

25-26 May 2019

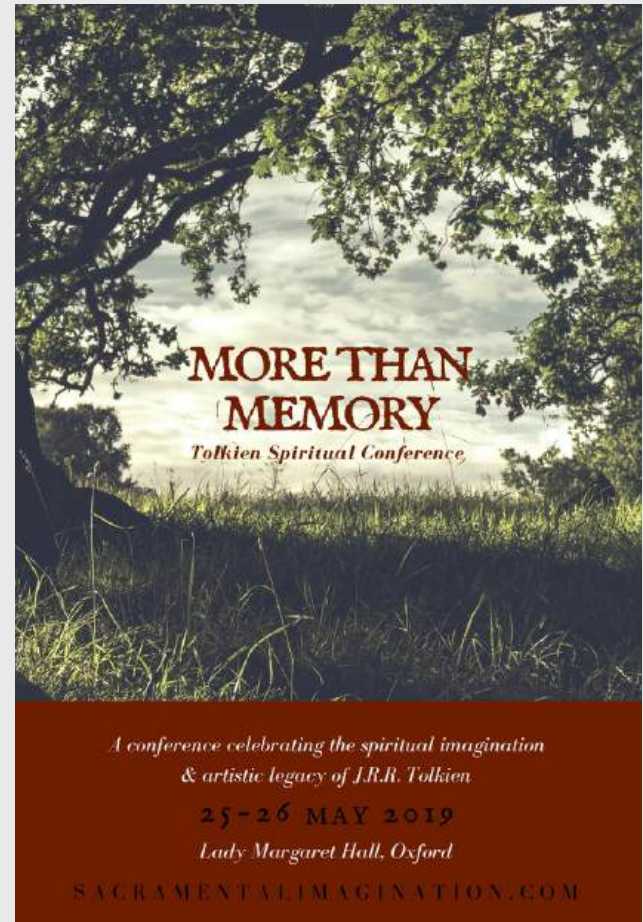
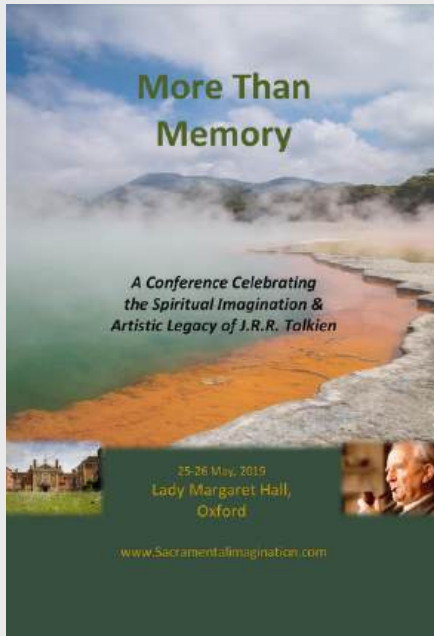
MORE THAN MEMORY

Tolkien Spiritual Conference

Scrapbook

CONFERENCE POSTERS

“May it be a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out.”



EVENT SUMMARY

- *A Conference Celebrating the Spiritual Imagination*
- *& Artistic Legacy of JRR Tolkien*

Dates: May 25-26, 2019

Location: Simpkins Lee Theatre and Monson Room, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, UK

More Than Memory is a literary conference under the auspices of Fellowship & Fairy dust, paying homage to the sacramental imagination and artistic legacy of JRR Tolkien. Based in Oxford University, and featuring a diverse assortment of international attendees, we will be presenting roundtable discussions, poetic recitations, and musical performance that highlight spirituality within artistry. Since Tolkien himself was a devout Catholic, we will have a major focus on the Catholic historical and literary heritage of the British Isles. Since his writings have been embraced on a universal level, we will also branch out into spiritual storytelling traditions from different religions and cultures throughout the world to cultivate interreligious and intercultural interests and understanding.

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS



*Avellina Balestri
(Author, Editor, &
Conference
Coordinator)*

Avellina Balestri is the Editor-in-Chief of Fellowship & Fairydust Publications, a seasonal magazine and regular blog dedicated to inspiring faith and creativity and exploring the arts through a spiritual lens. Her writings on religion, history, and ethics in society have been featured in over 30 print and online publications, including The St. Austin Review, The Latin Mass Magazine, The Wisdom Daily, and The Sci-Fi Fantasy Network. She lives in Maryland, USA with her family, where she is in the process of writing a series of Robin Hood retelling novels and producing a music album called Pendragon's Shield.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *What are some of the common themes found in mystical writings from across different cultures and faith traditions, including Carmelite and Sufi works, and how can they enhance interfaith understanding?*
- *What are some of the highlights of your current creative projects, including your editorship of Fellowship & Fairydust Publications and the writing of your Robin Hood retelling novel series?*



