

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

May 2015

"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



In the Beginning...

An ancient part of the Liturgy preserved in the Scottish rite (but not in the old Communion Office in every part of the Anglican world) is what is called the "epiclesis". This is the prayer that the Celebrant at the Eucharist says after repeating Christ's words over the Bread and Wine.

The "epiclesis" calls down the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Gifts to make them Christ's Body and Blood. This part of the Communion Prayer illustrates the important and proper function of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.

Briefly said, the work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Christ. In terms of the Mass, the Spirit reveals Christ in Bread and Wine. In the other Sacraments, Christ is also revealed by the Spirit in healing, blessing, forgiving, cleansing, and empowering.

But evidence of Christ's presence through the Spirit is not limited to the Sacraments. He is also recognisable in the wider life of the Church. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the whole Church and each and every member of it. Indeed, in the "epiclesis" itself, we call down the Spirit not only upon the Eucharistic Gifts, but also upon ourselves, to better reveal Christ's life in our lives.

How does knowing this help us in our daily lives?

When Christ was WITH the disciples, they could not follow Him when trials came. They slept at Gethsemane. They ran away at His arrest. They made themselves inconspicuous at His trial. They were nowhere to be seen at His crucifixion. They cowered in the upper room when He was in His grave.

After Pentecost, when Christ was IN them, there was nothing that Christ's friends could not and would not do. Fishermen became the teachers of the nations. Mere slaves and women overcame intimidation and scorn. They did brave, marvellous, unthinkable things. The Church revealed in the lives of her members the unconquerable life of Christ.

Christ revealed in us is the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit, and the best hope of the world.

With every blessing,

Fr. Clive

Food Cupboard Ministry News

The Food Cupboard Ministry is still seeing at least 60 adults each week for refreshments and a wee bag of groceries.

In April many of our volunteers attended a safeguarding training session run by Mr Donald Urquhart the Provincial Officer for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Thank you to all those able to attend this training. Thanks also to Donald for coming up from Edinburgh to see what we do and for providing our session.

Thank you to all those who have donated mugs for use on a Sunday afternoon. Our stocks have been replenished but we can always use more if you still have some to donate.

Thank you to all those individuals and churches who have donated goods to the Food Cupboard over the last month, including those who donated through the shopping trolley at Morrisons.

There is a 'new to us' large cupboard for the storage of donated items in the choir vestry. We are grateful for all the practical and prayer support that we receive for this ministry.

Katie



The Rev. Tony Thornthwaite, minister of Coldsides Church of Scotland, whose help and that of his congregation are much appreciated on Sunday afternoons.

Vestry News

The vestry will meet in early May to deal with the usual business of the church including the ongoing rewiring work, PVG matters, Health and Safety, and matters arising from the Diocesan Synod back in March. Please continue to keep our vestry members and officers in your prayers.

Katie Clapson, Vestry Sec.

POINTS TO PONDER

“We live in a society where pizza gets to your house before the police.” - Unknown

“A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.” - Emo Philips

“When you go into court, you are putting your fate into the hands of people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.” - Norm Crosby

“Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.” - Erma Bombeck

Congratulations and best wishes to Fr. George Greig, who celebrated his anniversary of Ordination on St. Mark's Day, 25 April!

Ad multos annos—to many years!

Thank you

I want to say a big thank you to everyone for all the good wishes for my significant birthday at the end of April. I was surprised and delighted by the beautiful flowers and the card signed by so many of you and by the birthday cake which we all enjoyed over coffee. Suffice it to say I am expecting my bus pass through the post very soon!

Thank you all for your love and support over the past nearly 10 years.
Katie



W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

Mary is often associated with the month of May. However – although the name “May” is sometimes used as a familiar form of Our Lady’s name – the name of the month is actually derived from “Maia”, a Roman goddess. So too many of the ancient traditions in the month – the Maypole, the crowning of the May Queen, et al. – are pre-Christian in origin.

The association of Our Lady with the month of May began here and there in Western Europe in the late Middle Ages, often as an attempt to “christianise” the pagan reveling. It did not become widespread until the nineteenth century.

Former Anglican, RC Cardinal and now Saint, John Henry Newman, pointed out that May “belongs to the Easter season, which lasts fifty days, and in that season the whole of May commonly falls, and the first half always. The great feast of the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven is always in May, except once or twice in forty years. Pentecost, called also Whitsunday, the feast of the Holy Ghost, is commonly in May, and the feasts of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi are in May not infrequently. May, therefore, is the time in which there are such frequent Alleluias, because Christ has risen from the grave, Christ has ascended on high, and God the Holy Ghost has come down to take His place. Here then we have a reason why May is dedicated to the Blessed Mary. She is the first of creatures, the most acceptable child of God, the dearest and nearest to Him. It is fitting then that this month should be hers, in which we especially glory and rejoice in His great providence to us, in our redemption and sanctification in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.”



