undertaken the course with an engaging and passionate cohort,

facilitated by the supportive, dedicated and knowledgeable lecturer, Dr

Margaret Tadros, I am certain that the benefits of this course will extend

beyond personal growth, into our faith community, and wider society, to help

those who are grappling with grief, loss, and trauma. Having personally

experienced the transformative power

of pastoral counselling units, I

wholeheartedly recommend them to

every student.

# Units Offered in 2023

## Semester Two

### **Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma**

Dr Margaret Tadros

### **Coptic Liturgy & Rites**

Mina Samy

### **Christian Spirituality**

Fr Nemanja Mrdjenovic

### **Syriac I: Reading and Grammar**

Prof Rifaat Ebied

### **Wisdom of the Desert Fathers**

Dr Samuel Kaldas

### **St Cyril of Alexandria**

Assoc. Prof Doru Costache

### **NT Greek I**

Dr Seamas Macdonald

### **Christian Arabic and Syriac**

Prof Rifaat Ebeid

### **Coptic B (MQ)**

Dr Malcolm Choat

### **STUDENT TESTIMONIAL: IAN MICHIE**

I enrolled in the “Wisdom of the Desert”, as an auditor. This engaging, well-structured course allowed class members to participate in deep discussion and reflection on fascinating primary and secondary sources, which were provided either as short extracts within the class handouts, or as longer texts and academic articles on the college’s website. Under the knowledgeable, insightful guidance of Dr Kaldas, we were encouraged to wrestle with the sometimes strange and even disconcerting philosophical and theological assumptions held by the early Desert Christians, and were also challenged to consider how their distinctive teachings might be applied to our individual and corporate lives today. As a first-timer at St Cyril’s, I was very impressed by the quality of this unit and would strongly recommend it to all prospective students, regardless of their background knowledge in this area.

# GRADUATES OF 2023

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ARTS

Geovanny Gandy  
Maggie Saleeb  
Jacob Wahib

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Kerolos Bernaba  
Christopher Manios  
Christopher Megaly  
Philopateer Nashed  
Peter Wadea

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Mina Samy



# Academic Activity and Contributions of Faculty



Rev. Associate Professor Daniel Fanous

## Conferences

Co-chair of the Biblical Group at IOTA Conference Volos, Greece Jan, 2023

Presented paper: "The Convolution of 'Conversion': The Unveiling of Christ in Paul"

## Journal Article

"The Convolution of 'Conversion': The Unveiling of Christ in Paul", *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* (forthcoming)

## Research

Ongoing work on book *Unveiling Paul*

Dr Samuel Kaldas



## Conference Presentations

"Galileo and Darwin Among the Copts: Early Modern Coptic Reactions to Science."  
*IOTA Conference, Volos, Greece, Jan 2023.*

"Virtue as Participation in the Divine Nature: The Cambridge Platonists between Antiquity and Modernity." *Makarios: Character and Virtue in the Christian Tradition.* Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry (ACU)/Human Flourishing Program (Harvard)/Institute for Studies of Religion (Baylor). Italy, May 2023.

## Co-authored Publication

Co-authored with Stephen Meawad. "Orthodox Christian Perspectives on Church and State." *Palgrave-Macmillan Handbook of Religion and State.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.

## ISCAST Public Lecture

"The Moral Dimension of Consciousness." June 2023



# Academic Activity and Contributions of Faculty



Very Rev. Associate Professor Doru Costache

## **New memberships, affiliations, and appointments**

Since 2023 Chair of the Sydney College of Divinity's Theology Research Network

## **Participation in funded projects**

Recipient of an International Collaborators Grants 2022-2023 from the International Research Network for the Study of Science & Belief in Society (INSBS) at the University of Birmingham, UK

Co-chair of the international expert group "Cosmology," Science and Orthodoxy around the World/SOW II. Institute of Historical Research at National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens. 2020-2023.

## **Honours and Awards**

Finalist of the 2023 ANZATS Inaugural Established Scholar Book Prize for Humankind and the Cosmos (Brill, 2021)

Honorary Associate of Studies in Religion, School of Humanities, University of Sydney (2017-2023)

## **Editorial Work**

Co-editor of the ISCAST Journal: Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology

Guest editor of a monographic issue of *De Medio Aevo* 13:2 (2024), Scientific Interests and Technological Innovation in Byzantium: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

## **Conference Papers**

"Engaging Science Theologically: Lessons from John Chrysostom's Apophatic Stances" ANZATS Conference "Context and Tradition," 3-5 July 2023

"Chrysostom's Apophatic Approach to God's Nature, Providential Activity, and Creation" *Actualités Chrysostomiennes* 2023, 21 June 2023