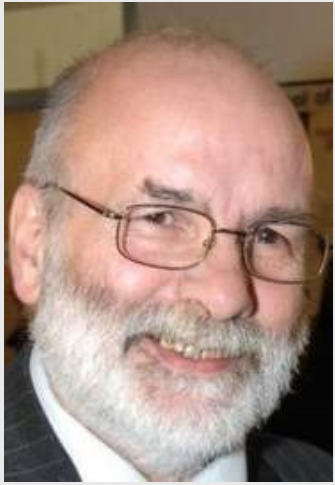
*Charles A.
Coulombe
(Author, Lecturer,
& Historian)*

Charles A. Coulombe is an American Catholic author, lecturer, and historian, recognized internationally for his in-depth knowledge of Vatican politics, and the influence of Catholicism in America and Europe. His audiences range from graduate students at Oxford University, England to the New Mexico Military Institute, from which he graduated. His articles have appeared in the New Oxford Review, National Catholic Register, American Thinker, and Monarchy Canada. He has also authored numerous books including Puritan's Empire, Star-Spangled Crown, and A Catholic Quest for the Holy Grail.

Discussion Topic(s)

- *What is the traditional Catholic approach to the Realm of Faerie and the Medieval Romances, and how did Tolkien use this in his creation of Middle Earth?*
- *What is your inspiration behind researching and writing history texts, and what are some of parallels to historical events present in Lord of the Rings, particularly regarding Tolkien's understanding of sacramental kingship and restoration?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

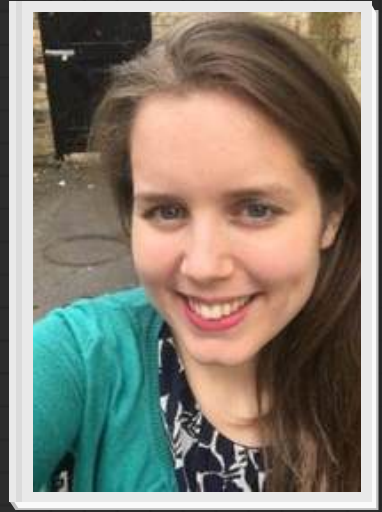


*Shaykh al-Hajj
Muhammad Amin
Evans (Islamic
Scholar &
Educator)*

Shaykh al-Hajj Muhammad Amin Evans has taught Islamic Law and the Comparative Study of Religions at the Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham and the Islamic College for Advanced Studies, London. He is Director of Theology to the Association of British Muslims and a member of the Centre for Intra-Muslim Studies, The Inter Religious Symposia and the Steering Group to the Faith Encounter Programme. He has also served on the executive committee of Birmingham Council of Faiths, and the advisory committee for the British Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom.

Discussion Topic(s):

- In the realm of spiritual poetry, what can Christians gain from Rabiyya, Muslims gain from Gerard Manley Hopkins, and all of us learn from the muses of Shakespeare and Dante?*
- What are some of the defining characters and themes in the Shi'ite tradition of Islam, and how do these archetypes parallel characters and themes in LotR and other famous sagas in world literature?*



*Eve Farren
(Actress &
Writer)*

Eve Farren is a Catholic actress and writer based in London. She studied Theatre and Film at the University of Bristol and went on to complete a Masters in Text and Performance at RADA and Birkbeck College.

Eve is the chair of Catholic Creators UK, an exciting new network which launched in March with a talk from National Gallery Director, Dr Gabriele Finaldi. Projects Eve is currently working on include a play based on interviews with an Iraqi Christian who fled ISIS, and an architectural-poetry audio tour of Bristol's city centre.

Discussion Topic(s):

- Given the universal reception to Tolkien's works, how do you think this speaks to the mission of Christian artists today, and how does Catholic Creators UK support that?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

Tim Guile (Historian & Teacher)

Tim Guile is a graduate of two universities and has taught at both secondary and primary levels. He is a life-long student of religion, and takes special interest in the medieval Christian experience, and how Catholics survived the persecution of their faith in England after the Reformation. He has initiated online forums for discussion of medieval Christian tradition. He lives in rural Oxfordshire and has a large garden and orchard. He loves exploring and walking, especially in mountainous areas of the UK. He believes God can be found in the wonder and awe of nature as well as places of worship.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *In what ways was Tolkien a product of the Catholic tradition which persisted in England despite the laws against its practice, and what was the recusancy history of Oxfordshire?*

Fr. Michael Halsall (Catholic Priest of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham)

Fr. Michael Halsall is a Catholic priest of the Ordinariate of our Lady of Walsingham. He teaches Philosophy at Allen Hall Seminary in London, and his chief research interests are the philosophical and English medieval influences on JRR Tolkien. His book 'Creation and Beauty in Tolkien's Catholic Vision' is to be published this summer in the USA, and he is currently researching a new project on Tolkien and The English Marian Tradition. Fr. Halsall is married with two grown up married children, enjoys motorcycling, and owns a cat.

