

# Saint Stephen's News

SAINT STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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*A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*

10 February 2015

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Explore the foundations of the Christian Faith

The first five books of the Old Testament are known to the Jewish people as The Torah. The Church refers to them as the 'Books of Moses'. Surprisingly, perhaps, few Christians today study them in the depth they deserve. This is a pity, for they are the very foundation of our Faith.

It is hoped that this year's Lenten Study, 'Exploring The Torah', will go some way towards rectifying this. So why not join us to learn what the books have to tell us about who we are, where we come from, and how we should live.

We shall investigate claims by fashionable theologians that The Torah should be largely ignored because it promulgates racism, slavery, revenge killing, capital punishment, and the subjugation and exploitation of women. And we shall explore what archaeology has to tell us about the books and the events they record.

The studies – by Fr Guy Hawtin and Fr Mike Kerouac – will offer plenty of time for discussion. Each study will be self-contained, so if you miss one or two – or even more, for that matter – you'll not be left dangling.

Why not join us at 6.30 PM after Evening Prayer on the five Wednesday evenings in Lent – February 25th and March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th – for body and soul. We're offering beverages, hearty soup and the best bread in Baltimore, not to mention plenty of food for thought. If you think you need more, bring a sandwich.

#### *The Rector writes:*

If you wonder why The Torah is so important, imagine what the world would be like without the extraordinary influence it – through the Jewish and Christian Faiths – has exerted on world affairs and the way in which it has moulded our society and our values.

In fact, to get an idea of what the world would be like without it, you could do worse than to pick up DVDs of the HBO Television series *Rome*. It is an historical drama set at the time of the demise of the Roman Republic, the rise to power of Julius Caesar and the imposition of the imperial system.

I received the first two seasons of DVDs as a birthday gift from my daughter Elizabeth. She hadn't seen the series herself and she was mortified to discover it contained graphic violence and – as in many British-made TV productions these days – explicit sex.

But that, I told her, is exactly what Rome was like at the time the old Roman Republic was stumbling along the path to blood soaked oblivion. Rome was, indeed, an exceedingly violent and sinful city at that time.

Time-hallowed Roman morality had broken down. Husbands betrayed wives, wives husbands, parents children, and children parents – not only sexually, but politically, as well. The city's politicians no longer tolerated principled opposition, but rather recruited street gangs to slaughter their rivals.

Caesar didn't actually overthrow republican government. He simply took advantage of the chaos to assume power. Two brutal civil wars later, his nephew and heir, Octavian (deified as Augustus), laid the foundations of the imperial system.

Some might describe *Rome* as *The Sopranos* in togas, but this does

the series a disservice. Its great virtue – admittedly an odd way of describing the graphic portrayal of sex and violence – is that it presents an historically illiterate generation with a lesson on the fate of societies that shuck off the morality that underpins them.

A remarkable thing about the Romans is how much like us they were. They had similar governmental and legal systems – a senate, an assembly, and courts of law. They maintained a highly trained and well-equipped professional army.

They had fire departments, health clinics, banks and insurance companies. They relaxed in bars, restaurants, health spas and nightclubs. They lived in apartment blocks, town houses and luxurious suburban villas – all piped with running water.

They vacationed by the sea, went to the theatre, adored chariot racing (their answer to NASCAR) and sports of all kind – the more strenuous and violent the better.

### The Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

**FOR RECOVERY:** Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, John, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Edie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Marjorie, Steve, Wendy, John, Joy, Walt, Nina, James, Nancy, Janet, Connie, Hobie, Nathan, Matthew, Adele, Starr

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Stephen, Lydia, Ann, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, Hannah, Scott, Charles, Vinnie, Doug, Rusty

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** Lt Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt Col. Harry Hughes

Another remarkable thing about the Romans is how very different we are from them. And the difference arises from the fact that Rome had not been exposed to Christianity. Rome was a society in which pity, mercy and love towards one's fellow men were not regarded as virtues, but merely options – and not widely admired options at that.

Slavery reached into all areas of Roman life. Even the poorest of homes had one. They were the Romans' household appliances, and industrial machines. At the same time, a large proportion of the city's professionals – trusted political advisers, administrators and physicians and the like – were slaves. Yet slaves had no rights. They could be killed at will.

