



**LITTLE FLOWER INSTITUTE OF  
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION,  
ALUVA - 683101, KERALA**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

# **Empathy**

## **A New Metaphor for Ethics**

**November 15-16, 2022**

### **Theme Note**

Deliberations on values and normativity in moral philosophy has moved from traditional moral absolutes or relative models to discursive and discernible models defined and determined by praxis-oriented approaches. Empathy, conceived as the ability to understand and feel with the other person, is almost an established normative metaphor in the emergent model of ethics. The inclusive epistemology of empathy reshapes and redefines the dictums and contours of moral principles and practices. Traditionally conceived within the religious domains, empathy has now gained respectability and acceptance as a secular, rational and cognitive principle thanks to an array of interdisciplinary developments.

This conference discusses the latest research on how empathy and compassion enhance the professional practices in society. The application of the principles of empathy in various ethical scenarios in the healthcare field, incorporating empathy into the philosophical deliberations on ethical normativity, appropriation of business ethics and law from the perspective of empathy, and visualising a moral theology informed by empathy are the four major focal themes

of this conference. Ethical Deliberations of case studies where empathetic approaches have been shown to be effective will be a particular approach of this conference. This conference targets the practitioners, educationists, and professionals from various sectors, including the healthcare professionals, those engaged in business, government, law, education, and social services. It brings together a pool of professional experts, academicians, scientists, and researchers to present and share their experiences and research results on the various aspects of Empathy and related themes like care and compassion.

**November 15, 2022**

**Inaugural Session (9.30 to 10.30 am)**

*Welcome Address*

**Rev. Tomy Alumkalkarott**

(President, LIPAR, Aluva)

*Inaugural Address*

**Prof. Dr Russell D'Souza**

(UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Melbourne)

*Presidential Address*

**Dr. Sebastian Palamoottil**

(Rector, St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Mangalappuzha)

*Felicitation*

**Dr. Jojo Joseph**

(Superior General, Little Flower Generalate, Thrikkakara)

**Dr. Saji Nellikkunnel**

(Rector, Little Flower Seminary, Aluva)

**Section 1: (11am to 1.00pm)**

## **Empathy in Biomedical Ethics**

*Keynote Address: Role of Empathy in Complex Patient Encounters*

**Dr. V. P. Gangadharan**

(HoD & Senior Consultant, Dept. of Medical and Paediatric Oncology, VPS Lakeshore Hospital, Kochi)

*Importance of Empathy in Increasing Technologisation of Medicine*

**Dr. Princy Louis Palatty**

(Dept. of Pharmacology, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi)

*The Neurology of Empathy and Compassion*

**Dr. Anandkumar**

(HoD, Dept. of Neuroscience, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi)

## Section 2 (2pm to 4.30 pm)

### Empathy and Normative Philosophy

*Revisiting Immanuel Levinas in the Context of Ukraine War*

**Dr. Paul Thelakkatt**

(Editor-in-Chief, *Light of Truth*, Kochi)

**Dr. Jojo Joseph**

(Former President, LIPAR, Aluva)

*Beyond Empathy: Phenomenological Approaches in Indian Philosophy*

**Prof. Dr. Sreekala Nair**

(HoD, Department of Philosophy, SSUS, Kalady)

*'Field' as a Category of Interpretation: A Recipe for Scientific Concept of Empathy*

**Prof. Dr. Joseph Mathew**

(Capuchin Vidya Bhavan, Thellakom)

## Section 3 (6.30pm to 08.00 pm)

*Francis Collins - An Empathizing Quest for Meaning in Science*

**Dr. S. Ignacimuthu**

(Former Vice Chancellor, Madras University)

*Empathetic Fraternity - Perspectives from Fratelli Tutti (Online Session)*

**Dr. Gerald Grudzen**

(President, Global Ministries University, California).

## November 16, 2022

## Section 4 (9.30 to 11.30am)

### Empathy in Business & Law

*Empathetic Motives for Social Responsibility - Case Studies from Business Ethics*

**Prof. Dr. Kuruvilla Pandikattu**

(Chair Professor of JRD Tata Foundation on Business Ethics, XLRI, Jamshedpur)

*Business Meets Heart: Empathy to Ethics*

**Dr. Regi Cherian**

(Former Director, Marian College, Kuttikkanam)

*The Relevance of Empathy for Conflict Resolution*

**Dr. Nadarajah Manickam**

(Multiversity Platform, Loyola College, Thiruvananthapuram)

## Parallel Sessions (12 to 1pm)

## Section 5 (2pm to 4pm)

### Interfacing Empathy and Moral Theology

*Pope Francis - An Epitome of Empathetic Pastoral Paradigm*

**Dr. Jino Perincheril**

(Rector, Little Flower Minor Seminary, Irikkur)

*The LGBTQ Debate - Perspectives from Empathetic Ethics*

**Dr. Saji Mathew Kanayankal**

(Marymatha Major Seminary, Thrissur)

*Revisiting Roe Vs Wade - Does Daya (Compassion) Matter?*

**Dr. Siby Cheruthottil**

(Dean, Faculty of Philosophy, Marymatha Major Seminary, Thrissur)

*Revisiting Roe Vs Wade - Does Empathetic Theology Matter?*

**Dr. Libin Kozhikkottu**

(Lecturer, Little Flower Major Seminary, Aluva)

## 4pm Valedictory Session

### Call for Papers

Short papers (20 minutes) are invited for presentation in parallel sessions on related topics. Suggested topics include, but not limited to, the following:

- Judicial Empathy
- Empathy and Law
- Religions and Empathy
- Philosophy of Compassion
- Social Darwinism Vs. Altruism
- Nursing Ethics
- Palliative Care
- Patient-Doctor Relationship
- Beginning of Life Issues
- End of Life Issues
- Narrative Medicine
- Robotics and Empathy
- Science of Altruism
- Mirror Neurons and Empathy
- Empathy in Animal World
- Philosophers on Empathy

NB: Please send the title and the abstract of 150 words to the organisers before November 5, 2022.

### Contact

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### Jointly Organised by

- Little Flower Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Aluva
- Research Centre, LIPAR, Aluva
- South India Unit of Bioethics & SAARC Nodal Centre, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi
- JRD Tata Foundation on Business Ethics, XLRI, Jamshedpur

For Registration use this url: <https://lfsaluva.org/national-conference>  
or scan the QR Code