"Who Knows Better? The Crisis of Knowing in Athanasius' *Against the Gentiles*" Workshop "The Many Faces of Crisis," Macquarie University, Department of History and Archaeology, 1-3 June 2023

Creation's Natural Mortality and the "Fall": Patristic Perspectives, New Zealand Christians in Science 2023 Conference, 27-28 October 2023



# Academic Activity and Contributions of Faculty

Very Rev. Associate Professor Doru Costache

## Affiliations

Since 2023 Chair of the Sydney College of Divinity's Theology Research Network

## Participation in funded projects

Recipient of an International Collaborators Grants 2022-2023 from the International Research Network for the Study of Science & Belief in Society (INSBS) at the University of Birmingham, UK, for project "Contemporary Orthodox Christian Views of Artificial Intelligence in 'Cradle' and 'Diaspora' Communities."

Co-chair of the international expert group "Cosmology," Project Science and Orthodoxy around the World/SOW II. Institute of Historical Research at National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens. 2020-2023.

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"Who Knows Better? The Crisis of Knowing in Athanasius' Against the Gentiles" Workshop "The Many Faces of Crisis," Macquarie University, Department of History and Archaeology, 1-3 June 2023



# Academic Activity and Contributions of Faculty



## Rev. Dr. Antonios Kaldas

### Books Published

*This Great Mystery of Life: An Introduction to the Coptic Orthodox Church*, St Shenouda Monastery Press, 2022.

*Kids' Katamarus*, St Shenouda Monastery Press, 2023.

### Book Chapters

“Unity Out of Division.” In *Statements from the Soul: The moral case for the Uluru Statement from the Heart*, edited by Shireen Morris and Damien Freeman. La Trobe University Press: pp. 55–65.

### Journal Articles

*Reflections on the Relationship between Orthodox Christian Theology and Psychoanalysis: A Review Essay*. *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology*, New Series, 2, 199–215.

### Presentations

“Experience of God as an Apologetic Strategy: Bringing Eastern Mystical Theology into Dialogue with Western Cognitive Science.” IOTA Conference, Volos, Greece, Jan 2023

“Beyond Natural / Supernatural,” ANZATS Conference (online, 3 July 2023)

“The Pros and Cons of a Contemporary Orthodox Christian Apologetic.” 4th Theology Symposium, For the Life of the World: The Church’s Missional Identity and Witness Today. St Andrew’s Greek Orthodox Theological College, Sydney, 19 August 2023

Response to Neil Ormerod on “Can Computers Be Intelligent? A Tangle of Questions.” SCD Theology Research Network – ISCAST Seminar (online, 25 August 2023)

ISCAST-NZCIS Conversations, “Is Consciousness a Platypus?” 11 May 2023



# Academic Activity and Contributions of Faculty

## Professor Rifaat Ebied



### Honours and Awards

Presented with a *Festschrift* during the ARAM Conference on “Syriac Christianity” held at Oxford in July, entitled *Šalmūtā Šapīrtā* (“A Perfect Harmony”). It is a collection of papers by renowned scholars in Syriac Studies, written in honour of Prof. Ebied and as recognition of his seminal contributions to Semitic Studies.

## Professor Edith Humphrey



### Publication

*Mediation and the Immediate God: Scriptures, the Church and Knowing God*. NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2023.

## Mina Samy



### Journal Article

“The Hymn of Intercessions (Ⲛⲓⲧⲉⲛ) in the Coptic Liturgical Rite,” *Coptica* (2021), released in 2023.



# IOTA Conference, Greece 2023



From January 12–14, more than 400 Orthodox Christian scholars from all over the world – the largest such gathering in modern times – came together in Volos, Greece for the second mega-conference of the International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA). Six members of St Cyril’s faculty participated in the conference, chairing sessions and presenting papers. The conference, whose theme was Mission and the Orthodox Church, brought together leading Orthodox (Eastern and Oriental) scholars from all fields, jurisdictions and backgrounds to discuss and think prayerfully and rigorously about the mission of the Orthodox Church in today’s world. In the spirit of the Orthodox tradition, the conference combined the academic and the spiritual. In the words of the organisers, “The gathering included a wonderful mix of the intellectual, liturgical, and spiritual aspects of the Orthodox tradition.”