The ancient Roman virtues were those of self-discipline – frugality, loyalty, civic pride, courage in battle, and stoicism in adversity. They were instilled in every citizen from childhood. But when good times came, prosperity edged aside frugality, loyalty and civic pride, as people strove for their own individual advancement.

Christian virtues have proved immeasurably more powerful than those of ancient Rome. Over the past two millennia they have transformed the West – enshrining love for humanity as the overarching virtue and ushering in an era of democracy.

The vital lesson of The Torah, set in the context of HBO's *Rome* series, is that America abandons Christianity, and the virtues it imparts, at its peril. **GPH**

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

# The Ladies will Lunch one week early this month

Since Ash Wednesday falls on the third Wednesday of February, the Ladies Who Lunch will meet instead on the *second* Wednesday this month. Join us on 11 February at 12 noon for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal at Joey Chiu's Greenspring Inn (10801 Falls Road, Lutherville). Good food and good fellowship – what more could you want?

Please phone Joyce Perlberg on **410 252 2680** to make your reservation; she will need a final count by the 9th.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper on 17 February

Saint Stephen's Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper takes place on 17 February at 5.00 PM. These famous suppers are not only gastronomic events, they are also real inflation fighters. The price has remained unchanged for 26 years. We challenge you to find anything in Baltimore with a comparable record!

For a mere \$5 per adult you can feast on scrumptious pancakes and a heaping helping of the finest sausages the city has to offer. (You could manage seconds? Be our guest!) Naturally, there will be lashings of syrup, butter, and apple sauce, with low calorie equivalents for folks watching their weight. Beverages will be available at nominal cost. Kids under 12 can tuck in for half price (\$2.50) for the first two, and the other kids you bring along – your own or anyone else's – eat free. We challenge you to find a better deal in town than that! It can't be done! We have managed to hold our prices steady without compromising quality because the Pancake Suppers are not fund raisers but family affairs aimed at fostering fellowship and fun. If we make a profit, it's entirely accidental.

Join us for fellowship, fun and fantastically good food at this year's Pancake and Sausage Supper. It's the best value in Baltimore. Doors open at 5.00 PM and close at 7.30 PM.

# Death in Holy Orders

Attention P. D. James fans! A screening of the BBC's 2003 adaptation of *Death in Holy Orders* is planned for two nights at Saint Stephen's. The production stars Martin Shaw as Commander Adam Dalgleish. Part 1 will be shown after the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, 17 Feb, and Part 2 will follow on Thursday the 19th at 6:30 PM. Each instalment is 90 minutes in duration. (The Rector kindly requests that no one get any ideas!)

## Saint Stephen's Anglican Church

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Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 410 665 1278  
Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

[www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)

The Ven. Canon Guy P. Hawtin, *Rector*  
The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki, *Associate Rectors*  
The Rev. Mr M. Wiley Hawks, *Deacon* · Adric, *Magister Chori*  
Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8 AM: Said Eucharist  
9.15 AM: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)  
11 AM: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)  
6 PM: Choral Evensong (as announced: [evensong.ststeve.com](http://evensong.ststeve.com))

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6 PM: Evening Prayer  
Friday 12 NOON: Healing Eucharist  
Saturday, 5 PM: Family Eucharist

## Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

**Mondays, 6.30 PM:** Bridge Club  
**Tuesdays, 7 PM:** Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)  
**Thursdays, 10 AM:** Knitting Circle  
**Fridays, 10.30 AM:** Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

**Wednesday, 11 February, 12 NOON:**  
The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Joey Chiu's  
**Tuesday, 17 February, 5 PM:**  
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
(followed by screening of *Death in Holy Orders*, Part 1)  
**Wednesday, 18 February:**  
Ash Wednesday services at 10 AM and 6 PM  
**Thursday, 19 February, 6.30 PM:**  
Screening of Part 2 of *Death in Holy Orders*  
**N.B. – There will be no February Afternoon Tea**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Saint Stephen's Anglican Church  
11856 Mays Chapel Road  
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