

JCMA 'Interpreting & Understanding Sacred Texts' Speaker Profiles

SESSION 1 - Rabbi Fred Morgan, *Emeritus Rabbi, Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne*



In 1997 Rabbi Fred Morgan became Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in St Kilda, a post he held for 16 years.

He has been actively involved with interfaith activities through the Council of Christians and Jews as well as the JCMA. He served as Professorial Fellow in Jewish-Christian relations at the Australian Catholic University and contributed to several ACU sponsored conferences in Comparative Theology. In 2013 he was made a Member in the Order of Australia for his contributions to interfaith understanding and to the Jewish community.

Rabbi Fred Morgan taught Religious Studies at the University of Bristol, UK, before entering the Leo Baeck College in London to study for the rabbinate. After ordination he served North West Surrey Synagogue in southern England for 13 years.

SESSION 2 – Adam Cooper, *Associate Professor, Catholic Theological Institute, Melbourne*



Adam Cooper is Associate Professor at the Catholic Theological Institute in Melbourne. Adam specialises in early Christian theology and history. His numerous publications include *Holy Eros: A Liturgical Theology of the Body* (2014).

Before becoming Catholic, Adam was a Lutheran pastor. He previously served on the United Faculty of Theology in Melbourne and the Lutheran School of Theology and was an honorary fellow at the University of Melbourne.

He has doctorates from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute (Lateran) and the University of Durham (UK).

SESSION 3 – Sheikh Alaa El Zokm, *Imam of Elsedeaq Heidelberg Mosque Melbourne*



Sheik Alaa El Zokm is the Imam of Elsedeaq Heidelberg Mosque in Melbourne, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Imams of Victoria and graduated from Al-Azhar University.

In 2016, Elsedeaq Heidelberg mosque won the Victorian Multicultural award acknowledging our efforts Alhamdulillah for having very successful open days at the mosque. Inviting more than 300 people from the local area to the mosque for tours at the mosque visitors get to hear about the message of Islam, ask questions to help remove misconceptions about the religion and finally have lunch together.