



# Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dundee  
December 2020

*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 Andrew Murphy

*'Tis the season to be hopeful.*

The last few days seem to have brought us so much hope with the Covid vaccines being developed and the prospect of a few days at least to celebrate the Nativity, both in the church and at home. Advent is the Church's season of hope because it is the start of a new Christian year and is rooted in the virtue of hope. Although Advent is a penitential season (it used to be twice as long in Mediaeval days!) it reminds us that we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Hope in the Christian sense is not to be confused with wistful or wishful fingers-crossed optimism, it is one of the virtues (from the Latin *virtus* meaning 'strength'). It is a choice to be taken, a self-imposed discipline to trust in God, judging ourselves, frankly and honestly with a self-control inspired and fortified by God's grace: 'Hope is despair, overcome.' (G. Bernanos). At Advent we hope not only for ourselves, but for those less well-off, as Benedict XVI put it. 'All serious and upright human conduct is hope in action', so with the hope of better things to come, we suffer with and support those who are in need of any kind. Christmas is not all about gifts, carols or parties, and there will be fewer of all of these this year; Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ who brought, and still brings, meaning and hope to a world that needs redemption. In Him and only in Him is our hope. May you all have a blessed and Holy Christmas.

Fr Andrew



## Services since reopening

We have been very fortunate to have been able to have a service or Mass every Sunday since late September, with the help at the altar of Martin Andrews as a Eucharistic minister, Fr Stephen Graham SSC, of whom we hope to see much more, and Bishop Andrew. Short of a religious revival in Hilltown, attendance numbers on Sunday have gone up – hopes and prayers fulfilled. We had the immense pleasure of a candle-lit wedding service for Fiona and James, and we wish them well in their future married life together. There will not be a Christmas Midnight Mass this year, for all the obvious reasons of Covid, crowd and travel issues. The solemn Mass of the Nativity will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Christmas day when afterwards socially distanced mince pies will be available to go. The sacrament of Confessions will be available during the day on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 by telephone appointment with me at allocated time slots.

Fr Andrew

## Saints' and special days this month



Apart from Christmas itself, there are some important days in the Church's Calendar and Sanctoral Cycle that tend to be overlooked:

Tues., 1 Dec., **Charles de Foucauld**, Pr. & Hermit.

Wednesday, 2 Dec., **Nicholas Ferrar**, Anglican Deacon who established a 17th century community of prayer in rural Northamptonshire.

Thursday, 3 Dec., **St Francis Xavier**, one of the founding Jesuits who established Christianity in the Far East in Goa (India), China and Japan. The dangers missionaries encountered there are graphically illustrated by the movie, *Silence*, recently shown on BBC 2, and still I think on iPlayer. *Beware* there are some very gruesome scenes of Christian martyrdom.

**Sunday, 6 Dec., St Nicholas of Myra**, Bishop.

Mon., 7 Dec., **St Ambrose of Milan**, Bp & T.

Tuesday, 8 Dec. – **The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary** – one of the most important Marian solemnities of the year. There are many misunderstandings of this celebration but essentially it reminds us that the mother of Our Blessed Lord was conceived in the normal human way but without sin through God's grace, so making her 'Full of Grace'.

Mon., 14 Dec., **St John of the Cross**, Spanish mystical monk and author of *Dark Night of the Soul* and friend of St Teresa of Avila.

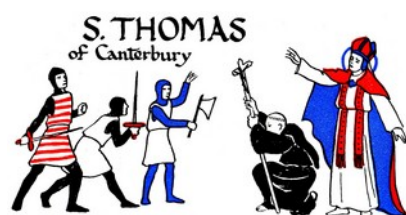
Mon., 21 Dec., **St Thomas**, the doubting Apostle.

Saturday, 26 Dec., **St Stephen**, a convert to Christianity who became a Deacon and the first Christian Martyr when he was stoned to death. His memorial day is easy to remember as it coincides with Boxing day and his Feast day is perhaps best remembered as when good King Wenceslas 'looked out' in J. M. Neale's carol.

**Sunday, 27 Dec., the Holy Family**, the feast when we commemorate Jesus and his parents fleeing to Egypt; and **St John, Ap. & Evangelist**.



Mon., 28 Dec., **Holy Innocents**, remembering the innocent children massacred on Herod's orders after the Magi had told him of Christ's birth.



Tues., 29 Dec., **St Thomas Becket of Canterbury**, the Bishop martyred at his altar in Canterbury Cathedral on the orders of King Henry II with whom he had a disagreement.

Wed., 30 Dec., **Josephine Butler**, an Anglican activist and campaigner for women's rights.

Thurs., 31 Dec., **John Wycliffe**, Anglican scholar and early translator of the Bible into English at Oxford. Condemned by the Catholic church for his views although he himself was a priest, he was declared a heretic. He was a protestant before anyone else had thought about it.

Additional notes by Fr Andrew Murphy

### Correction

There is an error in the printed version of last month's *Crucis*. If you experience any symptoms of Covid-19 *do not* contact us, as we are not those doing the tracing. Instead have a test done and the authorities will contact us directly if needed.

Martin Andrews

### Interim Priest

The Rev. Fr Andrew Murphy SSC, 07920 596990  
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**Church address:** St Salvador Street, Dundee DD3 7EW  
(Access via Carnegie Street is now restored, although building works are still affecting availability of parking.)