

## Reflection Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week Easter 2023

It cannot be said too often but the roots of the early Christian family were by and large Jewish. We owe them much. Many of them, like St Stephen, shed their blood to keep the faith alive.

Holy Stephen, Christ's dear martyr,  
first to shed thy blood for Him,  
what bright glory now surrounds thee,  
glory which no time can dim!  
O that we could share that glory;  
give for Him our life and blood!  
Let us praise thy noble story,  
told with life's own crimson flood.

Noble witness thou didst render  
to the Passion of thy Lord,  
bearing with a love courageous  
weight of stones more cruel than sword:  
mindful of our dying Saviour;  
begging mercy in death's throes  
thou didst raise thine eyes to heaven,  
craving mercy on thy foe.

Ours it may not be to suffer  
like Saint Stephen unto death,  
but a service we can render,  
to our last and failing breath:  
ours to serve our loving Saviour;  
ours to help His sacrifice:  
ours to give Him daily homage:  
till He calls to Paradise.

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O Precious Saint of God, Stephen, the First Martyr,  
who, by virtue of charity surrounded on every side  
didst pray to the Lord for the hostile people.  
Pour forth prayers now for the assembly devoted to thee,  
that, appeased by thy intervention,  
the Lord, may cleanse us from sin,  
and join us to the citizens of heaven.  
Glory and honour to God  
the most high in every place;  
the same to the Father, and the Son,  
to the glorious Paraclete;  
to whom belong praise and might for all ages. Amen.

- How do you know a rabbit is in a good mood? **He's hoppy.**
- What do you get when you cross a bunny with an onion? **A bunion.**