

VHI 2015-16 MERCY

Friday
19th February
4-6pm

Garden Room
St Edmund's College
Cambridge

ALL WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS



St Edmund's
College

vonHügel
Institute

www.vhi.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk



The Priority of Mercy: Ontology Not Morality

James Alison

While some guardians of "orthodoxy" have tended to claim the theological high-ground and downplay Pope Francis' challenges in this Jubilee of Mercy as merely "pastoral" words and gestures, of little doctrinal import, James Alison will attempt to imagine with us what it might mean for our understanding of who we are, what our flourishing looks like, and what might be the shape of the sign that is the Church, if we were to take seriously, and give some logical heft to, the key theological and doctrinal insight that forgiveness is prior to creation.

James Alison is a Catholic theologian, priest, and author. A systematic theologian by training, his most recent work is *Jesus the Forgiving Victim* (Doers, 2013), a programme of induction into the Christian faith for adults, building on the insight into desire associated with René Girard. Having lived with the Dominican Order between 1981 and 1995, James works as an itinerant preacher, lecturer, and retreat giver, based in Madrid, Spain. He earned his doctorate in theology from the Jesuit Faculty in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. His other books include *Knowing Jesus* (SPCK, 1992), *Faith Beyond Resentment: Fragments Catholic and Gay* (DLT/Crossroad, 2001), and *Undergoing God* (DLT/Continuum, 2006).