



Crucis



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*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

God Knows!

None of us could have predicted the past year with all its toils and troubles and, as we go into the New Year, we may well ask ourselves: What lies ahead? *God knows*. Not saying that in an exclamation of despair, but in a positive assertion of God's omniscience, meaning *His knowing all*. We may not know what lies ahead in these troubled times, but God does. We are constantly assured of this in Scripture for His understanding is infinite (Psalm 147:5), His knowledge of us complete (Psalm 139:1–6), His knowledge is eternal (Acts 15:18), limitless Romans (11:33), and perfect (Job 21:22).

From this eternal and infinite knowledge of God we can gain great comfort in all our problems and worries for Jesus tells us "your Father knows" (Matthew 6:8). So whatever lies ahead, let us place our complete trust in the One who knows and stands with us.

You may know it already, a poem I was reminded of in a recent BBC programme about the Christmas day Royal Broadcast. It has been used on more than one occasion, but it so appropriately leads us into the New Year and places us in the safe and secure hands of the all-knowing God.

May the knowing and comforting hand of God be with you all in this coming year.

With blessings and every confidence in a Good New Year.

Father Andrew

God Knows

by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875–1957)
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." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.*

*God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time has full provision.*

*Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.*

Saints' and special days this month

Epiphany this year is on a Wednesday. It is difficult to hold weekday services at the moment, so this year we shall keep it on Sunday 3rd January as permitted by the SEC.



Fri., 1 Jan., The Naming of Jesus (Circumcision) – Solemnity remembering Joseph obeying the angel on the traditional 8th day after a birth and naming the baby 'Jesus'.

Saturday, 2 January, St Seraphim of Sarov, Monk, renowned Russian ascetic, Orthodox Saint and woodland confessor and hermit.

Wednesday, 6 January, The Epiphany of the Lord, Visit of the three Magi (moved to 3rd Jan.).

Thursday, 7 Jan., St Raymond of Penafort, Dominican founder of Canon Church Law.

Sunday, 10 January, William Laud, Bp and M., Archbishop of Canterbury who tried to align the Scottish Church to an English format to please Charles I by introducing extended Communion, Confirmation and other liturgical doctrines in the Articles of Perth. Fell out of favour; incurred the displeasure of Parliamentarians; tried & executed.

Monday, 11 Jan., King David I, Pious Mediæval Scots King who founded Scottish Dioceses including Brechin and managed to keep the

church in Scotland separate from the clutches of the Archdiocese of York – Freedom!

Wed., 13 Jan., Mary Slessor, Miss. Dundee's very own mill lass from Seagate, went to Nigeria to save baby twins from sacrifice by the natives.

St Kentigern (Mungo), Bp, Miss. in Scotland, arrived even before Columba and is patron Saint of "Wegies" (Glaswegians).

George Fox, Founder of the Quakers (who reject baptism by water) and whose wife Margaret Fell promoted women preachers.

Thursday, 14 Jan., St Hilary of Poitiers, Bp & T., 5th century French monastic. His Latin name was Hilarius – but not so funny for the Arians whom he suppressed.

Sunday, 17 January, St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, One of the original Desert Fathers and Early originator of monasticism.

Monday, 18 January, Confession of Peter, when Peter proclaims Christ to be the Son of the Living God and Jesus blesses him in accepting that title.

Wed., 20 Jan., St Sebastian, M. Roman soldier used as an arrow target for becoming a Christian.

Thursday, 21 January, St Agnes, Roman child martyr who refused to renounce her Christianity.

Fri., 22 Jan., St Vincent, Spanish deacon & martyr who died after torture on a red-hot gridiron.

Sunday, 24 January, St Francis de Sales, Bishop

Mon., 25 Jan., Conversion of St Paul, who stopped persecuting Christians and became a follower of Jesus, after a blinding vision of Jesus on his way to Damascus.

Tuesday, 26 January, Ss. Timothy and Titus, Bps, Church leaders under St Paul who have bible chapters named after them.

Wed., 27 Jan., St John Chrysostom, Bp & T.

Thurs., 28 Jan., St Thomas Aquinas, T., the Angelic Doctor, Dominican and major theologian through his work *Summa Theologica*.

Sat., 30 Jan., Charles Stuart, The only Anglican King and Martyr; beheaded by Roundheads.

Sun, 31 Jan., St John Bosco, founded the Silesian Order, providing school for impoverished boys.

Charles Mackenzie, Bp, Miss. & M., Scots Anglican missionary bishop and contemporary of David Livingstone, died of fever in E. Africa.

(Sunday celebrations take precedence over minor saints.)

Additional notes by Fr Andrew Murphy