Discussion Topic(s)

- *What is the relationship between Free Will and Determination in Tolkien's stories, and how does that reflect his Catholic philosophy of life?*
- *What is the history of the English Marian Tradition in Catholic and High Anglican spirituality, and how did Tolkien ascribe to it, both in his life and his writings?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

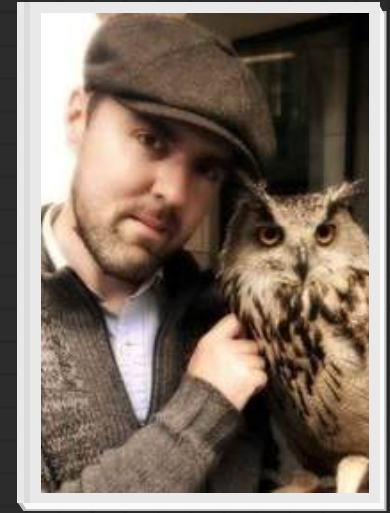


*Dr. Robin
Hensman
(Consultant
Clinical
Psychologist)*

Dr. Robin Hensman is Consultant Clinical Psychologist and an experienced group therapist with over 30 years of experience. He is a former Associate Professor of Pennsylvania State University, and has provided training for Clinical Psychology students and Psychiatrists seeking Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatry. As a mental health officer and clinical manager in the NHS, he has utilized mindfulness approaches to mental health. His experience enables him to look at core themes in both the Gospels and Tolkien's fantasy epics and apply them to psychotherapy.

Discussion Topic(s):

- In his time, Yeshua taught the gospel of repentance and forgiveness. To what extent are these core themes essential to the process of all genuine psychological change - individual and societal?*
- To what extent can the central themes of the life and teaching of Jesus the Christ be found in Tolkien's LotR narrative?*



*Ian Inkster
(University
Graduate &
Writer)*

Ian Inkster is a British university graduate based in the historic Scottish capital of Edinburgh. He works as communications consultant for life science companies and takes a special interest in philosophy, philology, polyglottery and British history. In literature, he has a fondness for George Orwell, William Golding, P.G. Wodehouse, and Mark Twain. He has a particular partiality to the legacy of J.R.R. Tolkien, whose linguistic explorations were instrumental in inspiring him to write a type of thesaurus which is currently being assembled.

Discussion Topic(s):

- What projects have you been involved in regarding Old English, and how did Tolkien's background in that language affect the style of his writing?*
- In what ways can mystical experiences encompass both spiritual and intellectual pursuits through divine encounter, and how has your own experience deepened your Christian faith and appreciation of Christian literature?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

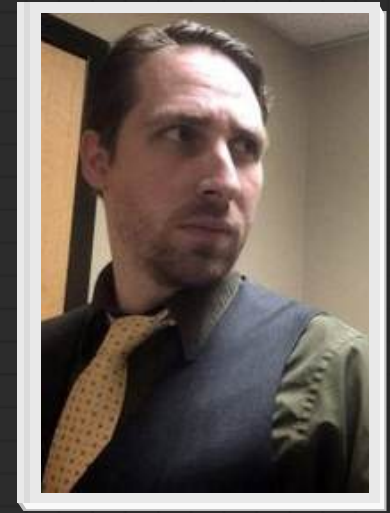


*Dominic James
(Singer-
Songwriter &
Poet)*

Dominic James is a singer-songwriter and poet from North London Hampstead, England. He has been writing music, poetry, and short stories for over 15 years, drawing his inspiration from music genres such as pop-folk, indie-Christian-folk, and RnB and literary influences such as Haruki Murakami, E.E.Cummings, Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickinson. He produced his first album, 'Childsong,' in 2014, and is in the process of recording his second. He runs workshops and gives lectures on music and liturgy, speaking at various parish and school venues around the Catholic Diocese of Westminster.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *How does the duality of good vs. evil within Tolkien's writings stand in comparison to Post-Modernist literary trends?*



