

## Reflection Monday Christmas week St Stephen 2022

**St Stephen, the first Martyr** was one of the deacons appointed by the Apostles to organize the distribution of food to the poor. He performed many miracles and confounded the Jews in disputation. They fabricated false charges against him. At his trial he preached the risen Christ to them, so they stoned him to death. He prayed for his persecutors as he was dying. One of them, Saul of Tarsus, who was looking after the cloaks of the stone-throwers, was later converted and became the great missionary St Paul.

Scripture paints a picture of Stephen as one who trusted fully in the Lord and was filled with a wisdom that his detractors were unable to match. This is the same Lord who has come to us and renewed his presence in our lives. May St Stephen inspire us to trust in the Lord and believe that we will be given wisdom whenever we are asked to defend the faith.

### **Howard Thurman:**

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry,  
to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among all peoples,  
to make a little music with the heart...  
And to radiate the Light of Christ,  
every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.  
Then the work of Christmas begins.  
So, let the work of Christmas begin, and let it begin with you."