

ST COLUMBA'S FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 29TH
NOVEMBER 2020

Hi Families of St Columba's,

Many of you will know that we have a special partnership with another church congregation – St Andrew's, Newcastle. Because Monday is a special day for them – 30th November, St Andrew's Day here are some facts about St Andrew:

1. St Andrew is not just the patron saint of Scotland. He is the patron saint of Greece, Russia, Italy's Amalfi and Barbados. As well as other countries, he's the patron saint of singers, spinsters, maidens, fishmongers, fishermen, women wanting to be mothers, gout and sore throats. St Andrew is also the patron saint of the Order of the Thistle, one of the highest ranks of chivalry in the world, second only to the Order of the Garter.

2. He was Jesus' first disciple. Andrew was a fisherman before he and his brother Simon Peter became two of the 12 disciples of Jesus. He was baptised by John the Baptist and was the first disciple of Jesus. In the Greek Orthodox tradition he is known as "Prōtoklētos" (Πρωτόκλητος) - literally "the first-called".

3. He was crucified on an X-shaped cross. St Andrew was crucified on 30 November 60AD, by order of the Roman governor Aegeas. He was tied to an X-shaped cross in Greece, and this is represented by the white cross on the Scottish flag, the Saltire, since at least 1385.

4. People took pilgrimages to the site of some of his remains. Purported relics of St Andrew, including a tooth, kneecap, arm and finger bone, meant St Andrew's became a popular medieval pilgrimage site up until the 16th century - when they were destroyed in the Scottish Reformation. In 1870, the Archbishop of Amalfi sent an apparent piece of the saint's shoulder blade to Scotland, where it has since been stored in St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh.

5. St. Andrew was not Scottish. The patron saint was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, which is now Israel. His remains were moved 300 years after his death to Constantinople, now Istanbul, by the Emperor Constantine. While he was generally revered in Scotland from around 1,000 AD, he didn't become its official patron saint until the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320.

Happy St Andrew's Day!

This Sunday is also the first Sunday in Advent – the beginning of the new Church year. To mark our preparations for Christmas we show another of the great entries for our recent Christmas Card search.

And finally, thanks to Fiona for preparing activities for this weekend.
See you soon, Angus and the Sunday School Team

Libby Traflet's Christmas
Card Entry

