



Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church

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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 David

Dear Friends in Christ,

Suddenly, we find ourselves in the second month of meteorological Autumn. How did that happen? Time flies, I suppose, when we are having fun!

The secular and Christian calendars march on, and one of the saints commemorated this month is Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun, who died in October 1582 and whose Feast falls on 15th October every year.

As is common in Spain, she had more than one surname and her given name was Teresa Sanchez de Cepeda y Ahumada, which is wonderfully musical. She has been declared a Doctor (Teacher) of Christians precisely on account of her mystical experience and her deep spiritual teaching. You may have seen (at least a photo of) the incredible sculpture of her by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in the church of Santa Maria della Vittoria in Rome. It is a representation of her in spiritual ecstasy, quite graphically showing an experience she actually had in which she felt both the agony and ecstasy of being in the Divine presence, united with God. It is both a sublime work of artistic skill and an awesome representation of mystical theology in marble.

This artistic representation of a human being seems far removed from our everyday experience. And yet, Santa Teresa was a remarkably earthy woman. She was content being among the pots and pans in the kitchen. There is also a story that, while travelling cross country in a thunderstorm, her cart was up ended, and she was sent sprawling in the mud. She then shook her fist at the heavens and cried out, "Lord, if this is how you treat your friends,

no wonder you have so few of them!" She was, a gloriously complex person and obviously capable of frustration and anger. However, she was also capable of opening herself to God's presence and activity to the extent that she felt, in some way, transported to the heavenly realms while continuing to be a hardworking, practical person on earth.

It was Santa Teresa who wrote, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people." These are humbling yet encouraging words. She also wrote, "Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things pass away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He who has God Finds he lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

These are beautiful and consoling words which call us to live more simply, with an increased sense of purpose, and with less anxiety. Go to this webpage to see them written in Santa Teresa's own 500-year-old handwriting, and also to listen to a musical setting of them sung by Carmelite nuns around the world:

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/magazine/nada-turbe-teresa-avila-poem-5760#>

Like Santa Teresa, let us not strive for an illusory 'perfection', but to live simply, trust in God, and offer ourselves as his instruments in our world.

Oremus pro invicem – let us pray for one another!

With Every Blessing,

Fr David

Prayer for October

Almighty God, who hast bestowed thy grace upon thy people by thy Son Jesus Christ: Grant us, we beseech thee, to be enriched with his manifold gifts; that patiently enduring through the darkness of this world, we may be found shining like lamps in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, when he cometh in his kingdom; to whom be praise and glory for ever and ever.

Saints' and special days this month

Fri. 1 Oct. – St Gregory the Enlightener, Bp & Miss.
Monday, 4 Oct. – St Francis of Assisi, D. & Friar
Friday, 8 Oct. – Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bp
Monday, 11 October – St Kenneth, Abbot
Tuesday, 12 October – Elizabeth Fry, Reformer

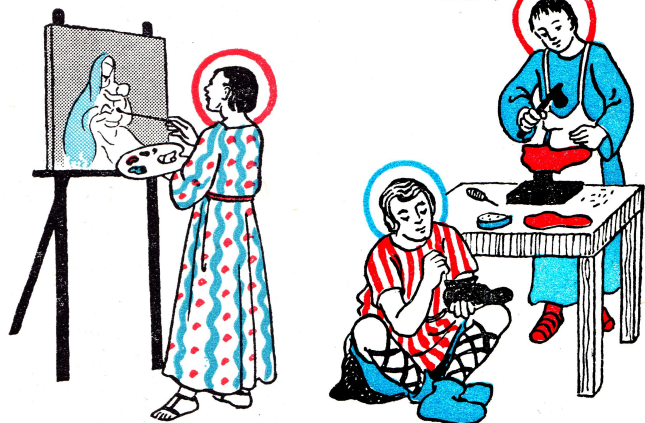
S. TERESA
& her brother, who wanted
to be martyrs, running
away from
home



Friday, 15 October – St Teresa of Avila, Teacher
Sun., 17 Oct. – St Ignatius of Antioch, Bp & M.

S. LUKE
A doctor, probably
also an artist

**SS. CRISPIN
& Crispinian**
Shoemakers



Monday, 18 October – St Luke, Evangelist
Tuesday, 19 Oct. – Henry Martyn, Pr. & Miss.

S. FRIDESWIDE
who used a pigsty
as her cell



Tue., 19 Oct. – St Frideswide, Princess & Abbess
Saturday, 23 Oct. – St James of Jerusalem, M.
Monday, 25 Oct. – Ss. Crispin & Crispinian, M.
Thursday, 28 Oct. – Ss. Simon and Jude, Aps
Friday, 29 October – James Hannington, Bishop,
& Companions, Martyrs

Vestry news

The Vestry met on 14th September and discussed, amongst other issues, the Harvest Festival on 26th September, the Food Cupboard ministry, Covid restrictions and the use of holy water (still not appropriate yet). Thanks were given to William Scotland for his hard work maintaining the food bag handouts on Sunday afternoons.

All Saints and All Souls

Low Masses will be held for the feast of All Saints at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, 1st November, and for the commemoration of All Souls at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 2nd November. A list will be placed at the back of the church during October for names of the departed to remember at All Souls.

Music at St Salvador's

For the past few weeks, as part of our cautious return to normality, full Sung Mass (including slightly muffled hymn singing) has been restored to St Salvador's. So if you have not come for a while, but would like to participate in the glory and can muster the confidence to return we shall be more than delighted to see you again!

Bishop Forbes Evensong

Cathedral – Sunday, 10th October from 6.00 p.m.