# IOTA Conference, Greece 2023

The conference opened with prayer, offered daily worship, and closed with the Divine Liturgy. The presence of hierarchs from eight (seven Eastern Orthodox, one Oriental) Churches, along with many clergy and monastics, highlighted the spiritual and ecclesial quality of the conference, reminding the participants that the intellectual community also serves the Church.” Hierarchs from eight Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches were in attendance, including the Coptic Orthodox Church, represented by HG Bishop Suriel (and HE Metropolitan Thomas of al-Qusiyah who was unable to attend in person)





# Other Events

## Summer Lecture by His Eminence Metropolitan Thomas of al-Qusiyah: *The Theology of Service* (26 February)



**St Cyril's**  
COPTIC ORTHODOX  
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

**ST CYRIL'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
SUMMER LECTURE**

**SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023, 7-9PM**

St Cyril's is proud to host  
**His Eminence Metropolitan Thomas**  
as he discusses

### The Theology of Service

What role does theology play in the Church's mission to serve both her own children and the wider community?  
How does theology help the Church and discern how to engage a secular society?

Register via: [tinyurl.com/stcyrilsummerlecture](https://tinyurl.com/stcyrilsummerlecture)  
There is a nominal fee of \$5

Location: St Cyril's Campus 6/252-254 West St Carlton

HE Metropolitan Thomas is the bishop of the Diocese of Al-Qusiya. He has extensive experience in mission and ministry in both Africa and Egypt.

[www.stcyrils.edu.au](http://www.stcyrils.edu.au)    [registrar@stcyrils.edu.au](mailto:registrar@stcyrils.edu.au)



# Other Events

## Servants Development Courses Archangel Michael & St Bishoy's Church The Holy Apostles & St Abanoub's Church (18 Mar, 1 Apr, 17 Jun, 24 Jun)

**SERVANTS DEVELOPMENT**  
*course teaser*

**LENT**

SATURDAY **March 18th** 18 | New Testament  
Fr Paul Fanous

Apologetics | 01 | SATURDAY **April 1st**  
Fr Antonios Kaldas

March & April sessions @ Archangel Michael & St Bishoy's Church, Mt Druitt

**APOSTLES' FAST**

SATURDAY **June 17th** 17 | Pastoral Theology  
Fr Mark Basily

Counselling | 24 | SATURDAY **June 24th**  
Dr Margaret Tadros

June sessions @ St Abanoub's Church, Blacktown

*speaker lineup*



**FR PAUL FANOUS**  
18th March 2023



**FR ANTONIOS KALDAS**  
1st April 2023



**FR MARK BASILY**  
17th June 2023



**DR MARGARET TADROS**  
24th June 2023

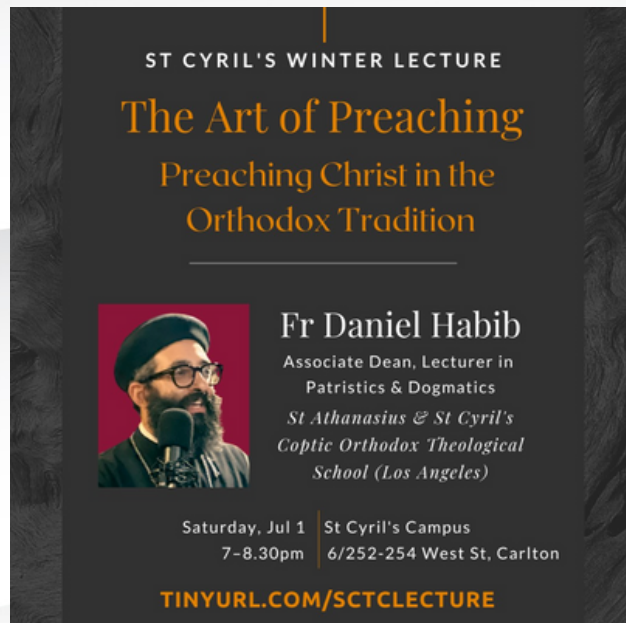
FOR ALL SERVANTS WITHIN THE WESTERN SECTOR OF THE DIOCESE  
SUPPORTED BY ST CYRIL'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
REGISTRATIONS VIA HISVINE | \$10 ADMISSION PER DAY  
ALL SESSIONS FROM 11AM-4PM





