

# December 26th: Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr

**Gospel text (Mt 10,17-22):** Jesus said to his disciples, «Be on your guard with respect to people, for they will hand you over to their courts and they will flog you in their synagogues».



**Illustration:** Pili Piñero

Today we have mixed feelings: yesterday we were celebrating the Birth of Jesus and now we remember the death of St Stephen. It looks like it makes no sense. but it is no nonsense! Stephen was the first Christian in completely imitating Christ. He rendered his life as Christ did, praising the Father in Heaven and forgiving those who abused him. The matter of fact is that today we celebrate the triumph of St Stephen (his true birth”).

-Jesus was born to give His life for us. Stephen was the first one to follow Him. Now it is time for us to die? a little bit every day through serving God and our neighbour.