



Volume I, Candlemas 2026



University of
St Andrews



PI *Martyria*

PH *Martyria*

Student Journal of the University of St Andrews School of Divinity

VOLUME I
Spring 2026 Issue

ISSN: 2978-8900

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The University of St Andrews School of Divinity
St Andrews, Scotland

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Cover page design by Wilder Pritchard.
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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.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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 Naimh 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*

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