

The 6th European Godly Play Conference 2020 Mechelen (Belgium)

18-21 September 2020

Academic Symposium

The optional Academic Symposium of the European Godly Play Conference 2020 will be held on 17 and 18 September. Researchers and Godly Play practitioners from across the world will share their insights, research and reflections on Godly Play.

Academic Symposium of the European Godly Play Conference 2020:
Thursday 17 September at 14:00 to
Friday 18 September at 12:30.

Conference fees

€ 380, includes coffee breaks, lunch, dinner, scheduled conference activities and the additional Academic Symposium.

€ 300 Conference only (without Academic Symposium)
Accommodation and breakfast are not included in the conference fees.

Registration will open in September 2019.

Accommodation suggestions

Holiday Inn Express Mechelen City Centre
Youth Hostel De Zandpoort in Mechelen
The Elisabeth Hotel in Mechelen
(all within walking distance)

Practical information

The Conference will begin on Friday 18 September at 12:30, starting with lunch (the registration desk will open at 11:00) and will end on Monday 21 September at 12:30 (ending with lunch). English will be the main spoken language. For certain sessions, we will split up into language or regional groups. The Conference and the Academic Symposium will be hosted at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. The Center is housed in the former seminary, a historical building in the heart of Mechelen, easily accessible by train or by bus and only half an hour's drive from Brussels airport.



Please visit our site for
more information
www.godlyplayconference2020.be



Like a mustard seed Godly Play, Trust and Transformation



Godly Play in Europe is steadily growing and is playing a significant role in a great number of churches and countries.

But do you ever wonder about the sowers...
about the seed...
about how it germinates...
and how we encourage it to grow?

Find out by joining us on our three-day conference. In September 2020, Godly Play storytellers and friends will meet up in Belgium for the 6th European Godly Play Conference. Come along and get to know our beautiful Godly Play community tree.

Content

Join us in discovering how Godly Play is nurturing trust and transformation in these present times.

How do we foster this?

The programme will consist of various plenary sessions and group sessions, storytelling, worship, seminars, with plenty of leisure time, moments of sharing and opportunities to meet (new) friends. We have scheduled a wide range of workshops and seminars hosted by people from different countries.

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Main lectures

Friday 18 Sept. at 14:00: Gemma Simmonds
Rooted in love: theological grounds of nurturing spirituality.

Saturday 19 Sept. at 11:00: Rebecca Nye
Godly Play and vulnerability.

Sunday 20 Sept. at 11:00: Nikolaas Sintobin
Inner senses, doors to interiority.

Monday 21 Sept. at 11:00: Andrew Sheldon
Godly Play: a way for today.



Gemma Simmonds is a sister of the Congregation of Jesus and lectures in pastoral theology and Christian spirituality at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge, UK. Formerly a university and prison chaplain, she is a simultaneous translator in 4 languages and has undertaken

missionary work in Brazil.

Her latest book, *The Way of Ignatius*, was published in 2018.



Dr Rebecca Nye is a psychologist with a special interest in childhood spirituality. Her published work has explored this in Church, school, health-care and home contexts, in addition to publications about the psychology of Christian ministry. Whilst working at the University of Cambridge (1996-2004),

she introduced Godly Play to the UK, and became a Godly Play trainer. In addition to childhood spirituality training and consultancy, she has worked for The Open University since 2009, teaching child and educational psychology, childhood and youth studies, and approaches to researching with and listening to children. She is married with three children who have been an inspiration always.



Nikolaas Sintobin joined the Society of Jesus in 1989, after a short career as a lawyer. He was trained as a jesuit in Brussels, Paris and Santiago de Chile. He served as a school chaplain, teacher and spiritual guide. He specialised in Jesuit spirituality and pedagogy.

Ignatian spirituality offers various tools which appeal to the (inner) senses in order to explore and to develop the religious and the philosophical dimensions of the human being.



Andrew Sheldon is the Godly Play Advocate for International Development. He is privileged to travel the world to provide training to storytellers and trainers. He is a regular speaker at Godly Play conferences and gatherings, and is deeply engaged in the "business" of Godly Play. Andrew's greatest delight,

however, is the weekly opportunity to get down on the floor with children for stories and wondering.