



CHRISTIANITY AND THE ARTS

SERIES 3, 2015

Organised Under the Auspices of Kogarah Fellowship
Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of the Lord
16-20 Belgrave Street, Kogarah NSW 2217

**Christian Reflections on the *Lament for Boromir* in J. R. R. Tolkien's
*The Lord of the Rings***

Dr Mario Baghos

Monday 9th November, 7:30pm

St Neilos the Ascetic, Pierre Hadot, and the Philosophical Life

Protopresbyter Dr Doru Costache

Monday 16th November, 7:30pm

Songs of Love and Romance

Mr Andrew Mellas

Monday 23rd November, 7:30pm

STAR WARS, Episode III: A Cautionary Spiritual Tale

Mr Chris Baghos

Monday 30th November, 7:30pm



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SERIES 3, 2015 - ABSTRACTS

Christian Reflections on the *Lament for Boromir* in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*

Dr Mario Baghos

J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* saga is a high fantasy epic that yields much material for Christian reflection. The themes of avarice, repentance, and forgiveness – as well as other symbolic motifs – will be explored in relation to the death of, and funeral dirge for, one of the principal members of the Fellowship, Boromir son of Denethor.

St Neilos the Ascetic, Pierre Hadot, and the Philosophical Life

Protopresbyter Dr Doru Costache

In depicting classical philosophy as a way of life, Pierre Hadot maintained however that Christianity has appropriated the classical tradition mainly as speculative discourse. I undertake to correct this appraisal by exploring St Neilos' *Ascetic Discourse*, where Christian experience is described in terms of a philosophical lifestyle.

Songs of Love and Romance

Mr Andrew Mellas

When did love become so romantic? Literature was not always filled with romance. Well before European poets reimagined love, differentiating it from desire, Christianity embraced an erotic canticle traditionally ascribed to Solomon – the *Song of Songs* – as part of Scripture. We will explore the significance of human and divine passion in Solomon's song.

STAR WARS, Episode III: A Cautionary Spiritual Tale

Mr Chris Baghos

When considered from a Christian perspective, the tragic fall of Anakin Skywalker in the *STAR WARS* saga demonstrates the importance of guidance, detachment, and humility for those undertaking the virtuous life. This talk will examine how the Fathers addressed the problems of individualism, fear, and desire, as displayed by Anakin.