*Robert A. Johnson
(Author &
Independent
Film-Maker)*

Robert A. Johnson, known publicly by his pen name "Robby Monroe" is a quirky, intentional, and creative genius who spends his days writing and film-making with a triple shot breve in hand. Weekends and nights are spent making up jingles, while engaging the world around him with theological and philosophical complexity and vigor. He is a lover of God, truth, and all things Tolkien, which you can see for yourself in his writings; most notably in *The Romance of the Seventh Dhalmir*, or in his upcoming films. You can live his academic, nerdy, and Alaskan life vicariously at robbymonroe.com.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *As a historian and linguist, what were some of Tolkien's inspirations that lent realism to the crafting of his fantasy worlds?*
- *What has been Tolkien's legacy on the film industry, from epic blockbusters to biopic tributes to independent productions?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

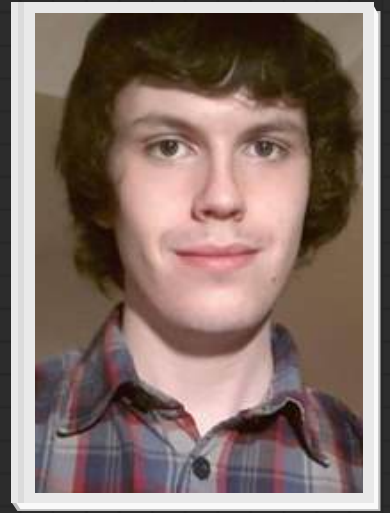


*Dr. Rebecca
Masterton
(Teacher,
Translator &
Author)*

Dr. Rebecca Masterton has taught Shi'i esoteric knowledge and history, as well as East Asian and African Literature, at the University of London, the Islamic College in London, and the Islamic Institute for Postgraduate Studies. She has produced and presented programmes for Sahar TV, Press TV, Hadi TV and Ahlulbayt TV. In addition to her book 'Passing Through the Dream,' she has written for the Oxford Journal of Islamic Studies, the Journal of Qur'anic Studies and the American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences. She has also translated works on Qur'anic ethics and the inner dimensions of hajj.

Discussion Topic(s):

- In light of Shi'ite esoteric tradition, what are some of the inner dimensions of pilgrimage, and how do they relate to journeys in classic world literature and the Muslim pilgrimage of the Hajj and the shrines of the imams?*



*Kai McWhirter
(University
Graduate &
Historical
Enthusiast)*

Kai McWhirter is of Scottish ancestry but has lived in England most of his life, growing up in Wiltshire and moving to Birmingham to attend university. His interest in politics and the monarchy stems from his fascination with history, particularly early modern Britain, ancient Egypt, and imperial China. He is also a high culturist with a fondness for classical music, opera, and classicist art and architecture. Kai is a keen reader, especially of high fantasy, and his favourite authors include J.R.R. Tolkien, HP Lovecraft, George RR Martin, Bram Stoker, Emily Brontë, and George Orwell.

Discussion Topic(s):

- How do Tolkien's stories address the concept of royalty and the ideal king, and how do they contrast or parallel historical conceptions of kingship?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

Caroline Melia (University Graduate & Traveller)

Caroline Melia studied Film and TV at Aberystwyth University of Wales, completing her undergraduate dissertation on Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* film trilogy. Following her final graduation with an MA in Practicing Performance, she journeyed 'there and back again' to New Zealand where she visited some of the filming locations (including skydiving over 'Mount Doom'). Currently working in the heritage sector, she has always felt an affinity with the natural world and her spiritual path may best be described as Paganism. Tolkien's literary legacy continues to shape many aspects of her life.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *How does the Lord of the Rings reflect a spiritual journey, in light of the different story variations shared in modern-day British Paganism?*
- *What are some of your opinions of Peter Jackson's movie adaptations of *LoTR*, and what was it like getting to visit some of the filming locations in New Zealand?*

Joseph Shaw (Academic & Chairman of The Latin Mass Society)

Joseph Shaw is a British academic and the current chairman of the Latin Mass Society. He is the son of the late Thomas Shaw, 3rd Baron Craigmyle. He was educated at Ampleforth College and the University of Oxford. He is currently a tutorial fellow in philosophy at St Benet's Hall, Oxford, and his main areas of interest are practical ethics, the philosophy of religion and medieval philosophy. In 2015, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His writings have appeared on *Rorate Caeli*, *First Things*, *Conservative Woman*, *LifeSiteNews*, and *The Latin Mass Magazine*.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *What was the importance of tradition, preservation, and restoration to English Catholics in Tolkien's era, and how were these themes expressed in his writings and those of his contemporaries?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS



