

LI Meeting of Scholars of Ancient Christianity
AUGUSTINIANUM 7-8 May 2026

Dear colleagues,

First of all, we would like to extend our warm thanks to all participants of the 50th *Incontro di Studiosi dell'Antichità Cristiana* on behalf of the Augustinianum and the Organising Committee (J.A. Cabrera Montero, T. Canella, F. Cocchini, M.G. Crepaldi, C. Curzel, E. Dovere, J. Farrugia, G. Germinario, M. Girolami, S. Mantelli, A. Nigra, E. Prinzivalli, R. Ronzani, R. Schembra, F. Suárez Izquierdo). We are pleased to announce that the next meeting will take place on **7-8 May 2026** and will be dedicated to the theme:

Christianity, Peoples, Cultures.
Aspects and Issues of the Inculturation of Christianity in the Early Centuries
(1st-9th centuries)

Every religious experience is lived by concrete individuals situated in space and time – that is, within the cultures of peoples. This general truth assumes particular importance in the biblical and Christian experience, which is profoundly rooted in history.

Holy Scripture has been – and continues to be – regarded by believers as the Word of God expressed through human language. Faith, as a response to revelation, is realised in human experience through a process of inculturation which is not merely an external adaptation, but a vital dialogue, assimilation, and exchange with the cultures in which it takes form.

The mediation of biblical-Christian revelation within Greek culture marked the first of these encounters. Already in the context of Alexandrian Judaism, and subsequently in early Christian thought, the Semitic faith was articulated using Greek philosophical categories – sometimes in harmony, sometimes through tension and conflict. The hierarchical structure of the Church, its relationship with the Empire, and the dogmatic definitions established by the Councils of the 4th and 5th centuries progressively “naturalized” more and more these processes of inculturation, particularly in the context of evangelisation in both East and West, where such developments were increasingly perceived as inevitable.

The aim of the conference is to explore the proposed theme as it was addressed by authors of early Christianity, with reference to the following areas of research:

- Exegesis and translation of biblical and patristic texts
- The widespread use of Eastern languages in Late Antique Christianity
- Philosophical influences on patristic thought and theological dogmatization
- Liturgical rituality
- Artistic representations
- Legal culture and political structures
- Popular religiosity

It is important that each proposed contribution maintains a clear and direct connection to the overarching theme. Revisiting the question of the inculturation of faith in antiquity may help us reframe the relationship between Christianity and culture in today's global context, seeking unity and plurality in a spirit of respectful diversity.

Those who wish to participate in the 2026 meeting with either a **short paper (15 minutes)** or a **plenary lecture (25 minutes)** are kindly asked to submit their proposed title, a brief abstract, and a short academic CV by **30 November 2025, exclusively** via the following email address: convegnomaggio@patristicum.org

The scientific Committee will meet in early January 2026 to review the submissions, and participants will be informed of the outcome by the end of February.

The organising Committee
LI Incontro di Studiosi dell'Antichità Cristiana

P.S. The deadline for submission of contributions for the publication of the proceedings is 1 September 2026. No extensions will be granted under any circumstances, and any manuscripts received after this date will be automatically excluded. Contributions must not exceed 30,000 characters (including spaces) for short papers and 50,000 characters (including spaces) for plenary lectures.

N.B. Participation in the meeting does not guarantee publication in the proceedings. All submitted texts will undergo a double-blind peer-review process and may not be accepted for publication.