WHAT LOW SUNDAY?

The Second Sunday of Easter, the Sunday following Easter Day, is customarily called “Low Sunday” because of the low attendances expected after all the Easter Communions the previous week.

This was not the case this year.

On Sunday, 12 April, a contingent of more than twenty members of St. Bride’s Church, Glasgow, arrived by bus for the 11 AM Mass at St. Salvador’s. Effectively, it doubled the size of our congregation!

Organised some months before by Miles Gaythwaite, the group came to see the church, as their church was also designed by the same architect who built St. Salvador’s: Bodley. They were treated to coffee and biscuits upon arrival, and Fr. Clive conducted a tour of the church prior to Mass.



At the service, the prelude and postlude were played expertly on our organ by St. Bride’s member Stuart Campbell. As several of their group are members of the choir in Glasgow, the congregational singing got a welcome boost! In turn, our visitors were much impressed by our Cantor’s contribution to our service. Comments about our Liturgy and the Sermon were very encouraging.

Afterwards, there was a lunch at the Invercarse, hosted by the group for a few members of St. Salvador’s.

Low Sunday? What Low Sunday?? A memorable and uplifting day.



IMPORTANT FESTIVALS IN MAY

Thurs., 14 May: ASCENSION DAY:

Mass at 7 PM

Sun., 24 May: PENTECOST: Masses

at 9 AM & 11 AM

Sun., 31 May: TRINITY SUNDAY:

Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

It’s Whitsun: Wear Something RED

Whitsun/Pentecost commemorates the day the Holy Spirit came down upon the followers of Jesus with tongues of flame, giving them gifts for ministry and the impetus for mission. Wear something red on Sunday, 24 May as a sign of the Holy Spirit poured out upon each one and all of us!

**A Sermon
preached by the Rector
on Sunday, 19 April, 2015**

“While in their joy [the disciples] were disbelieving and still wondering, [Jesus] said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.” Luke 24: 41-43

During the Liturgy in our highly decorated Sanctuary I found myself looking intently at the word “alleluia” in black lettering on a white scroll that appears a number of times on the arch separating the Lady Chapel from the High Altar. Well, to tell the absolute truth, I was noticing that the paint was peeling on a number of these “alleluias”, and I hoped that one day perhaps they and all the rest of the decorations in our church that have been damaged by water ingress might be restored to their former glory! Take this as my confession of a wandering mind during worship, if you will, but I can say in mitigation that at least my mind wandered back to God with a pious hope....

I set myself the task of counting how many “alleluias” there are in our Sanctuary. There are twenty “alleluias” on the arches, plus two on the organ loft arch. I noticed also, in much smaller letters, that “alleluia” appears another eleven times high up on the reredos, making a total of 33 “Alleluias” – one for each year of Our Lord’s life on earth. I then got to wondering how many times the word “alleluia” appears in our Liturgy during Eastertide (excluding psalms and hymns). I counted that it occurs 25 times – a number having no mystical or religious significance as far as I know.

“Alleluia” is the Latin, Greek and English version of the original Hebrew word “Hallelujah”, which has been imported pretty much as it is into just about every language on earth. It means “praise the Lord”, and was used in the worship of the Temple. “Hallelujah” appears in 15 of the Psalms – the hymns used in Jewish worship. “Hallelujah” – “praise the Lord” – was an encouragement or invitation to the liturgical functionaries and congregation at Temple services to give praise and worship.

The word is found in only one place in the New Testament, Rev. 19, which describes the worship surrounding God in Heaven. “Alleluia” appears nowhere else in the whole Bible apart from the Psalms and the Book of Revelation; it is clearly a word specifically having to do with worship. It invites the worshipper to praise and it has become itself an expression of praise. Worshippers use it to indicate joy. This is why “alleluia” is generally not used in penitential Lent and Passiontide and why it fairly litters

our services during the joyful season from Easter Day to Pentecost!

One of the early Christian writers said of us, “We are the Easter people, and ‘Alleluia’ is our song.” This was less a comment on the Christian liturgical year and more an indication of Christian joy. Christians are joyful, not just during Eastertide, but, because of what Easter means, throughout the year, and throughout our lives. The Risen Christ is our joy. Our hope is, as St. John says in today’s Epistle, that “when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we shall see him as he is”. That is, like the Risen Christ, we shall be eternally alive and glorious.