# Other Events

## Winter Lecture by Fr Daniel Habib *The Art of Preaching in the Orthodox Tradition (1 July)*



## Christ and Culture Series: *Creativity in Christianity (17 October)*



# Other Events

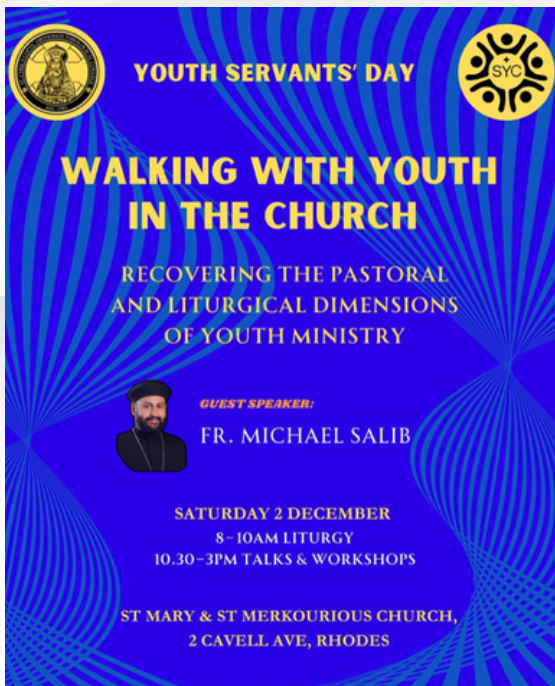
**Dr Margaret Tadros, Lecturer in Pastoral  
Counselling at St. Cyril's, attended the  
*Annual Conference of the Orthodox  
Christian Association of Medicine,  
Psychology and Religion in Illinois, USA (5-7  
October)***





# Other Events

## St. Cyril's and SYC Annual Youth Servant's Day: *Walking with Youth in the Church* (2 Dec)



# Archive of Contemporary Coptic Orthodox Theology (ACCOT)

*The Archive of Contemporary Coptic Orthodox Theology* ([accot.stcyrils.edu.au](http://accot.stcyrils.edu.au)) is a digital tool for the study of Coptic Orthodox theology in the modern period, featuring translations of Arabic texts by Coptic authors as well as information on their lives and a number of tools and resources (such as biographies, bibliographies and citation guides) to support scholars and students working in the emerging field of contemporary Coptic studies.

ACCOT's primary goal is to make the texts, personalities and primary sources of contemporary Coptic theology available to English audiences, both academic and popular.



## An ACCOT translation of St. Pope Kyrillos VI, Papal Letter on the Feast of the Nativity (1970)

“And now my beloved and the crown of my rejoicing in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, glorify and worship and sing with the angels saying, “Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill towards men!” (Lk 2:14).

Rejoice with the entire creation, for the Lord of Humankind has desired to visit humanity with His salvation, and so has come down from heaven and walked among us. If He appeared to us in His unveiled divinity, we would have been burned up and would have perished, for the Most High said “no man shall see Me, and live” (Ex 33:20). For this reason, He has spoken to us through His Son. He concealed His divinity in the body of His humanity, and taught us the ways of salvation, effecting our redemption in Himself in order to bring us to His heavenly kingdom.”



ACCOT

ARCHIVE OF CONTEMPORARY  
COPTIC ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

Kyrillos VI. “Papal Letter for the Glorious Feast of the Nativity” [al-Risāla al-bābāwiyya fī ‘īd al-mīlād al-majīd] in *Sunday School Magazine* 14, no. 1 (January 1960): 1–3, 9. Translated by Samuel Kaldas in *Archive of Contemporary Coptic Orthodox Theology*.

<https://accot.stcyrils.edu.au/pk6-nat1960/>.



# Semester 1, 2024



St Cyril's  
COPTIC ORTHODOX  
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

2024

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## Intro to Theology

Fr Daniel Fanous

## Intro to Counselling

Dr Margaret Tadros

## St Athanasius of Alexandria

Fr Doru Costache

## Intro to the Old Testament

Fr Paul Fanous

## The Art of Prayer

Fr Antony St Shenouda

## Orthodox Perspectives on the Reformation

Fr Samuel Fanous

## New Testament Greek I

Dr Seumas MacDonald

## Syriac I

Prof Rifaat Ebied

## Arabic I

Prof Rifaat Ebied

## Biblical Hebrew I

Prof Rifaat Ebied

To apply, contact our registrar at  
[registrar@stcyrils.edu.au](mailto:registrar@stcyrils.edu.au) or visit [stcyrils.edu.au](http://stcyrils.edu.au)

# Applying to Study at St. Cyril's

Enrolments for Sem 1 2024 are now open!

To apply (as a new student) click on this link:  
<https://stcyrils.edu.au/index.php/apply-now/>

To enrol in subjects (as an existing student) click on this link:  
<https://stcyrils.edu.au/index.php/enrolment-form/>

For any questions, please contact our registrar: [registrar@stcyrils.edu.au](mailto:registrar@stcyrils.edu.au)

Enrolments close February 6, make sure to enrol before then to avoid late enrolment fees!

# Contact Us



**SYDNEY**  
**College of Divinity**  
An Australian University College



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**Director of Learning & Teaching:**  
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**Dean:**  
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