



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

The St Mary's Theology Essay Competition 2025

Essay title

Why were so many people received into the Catholic Church in the UK at Easter in 2025?

Prizes

First Place Award – £250

Honourable mention – £40 Book voucher (5)

Who can enter?

The St Mary's Theology Essay Competition is open to students in England and Wales who are currently in Year 12.

Some of the judges



Dr Jeremy Pilch
School of Theology



Dr Susan Longhurst
Lecturer in Religion
and Ethics



**Assoc Professor
Matthew James**
Course Lead, MA
Theology, MA Bioethics
and Medical Law



Dr Jack Bull
Lecturer in Biblical
Studies



2024 prize winners with Bishop John Sherrington



About St Mary's

We offer undergraduate degree programmes in a variety of subjects, ranging from sport to communications, business to drama and from politics to teaching. A degree at St Mary's, however, is about much more than the course you study; our community approach looks to support you on a personal level.

We also offer undergraduate degrees with a foundation year, which provides an alternative route to undergraduate study at university if you do not have the grades to access higher education in the traditional way.

About Theology, Religion and Ethics at St Mary's

Our degree in Theology, Religion, and Ethics combines contemporary debates with ancient disciplines.

Along with our experts, you will read seminal writers and thinkers of centuries-old traditions, pick up critical views of contemporary world issues, and examine the cultural appropriation of religious ideas and imagery.

You may wish to study modules about science and religious ethics, politics and the Bible, or look closely at developments in theory and theological doctrine.

This degree allows you to explore some of the most recent and the most long-standing examples of the perennial human search for meaning and apply them to the realities of contemporary society. To find out more visit www.stmarys.ac.uk/undergraduate/theology-religion-and-ethics.

Why St Mary's?

Studying Theology, Religion, and Ethics with us enables you to engage in open critical inquiry and contemporary intellectual debates in a setting with a vibrant religious identity.

We focus on cultivating academic excellence and are deeply concerned with ensuring you receive the best student experience. The programme includes opportunities to visit religious communities, and we also make use of the galleries and museums of London, situating your degree within the wider cultural economy of the UK.

While the degree takes special account of the University's Catholic identity and ethos, we welcome students from all faith traditions—and none. Our staff includes academics of various backgrounds and convictions, and we offer a supportive and welcoming community in which you can study. All our staff aim to ensure that you are highly attractive to employers after you graduate.

Essay Competition 2025 Rules

- The essay competition is offered by St Mary's University, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX.
- The competition is open to students who are currently in Year 12.
- Essays should be submitted on the online form using the link: www.stmarys.ac.uk/fetta/school-of-theology/essay-competition/2025.aspx.
- Once submitted you will receive a confirmation email.
- Essays must be of approximately 1,000 words (excluding references and footnotes), typed in double line spacing, with your full name at the top of each page, and be submitted in Word document or PDF format.
- The essay must be the sole creation and original work of the entrant.
- Any form of plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification.
- No person may submit more than one essay for each annual competition.
- The award winners grant the University the right to publish or reproduce at any time all or part of the award-winning entries.
- The award of all or any of the prizes lies solely within the discretion of the judges. The judges' decision will be final.
- The deadline for the receipt of entries is 5pm on Friday 11th July 2025. Please note that late entries cannot be accepted.
- All entries will be acknowledged. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to provide feedback on unsuccessful entries.
- Winners are entitled to refer to the achievement on their CV.
- It is anticipated that the prize-winners will be announced in early September 2025.
- The decision of the Head of the School of Theology on the interpretation of these Rules will be final.

If you have any questions, please contact the School of Theology administrator:

TheologyAdmin@stmarys.ac.uk