

Churches in a Pluralist World:

The Theological Legacy of John Neville Figgis CR (1866-1919)



MIRFIELD CENTRE

Brilliant historian, political philosopher and theologian, J. N. Figgis CR was one of the great minds of the early twentieth century.

He was also a lovable if slightly eccentric priest whose own scepticism helped him to understand the problems that other people had with belief, but whose sense of the absolute priority of God and the love of God lent rare power to his writing and preaching. Although Figgis died before the worst manifestations of twentieth-century totalitarianism, he was implacably opposed to all forms of absolutism.

He favoured a broadly distributist and bottom-up view of authority that respects the integrity of individuals and of the communities and institutions that make up civil society, including the Church. Figgis is a prophet of modern pluralism.

Academic Speakers: Paul Avis, William Cavanaugh (USA), Mark Chapman, Elaine Graham, Andrew Grosso (USA), Jeremy Morris, Ephraim Radner (Canada), Peter Sedgewick, Stephen Spencer

Tuesday 2nd - Thursday 4th April, 2019

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01924 481920

www.mirfield.org.uk

centre@mirfield.org.uk