



## **What Did Deacons Do? Online Seminars, May 10-12th 2021, 9-10 AM (GMT+2)**

John N. Collins' seminal work *Diakonia: Re-interpreting the Ancient Sources* (New York, 1990) provided the impulse for new research into the role and relevance of deacons and deaconesses in the developing Christian Church. Deacons and deaconesses were not just responsible for *caritas*. They fulfilled an important role both in the network of Christian communities and as assistant-leaders.

Since 2014 the School of Theology (University of Eastern Finland) regularly organizes international and ecumenical research conferences. The proceedings of the last conference are published in *Deacons and Diakonia in Early Christianity: the First Two Centuries* edited by Bart J. Koet, Esko Ryökäs, and Edwina Murphy (Tübingen, 2018). In 2022 we hope to publish a second volume on deacons and diakonia in Early Christianity.

As a follow-up to the 2020 zoom-seminars *What Did Deacons Do?*, the Tilburg School of Catholic Theology is facilitating a new series of seminars. Earlier seminars were held last February. To watch the presentations, please click [www.tiu.nu/CSEC/Activities](http://www.tiu.nu/CSEC/Activities).

### **Programme**

10 May, 9-10 AM (GMT+2)

Chair: Dr. **Edwina Murphy**, Morling College, Sydney

Welcome by Dr. **Wim van de Donk**, rector-manificus and chairman of the Board of Tilburg University  
*Ephrem the Syrian on Deacons*. Dr. **Gerard Rouwhorst**, Tilburg School of Catholic Theology

11 May, 9-10 AM (GMT+2)

Chair: Dr. **Pekka Metso**, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu

*Deacons in the life and work of John Chrysostom* Dr. **Andreas Müller**, Christian-Abrechts-Universität zu Kiel

12 May, 9-10 AM (GMT+2)

Host: Dr. **Arnold Smeets**, Tilburg School of Catholic Theology

*So: What Did Deacons Do? Towards Conclusions and Perspectives on Future Research.*

Dr. **Edwina Murphy**, Morling College, Sydney, Dr. **Esko Ryökäs**, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu. Dr. **Bart Koet** Tilburg School of Catholic Theology

Followed by an open conversation with the participants &  
Closing Remarks by Dr. **Bart J. Koet**

### **Practical Information**

\* Admission is free. Please register using [www.tiu.nu/Deacons05-2021](http://www.tiu.nu/Deacons05-2021). Participants will receive an email with the zoomlink on May 7, 2021.

\* Please feel free to send this invitation to other interested scholars.

\* 9 AM GMT+2 in Amsterdam is 8AM in London, 10AM in Joensuu, 5PM in Sydney.

### **Announcement**

In September 2021 a series of seminars on *presbyteroi* will be held. They are a 'preview' of the project *Presbyters in the Early Church: The First Two Centuries*, Bart Koet, Edwina Murphy, Murray Smith (editors), to be published in 2022.