



Volume I, Candlemas 2026



University of
St Andrews



PH *Martyria*

PH *Martyria*

Student Journal of the University of St Andrews School of Divinity

VOLUME I
Spring 2026 Issue

ISSN: 2978-8900

Copyright © 2026 (CC BY 4.0)
The University of St Andrews School of Divinity
St Andrews, Scotland

Authors retain copyright, but give their consent to *Martyria* to publish their work.

Cover page design by Wilder Pritchard.
Martyria logo design by Veronica Chiaravalli.

Martyria (formerly *The Heretic*) is the student-run undergraduate and early postgraduate Biblical Studies and Theology journal of the University of St Andrews School of Divinity. Established in 2019 and rebranded in 2025, it publishes original research in Biblical Studies, Theology, Church History, and Religion in relation to Politics and Science. The journal accepts submissions from undergraduates, recent graduates, and early postgraduates for inclusion in its annual peer-reviewed issue.

Email:
martyriajournal@st-andrews.ac.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EDITORIAL BOARD

Molliver Brooks

Lizzy Brubaker

Rachel Cornille

Leonie Grosse Osterdahl

Aqeel Khaldun

Madeline McDermott

Jay Newman

Wilder Prichard

Josh Prins

Luke Robinson

Anna Shapovalova

Kate Wilcox

Arthur Zhang

Wilson Sugeng
Editor-in-Chief

Maria de Feo
Deputy Editor-in-Chief

Arielle Friedlander
Head of Outreach

Sydney Gee
Copyeditor

Dr William Hyland
School of Divinity Sponsor

FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

It is a great pleasure to present the inaugural edition of *Martyria*. A lot has changed since our initial founding as *The Heretic* in 2019.

This name change captures what the journal hopes to be. Taken from the Greek μαρτυρία (*martyria*; “witness” or “testimony”), *Martyria* seeks to publish work that *bears witness* to the continuing truth and vitality of divinity within the academy. At a time when theology and religion departments across Britain and worldwide face institutional uncertainty and declining undergraduate numbers, the rigour and substance of the papers submitted to the journal testify that interest in the Divine has not died out! On the contrary, these papers provide a witness to the enduring place of theology and religion in the intellectual life of the university.

Elise Falcon’s exploration of Joshua 3 shows how communities standing at a threshold may find settlement through covenantal relationship with God—a theme deeply relevant in an age of instability and broken relations. Kirsten Spolar’s reading of the submitting yet strategic Christ-like wife in 1 Peter 3 informs Christian families amid changing norms and reactionary responses to feminism. Vic Chua’s account of theology as a Goethean science offers theologians a timely vision of their place within the university. Zach Miyazaki’s classical theistic defence against the problem of divine hiddenness responds to pertinent philosophical challenges to the Christian faith. And Niamh Graham’s overview of religion in geopolitical environments highlights the need to consider religion seriously amidst seemingly secular contexts.

I am deeply thankful to our Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Maria de Feo, who has spent countless hours planning the vision, structure, and execution of this newly organised endeavour. I also thank Sydney Gee for bringing her extensive copyediting experience to the table, and Dr William Hyland for his experienced guidance. I am especially grateful to our thirteen undergraduate and postgraduate editors for reading through dozens of submissions and sitting through long review meetings amidst busy weeks. Finally, I am particularly grateful to the team behind *Aporia: The St Andrews Journal of the Philosophy Society*—both for their guidance and for serving as an exemplary student journal as we reshaped the structure of *Martyria*.

Yours truly,

Wilson Sugeng

Editor-in-Chief, *Martyria*

MARTYRIA VOL. 1

Spring 2026 Issue

CONTENTS

BIBLICAL STUDIES

- Article 1 1
Joshua 3:7–17, A Synthetic Exploration
 Elise Falcon, *University of St Andrews*
- Article 2 17
The Subversive Submission of Women in 1 Peter 3:1–6
 Kirsten Spolar, *Gordon College*

THEOLOGY

- Article 3 27
Iconic Christology: Reimagining Scientific Theology
 Vic Chua, *University of St Andrews*
- Article 4 43
Asymmetry in Divine Love: A Classical Theist Response to the Problem of Divine Hiddenness
 Zach Miyazaki, *Baylor University*

RELIGION

- Article 5 53
Sacred Power in Secular States: The Resurgence of Religion in the Politics of China, the United States, and Israel
 Niamh Graham, *University of St Andrews*

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review 1 68
Review of *Origen of Alexandria and the Theology of the Holy Spirit* by Micah M. Miller
 Jeremías Avilés, *Pontifical Catholic University of Chile*
- Review 2 70
Review of *Why We Believe: Finding Meaning in Uncertain Times* by Alister McGrath
 Clara Leustean, *University of St Andrews*
- Review 3 73
Review of *The Paradox of Sonship: Christology in the Epistle to the Hebrews* by R. B. Jamieson
 Vic Chua, *University of St Andrews*