*Dr. Alison
Milbank
(Anglican Priest
& British
Literary Scholar)*

Alison Grant Milbank is an Anglican priest and British literary scholar. She is Canon Theologian at Southwell Minster and associate professor at the University of Nottingham in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. Milbank's research and teaching focuses on the relation of religion to culture in the post-Enlightenment period, with particular literary interest in the Gothic, the fantastic, horror and fantasy. She has published a book on the Catholic poetics of J. R. R. Tolkien and G. K. Chesterton and is working on a book tracing the theological history of Gothic literature.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *How does Tolkien's literature fit into the spiritual fantasy tradition of Lewis Carroll, George MacDonald, G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis and others?*



*Sarah de
Nordwall (Poet,
Theatre
Performer, &
Teacher)*

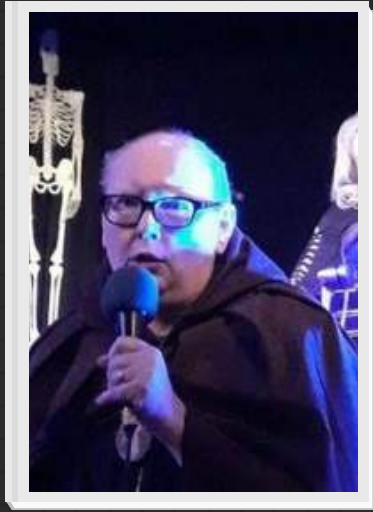
Sarah de Nordwall is a poet, theatre performer, and teacher based in London. She taught poetry, drama and religion at Primary Level, and worked at BBC Worldwide as a researcher and assistant producer on Cult TV Online. She now focuses on giving performances and running workshops for businesses, schools & colleges, community projects and churches & interfaith settings. She also founded a bardschool where she teaches bardic skills and virtues in a modern context for her students. She is passionate about women's issues and volunteers for "40 Days for Life".

Discussion Topic(s):

- *What were some of the virtues and skills of the bardic tradition in Christendom during the Middle Ages, and how does it continue to be taught via 'Bardschool', with Tolkien as one of its patrons?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

Nick O'Connor (Folklorist & Author)



Nick O'Connor is a folklorist and author, specialising in traditional English tales told in a Celtic style. He performs stories and gives talks on folklore in schools, to local community groups, at festivals, and to care homes or companies. Nick has had numerous articles published on folklore, Celtic Druidry, the history of English customs and local history. He is a member of the Society for Storytelling, lives on the Sussex/Surrey borders and lists his hobbies as herbal medicine and folklore. Nick has founded the Gylden Fellowship community and Gylden River LRC.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *What is the Druidic tradition of spirituality conveyed through storytelling, and what were some of Tolkien's inspirations taken from Pagan Myth?*

Jonathan Platt (University Graduate in Philosophy & Theology)



Jonathan Platt graduated from Oxford University in 2018 with a BA in Philosophy and Theology and currently has a choral scholarship at Chelmsford Cathedral, Essex, England. He has also contributed to Fellowship & Fairydust Publications. Jonathan practices Buddhist meditation in the traditions of Insight Meditation and Plum Village UK, and he is interested in the work of spiritual teachers such as Thich Nhat Hahn, Eckhart Tolle and Michael Singer. He is also interested in the insight that the practice of mindfulness can bring to the study of ethics and other areas of philosophy.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *In parallel to Tolkien's understanding of spirituality and sub-creation, how do spirituality, mindfulness, and creativity interconnect in the Buddhist tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

Joseph Purdue (Composer & Lyricist)

Joseph Purdue is a composer and lyricist based in Hampshire, England. Joseph wrote the music and lyrics to *Unfolding Tales*, a new musical inspired by the life of author J.R.R. Tolkien, which has been performed in the West-End. He's also recently finished composing a brand new fantasy musical called *Legends of Arahma*, story by Dries Janssens. Aside from his musicals, Joseph has worked on two scores for film director Rory Dorling. He's also worked with film director Sheikh Shahnawaz on a new thriller called *Blackmail*, and Colleen Paige on a short film called *Beneath the Fur*.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *How did Tolkien's personal history inspire you to compose the musical "Unfolding Tales", and how do you think his story can inspire people today?*

Christopher Rodgers (Catalyst Catholic, Speaker, & Graduate Student)

