



# TJCII for YOU

A global, biweekly news update



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## **What is the Easter faith and how does it inform the vision and mandate of Toward Jerusalem Council II?**

-Reverend Canon Brian Cox

The Easter faith does not consist of simply believing that Jesus physically rose from the dead. That is a proven historical fact. No amount of “fake news” by Pilate or the Sanhedrin was able to suppress the simple truth that the tomb was empty on that first Easter Day. No, the Easter faith begins with an encounter with the risen Jesus that leads to a personal faith and a life of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called “costly discipleship.” Jesus invited us to follow him, not to fulfill our own dreams but to die to ourselves and embrace God’s purposes. The Apostle Paul (Rabbi Shaul) expresses this in II Corinthians 5:7 “We walk by faith, not by sight.” This embodies the original call to Abraham as expressed in Galatians 3:6-9 “Consider Abraham: ‘He believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. Understand then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: All nations will be blessed through you. So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.’”

The vision of TJCII is the reconciliation of Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus (Yeshua) as part of a larger work of restoration in our day: the alignment of the nations with Israel. To do this requires Gentiles to embrace the Easter faith which involves two conversions as my colleague and fellow ILC member, Archdeacon Johannes Eichtenhauer writes about in his book “The Mystery of the Olive Tree.” The

Johannes Fichtenbauer writes about in his book *The Mystery of the Olive Tree*. The first conversion is to Jesus as the King of Israel who has become the king of the nations. The second conversion is to a love for Israel and God's chosen people. This twofold conversion enables Gentiles to embrace their Jewish roots while maintaining their Gentile identity. It is the very vaccine that inoculates the Gentiles against the virus of replacement theology and antisemitism.

The vision of TJCII, grounded in the Easter faith, offers this vaccine to the Gentile world. Have you had your TJCII vaccine shot? It's time to make an appointment.

*The Reverend Canon Brian Cox is a member of the TJCII International Council and the Executive. He is one of the original pioneers of TJCII.*

**We wish you a happy and blessed Easter!**

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**Watch for our next email in two weeks!**  
**Add [egs@tjcii.org](mailto:egs@tjcii.org) to your contacts list.**

*\*The opinions and perspectives expressed in this issue may not reflect the views of TJCII.*

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