



# Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church

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**December/January 2021**

*Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of Christ,  
by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.*

Galatians 6:14

## Message from Fr David

Dear Friends in Christ,

When Martin and I discussed the possibility of producing a combined December/January issue of *Crucis*, my thoughts turned quickly to the Roman god Janus, after whom January is named. In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. And we are at a time of endings and beginnings, of reflecting on the past and looking forward to the future. Advent is the beginning of a new Liturgical year, our AGM is this coming Sunday, and it will soon be the beginning of a new secular year as we enter 2022.

I do still feel like I'm settling in at St Salvador's. I've not been here six months yet. This is my first Advent and Christmas, and my first Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are to follow. I'm looking forward to all that lies ahead liturgically and musically, and there are plans afoot to try to develop this aspect of our common life because it's one of our strengths which could attract new members.

Unlike some congregations, St Salvador's didn't meet online during lockdown. Because it was such a godsend to be able to meet and to worship online during lockdown at All Souls and the Cathedral (where I was Interim Priest before I came here), St Salvador's put in an application to the Scottish Episcopal Church's post-Covid Recovery and Renewal Fund for a grant to buy equipment which will help us stream and record worship and events. This was approved, so we are moving ahead with that. I hope we won't need it again because of a lockdown, but it will help us maintain an online presence while reaching out to people who might not otherwise know we are here. So, that's an aspect of new mission and outreach for us. We are planning, for example, to welcome a choir under the direction of Alan Tavener of Cappella Nova to sing with us as part of the Palm Sunday Liturgy.

We're also looking at undertaking an inspection of all our property with a view to identifying which repair and restoration work may need to be prioritised, as well

as considering ways in which we can creatively develop our buildings as part of our ministry and mission.

So, as we continue to move through a trying and uncertain time because of Covid, we are looking ahead to secure our future and develop our common life, our mission and ministry. The beauty of our church and worship, our partnership with the Maxwelltown Information Centre, our engagement with our local community, including the Food Cupboard, are all great treasures. I have hope that these will only grow in the future.

I think it's difficult in a much-reduced congregation, compared to your memories of days gone by, not to feel somewhat downcast. But we can't go back. We have an opportunity now to remember that it's not all about us and not everything depends on us. It's our duty to do our part to align ourselves with the mission of God in giving people a glimpse of heaven on earth in church. That feeds the soul. But we also need to reach out to the people beyond these walls and do our bit to look after them in real and grounded ways. That feeds the soul and the body. The two aspects of heavenly glory and human service make a powerful combination. We must leave the rest to God himself and trust that he will accept our offering and make of it something wonderful.

I thank you all for being part of this congregation and for your contribution to our common good, the common good of our neighbours, and our collective witness to God and the Church. I believe we can move into another year with hope and optimism.

I'd like to end with a familiar quote from Minnie Louise Haskins which was incorporated into his Christmas address by King George VI in the dark days of 1939: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Bless you all.

*Oremus pro invicem* – let us pray for one another!

With Every Blessing,

Fr David

## Prayer for Advent

*Make us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of thy Son Christ our Lord; that when he shall come and knock, he shall find us not sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in his praises; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.*



Gelasian Sacramentary

## Services in December

Wed 1	St Andrew (tr.)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 5</b>	<b>Advent II</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 8	Conception of BVM	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 12</b>	<b>Advent III</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 15	Feria	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 19</b>	<b>Advent IV</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 22	Feria	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sat 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sun 26</b>	<b>Christmas I</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 29	St John (tr.)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.



## Prayer for Christmas

*O Father, who hast declared thy love to men by the birth of the Holy Child at Bethlehem: Help us to welcome him with gladness and to make room for him in our common days; so that we may live at peace with one another and in goodwill with all thy family; through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

A New Prayer Book

## Monday, 6 December – St Nicholas of Myra, Bp

A 4<sup>th</sup>-century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor whose reputation was enhanced by a 9<sup>th</sup>c. hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick, saved endangered sailors and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from prostitution by providing them with dowries, which developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, later appropriated for the Christmas celebrations. Patron saint of seafarers and of Russia.

## Monday, 27 Dec. – St John, Ap. & Evangelist

One of the sons of Zebedee, along with James, who followed Jesus. Described as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved', and one of the inner circle of Jesus' followers who witnessed and shared in all the major events of our Lord's ministry. Believed to have been the only one of our Lord's disciples to have lived to old age and not to have been put to death for his faith in the One who loved him and the One whom he loved. It is thought that he died in Asia Minor.

## Services in January

<b>Sun 2</b>	<b>Epiphany (ant.)</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 5	Feria	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 9</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> after Epiphany</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 12	Feria	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 16</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> after Epiphany</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 19	Conf. St Peter (tr.)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> after Epiphany</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 26	Conv. St Paul (tr.)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 30</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> after Epiphany</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>

## Thu., 6 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

Originally celebrated as the premier Christian celebration of the Incarnation, including both Nativity and Baptism of Christ. Later, Christians in the West began celebrating the Nativity on 25 December, and by the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the eve of the Epiphany (5 January 'Twelfth Night') commemorated the visit of the Magi, rounding off Christmas festivities. Christians in the East retained the ancient unity of this festival, as the great celebration of the Word made flesh.

## Tuesday, 18 January – The Confession of Peter

This feast, known as the 'Chair of Peter', is a reminder of the chair or *cathedra* on which a bishop sits to preside and teach. The traditional readings have long included Peter's acclamation of Jesus as the Messiah. In modern times, this marks the beginning of a week of prayer for Christian Unity. Peter's confession of faith reminds us that we are united in proclaiming Christ the 'Son of the living God'.

## CONVERSION OF S. PAUL



## Tuesday, 25 January – The Conversion of Paul

This feast recalls the dramatic conversion of the anti-Christian zealot Saul and his calling by Christ to become an apostle. It is one of the pivotal moments in Christian history, so great was the impact this particular convert was to have on the course of the gospel's progress. Christians have celebrated the feast since the 6<sup>th</sup> c., but it became a universal celebration of the Church in the 12<sup>th</sup> c.