Christopher Rodgers is the Associate Director of Youth Evangelization for Catalyst Catholic in Southern Indiana. It was through the influence of Tolkien, Lewis, and their contemporaries that he was reintroduced to his Catholic Faith. He went on to study philosophy, history, and western literature at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is pursuing a Master's degree in Philosophy with a concentration in Christian Wisdom from Holy Apostles College. Chris will be co-hosting an upcoming podcast called "Locust and Honey", exploring life as a disciple of Christ in contemporary culture.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *In what ways did Tolkien's writings reveal the exploration of beauty to be an extension of salvific love?*
- *How has Tolkien's literary legacy been handled on screen, including the fiasco with Disney, the Rankin Bass adaptations, the Ralph Bakshi adaptation, the Peter Jackson Trilogy, and current projects still in the works?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

Elizabeth Roper (Author)

Elizabeth Roper was born and lives in the west of England, UK. Brought up in a Methodist Christian family, her love of the English landscape led her to experience life teaching in a reconstructed Celtic village in sight of ancient 'Avalon', and later an exploration of Celtic Christianity. History, spirit and soul-quest have greatly influenced her writings, used as source materials for museums and at historic sites. She is working on a novel which she describes as a "cross between Phantom of the Opera and Tess of the D'Urbervilles", set in the narrow back streets of Medieval and Victorian London.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *What are some of the defining spiritual and historical facets of Celtic Christianity, and how have they enhanced your appreciation for Tolkien's Middle Earth?*

Daniel Oscar Rutilio (Religious Education Teacher & Tolkien Canonisation Advocate)

Daniel Oscar Rutilio is a Religious Education teacher who worked for the Canonisation of J. R. R. Tolkien through the promotion of Masses on his anniversary, which have been held in Oxford and New York as well as spreading a prayer for private devotion in 8 languages. Daniel is an artist, poet and reader of Old English. He organises pilgrimages to medieval Catholic site of religious importance and has trained with the Bardschool since 2009. He is also co-founder of Silverion, a Catholic medieval camp for youth in New Zealand, which takes as a source of inspiration, Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *How does Tolkien's Middle Earth invite us on an adventure into the divine imagination and explore the Kenosis of the Secret Fire?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS

Victoria Seed (Theologian & Catechist)

Victoria Seed spent years lecturing in moral philosophy, and even more years as a freelance editor. She now works in catechesis for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and is slowly completing a doctorate in theology that examines the role of narrative in moral formation in light of Jesus' use of parables. Despite these time-consuming occupations she stubbornly thinks of herself as primarily a writer and editor, and dreams of retiring to the Scottish Borders with her husband and children to write crime novels.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *What is the Christian perspective on the role of good literature in moral formation, particularly in light of the Gospels and Tolkien's writings?*

Dr. Farhad Shafti (Islamic Academic)

Farhad has studied Islamic theology, with specific interest in interpretation of the Qur'an, through Doctoral research, traditional Islamic seminary, tutelage, and self-study. He is the founder of the Exploring Islam website which features his writings and live classes. He is working on two books related to contemporary approaches and new thoughts on Islamic theology. He also takes interest in pluralism and interfaith dialogue. He is based in the University of Glasgow where he works as an academic on the basis of his degree in Management Science. Farhad's other passion is improvising on the piano.

Discussion Topic(s):

- *In your studies of the Qur'an have you found any foundations for pluralism and what is the effect of this in your view on interfaith dialogue?*
- *What theological framework is Rumi presenting to us in his Mathnawi, and how is Apophatic theology explored in the story of Moses and the Shepherd?*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS



The Traveling Troubadour

The Traveling Troubadour is originally from the “Silent Motion Picture Capital of the World”, Fort Lee, New Jersey. He is presently writing the memoirs of his adventures touring the USA as a performer for live audiences, radio broadcasts, and movie and theater productions. Known as “The Ambassador of Goodwill and The Entertainers’ Entertainer”, he had the privilege of performing for many famous celebrities and Hollywood legends, including President Reagan, Princess Grace, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Doris Day, and George Burns. He also produced “The Bless Tree Catholic Music CD Series”.

Entertainment:

WWI/WWII Medley

CONFERENCE PRAYER

O, Blessed Trinity, we thank You for having graced the Church with John Ronald Reuel Tolkien and for allowing the poetry of your creation, the mystery of the Passion of your Son, and the symphony of the Holy Spirit, to shine through him and his sub-creative imagination.

Trusting fully in Your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us through his literary legacy a living image of Jesus the Wisdom of God Incarnate, and has shown us that faith and good works are the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and the divine union and eternal communion present with You in the Eucharist—when Heaven weds earth.

Grant us, present here to remember him, the graces we implore this day according to Your will and through the intercession of Your angels and saints. May eternal rest be granted to his soul and let your perpetual light shine upon him, all the faithful departed, and especially those in most need of Your mercy.

Amen

Tolkien Quotes...

"I am a servant of the Secret Fire. You cannot pass. The dark fire will not avail you. Go back to the Shadow! You cannot pass."

"I will not say: do not weep; for not all tears are an evil."

"For myself, I find I become less cynical rather than more -- remembering my own sins and follies; and realize that men's hearts are not often as bad as their acts, and very seldom as bad as their words."

"Even the smallest person can change the course of the future."

"Darkness must pass. A new day will come. And when the sun shines, it will shine out the clearer."

"We have come from God, and inevitably the myths woven by us... will also reflect a splintered fragment of the true light, the eternal truth that is with God."

"In sorrow we must go, but not in despair. Behold! We are not bound forever to the circles of the world, and beyond them is more than memory."

"There is a place called Heaven where the good, here unfinished, is completed, and where the stories unwritten, and the hopes unfulfilled, are continued. We may laugh together yet."

"Don't adventures ever have an end? I suppose not. Someone else always has to carry on the story."

"Amid weeping there is joy and under the shadow of death light endures."

LIKE SORROW, BECAUSE IT COMES FROM THOSE PLACES WHERE JOY AND SORROW ARE AT ONE, RECONCILED, AS SELFISHNESS AND ALTRUISM ARE LOST IN LOVE."

"WE ALL LONG FOR EDEN, AND WE ARE CONSTANTLY GLIMPING IT: OUR WHOLE NATURE AT ITS BEST AND LEAST CORRUPTED, ITS GENTLEST AND MOST HUMAN, IS STILL SOAKED WITH THE SENSE OF EXILE."

"Some believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I have found that it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."

"End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it."

"There is some good in this world, and it's worth fighting for."

“For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach.”

“His grief he will not forget; but it will not darken his heart, it will teach him wisdom.”

“The Lord of the Rings is of course a fundamentally religious and Catholic work; unconsciously so at first, but consciously so in the revision.”

“I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend.”

“OUT OF DOUBT, OUT OF DARK, TO THE DAY'S RISING HE RODE SINGING IN THE SUN, SWORD UNSHEATHING.”

“Fairy tale does not deny the existence of sorrow and failure: the possibility of these is necessary to the joy of deliverance. It denies (in the face of much evidence, if you will) universal final defeat...giving a fleeting glimpse of Joy; Joy beyond the walls of the world, poignant as grief.”

“The world is indeed full of peril and in it there are many dark places. But still there is much that is fair. And though in all lands, love is now mingled with grief, it still grows, perhaps, the greater.”

“The Resurrection was the greatest eucatastrophe possible in the greatest Fairy Story – and produces that essential emotion: Christian joy which produces tears because it is qualitatively so like sorrow, because it comes from those places where Joy and Sorrow are at one, reconciled, as selfishness and altruism are lost in Love.”

“It is not the strength of the body that counts, but the strength of the spirit.”

“I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament. There you will find romance, glory, honour, and the true way of all your loves upon earth.”

“BUT NO LIVING MAN AM I! YOU LOOK UPON A WOMAN. BEGONE, IF YOU BE NOT DEATHLESS! FOR LIVING OR DARK UNDEAD, I WILL SMITE YOU...”



“All my own perception of beauty, both in majesty and simplicity, is founded upon Our Lady.”



Fellowship and Fairydust Publications was created in January 2017 with the merge of the Fellowship of the King online magazine and blog and Ink & Fairydust online magazine.

★★★

Since then, we have published the work of numerous authors, both new and acclaimed, in our magazine and on our blog.

★★★

Our articles cover a plethora of topics, our stories contain a myriad of characters (both original and established), and our content ratings range between G and PG-13 rated.

The Blog

New stories, articles, poems & more
3 days a week!



The Magazine

New themed issue
every season!



Go to our website for the latest issue and to see what's coming up next!

We Are

a Christian-based
online publication with an
active blog and a
seasonal themed
magazine

Our Goal

is to inspire faith and
creativity & explore the
arts through a
spiritual lens

We Publish

Nonfiction
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Fellowship & Fairydust Publications



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Literary Publications Inspiring Faith and
Creativity & Exploring the Arts
through a Spiritual Lens

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The Team chills out for lunch at the E&C, while they plot global conference domination.

(Center: Avellina Balestri; Right to Left: Jonathan Platt, Ka McWhirter, Ian Inkster, The Traveling Troubadour, and Charles A. Coulombe)



The Conference Team gathers for a group shot at the Eagle & Child Pub, where the Inklings used to gather in days of yore.

(Right to left: The Traveling Troubadour, Bailey Gaines, Avellina Balestri, Ian Inkster, Robby Monroe, and Jonathan Platt)

Publishing non-fiction, original fiction, fanfiction, poetry, artwork, photography and much more!

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Elizabeth Roper discusses Celtic Christian Saints and Spirituality, and the way in which Tolkien's fantasy works correspond with that tradition.



The Show Begins, with Jonathan Platt at the Podium as our M.C. and Time-Keeper.

Jonathan Platt discusses Buddhism and Meditative Creativity, and Dr. Farhad Shafti discusses Islam and Pluralsim, as well as reciting some of the works of Rumi in the original Farsi.



Dr. Alison Milbank of Nottingham University (flanked at the table by fellow speakers Elizabeth Roper, Dominic James Cunliffe, and Stuart McCullough) discusses the works of George MacDonald and their influence on the Inklings.



Avellina Balestri stakes out her spot as the Round-Table Discussion Moderator.

The Golden Trio of the Conference, Harry, Hermione, and Ron (also known as Ian Inkster, Avellina Balestri, and Jonathan Platt) discuss their collaboration amidst the scholarly setting of Hogwarts (also known as Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University).

(Left to Right: Avellina Balestri, Jonathan Platt, and Ian Inkster.)



Avellina and Charles pose with visiting guest Joanna Bogle, alias "Auntie Joanna" of Catholic Journalism and Television fame in the UK and beyond.

(Left to Right: Joanna Bogle, Charles Coulombe.)

A flyer for the J.R.R. Tolkien Canonisation Conference. At the top, the name 'J.R.R. Tolkien' is written in a large, stylized black font, with 'Canonisation Conference' in a smaller, red serif font below it. In the center is a painting of an elderly J.R.R. Tolkien with white hair, wearing a brown tweed jacket and smoking a pipe. Below the painting, the text reads '1st and 2nd September 2018 ☽ Oxford'. Underneath is a quote: 'The only cure for sagging or fainting faith is Communion. Though always itself, perfect and complete and inviolate, the Blessed Sacrament does not operate completely and once for all in any of us. Like the act of Faith it must be continuous and grow by exercise.' followed by '— J. R. R. Tolkien'. At the bottom, it says 'Flyer for a very early conception of the conference, before it was picked up by F&F'.

J.R.R. Tolkien
Canonisation Conference

1st and 2nd September 2018 ☽ Oxford

The only cure for sagging or fainting faith is Communion. Though always itself, perfect and complete and inviolate, the Blessed Sacrament does not operate completely and once for all in any of us. Like the act of Faith it must be continuous and grow by exercise.

— J. R. R. Tolkien

Flyer for a very early conception of the conference, before it was picked up by F&F





Avellina expounds about her Robin Hood retelling series to Sarah de Nordwall and Eve Farren.

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Table Talk with Bailey Gaines, Fr. Michael Halsall, Charles A. Coulombe, and Tim Guile.



Anne-Marie Ryan & Louise Tucker regale the audience with an assortment of Celtic and Tolkien-themed songs and hymns.



The discussion intensifies, as a Wizard-in-Waiting (alias Nick O'Connor) looks on, bemused!

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Table talk with Sheikh Muhammad amin-Evans, Nick O'Connor, and Dr. Robin Hensman.



The moderator, with drum in hand.



The moderator takes to the mic for a bit of folk and spiritual singing.

The genteel ladies of music join forces for the grand finale.



The Traveling Troubadour, Avellina Balestri, and Charles A. Coulombe form an end-of-the-night trio.



Joe Purdue's talented troupe performs a selection of numbers from the Tolkien-themed musical, "Unfolding Tales."





Sarah presents Avellina with a scarf from the Bard School.



The team "packs up their troubles in an old kit bag", as Charles spontaneously serenades them out the door!

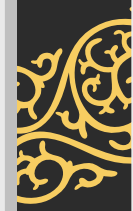


The bardic ladies, sharing a laugh.

Danny Oscar Rutillio, Sarah, and Avellina jump in for a group-shot.



"The Golden Trio" that made it all possible, "Harry", "Hermione", and "Ron" (Ian, Avellina, Jonathan) survey their conference domain at Lady Margaret Hall for the final time.



The Grand Finale Party at the Eagle & Child



left to right
Avellina, Ian,
Jonathan,
Robby Johnson,
and Family.