This Easter joy is the joy that no-one can take from us if we refuse to give it up. We can cling to it in adversity. St. Luke says of the disciples confronted by the Risen Lord: “in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering”. We too can remain joyful – as the disciples are described as being – despite even doubt, disbelief and shock. Christ is risen from the dead. That is why, in the words of a wonderful ancient hymn from Eastern Orthodoxy, even “weeping o’er the grave, we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”

This brings me back to the black lettered “alleluias” on the scrolls that decorate our Sanctuary. Most of them need to be restored. In places the paint has cracked, peeled and fallen away. This reminds me that sometimes we get so bogged down with the cares of maintaining our faith in adverse modern conditions that we forget to be joyful and thankful.

The effect of the damage on our “alleluia” church decorations would be rather sad and ironic were it not for the power of the word “alleluia” itself. God can be praised – God MUST be praised – in all conditions. Human beings need to be restored. God has done it. He has acted in Christ to break the power of sin and death over us, and He has shared His Spirit with us to make us alive and glorious like Jesus. Despite everything that there is that might stand in the way, and whatever circumstance we may find ourselves in, we have a song to sing and a Gospel to proclaim. Alleluia!

Alleluia Alleluia

Come Celebrate!

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Ss. Philip and James, Apostles (1 May)

Philip and James merely appear on the list of the twelve apostles in the first three gospels, but in St John's Gospel, Philip has a more prominent role. James is said to be the son of Alphaeus, and is often referred to as James the Less or James the Younger. The two apostles are celebrated on the same day because the church in Rome, where their relics were laid to rest, was dedicated on this day in the year 560.

Thomas Rattray, Bishop (12 May)

Thomas Rattray came of a long-established Perthshire family. He was distinguished while still a layman for his theological writings. As a liturgical and patristic scholar, and drawing on early Eastern liturgies, he exerted a decisive influence on the Scottish Communion Office of 1764 and thus on the eucharistic worship of the Episcopal Church in Scotland and in the USA. He was a leader among those who contended that the appointment of a bishop belonged properly to the clergy of the diocese, with the approbation of the laity. His election as Bishop of Brechin in 1727 was declared void by the College of Bishops. He was later elected Bishop of Dunkeld, and became Primus in 1739. An example of piety and strictness of life, he was one of the most learned bishops of his time. He died in 1743.

St Matthias, Apostle

(transferred to 15 May)

In the choosing of Matthias to replace the traitor Judas, we can see that the author of the Acts of the Apostles differs from St Paul in his understanding of apostleship. The number had to be restored so that they might sit on thrones judging the twelve

tribes of Israel. It was conditional that they had to have been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by election, indicated the choice was God's alone.

St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

(26 May)

Augustine was prior of the monastery of St Andrew in Rome. In 596, at the instigation of Pope Gregory the Great, he was dispatched as the leader of a group of forty monks to re-evangelise the English Church. Augustine appears not to have been a particularly confident person and, in Gaul, he wanted to turn back, but Pope Gregory's firm resolution held the group to their mission. The monks finally landed in Kent in the summer of 597 where they were well received by King Ethelbert whose wife, Bertha, was a Christian. Once established, Augustine returned temporarily to Gaul to receive ordination as a bishop. Pope Gregory would have preferred London to have become the primatial see, but in the event Canterbury was chosen and thus Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He died in either 604 or 605.

The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (transferred to 1 June)

The celebration of this feast first occurred among the Franciscans in 1263, but quickly spread throughout Europe. Since it recalls an incident clearly described in Scripture, the churches of the Reformation three hundred years later were less inclined to proscribe it than they were other Marian feasts, particularly as it was the occasion for the blessed Virgin to sing her great hymn of praise: the Magnificat. The story of the Visitation emphasises the connection between the old covenant and the new, and how the Old Testament clearly points to Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Kalendar

Fri., 1 May: Ss. Philip & James: Mass
at 7 PM
Sun., 3 May: Easter 5: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 5 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 6 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 10 May: Easter 6: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 12 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 13 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Thurs., 14 May: ASCENSION DAY:
Mass at 7 PM
Fri., 15 May: St. Matthias: Mass at 7 PM
Sun., 17 May: Easter 7: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 19 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 20 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 24 May: PENTECOST: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 26 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 27 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 31 May: TRINITY SUNDAY:
Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Mon., 1 June: The Visitation: Mass at noon
Tues., 2 June: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 3 June: Martyrs of Uganda:
Mass at 10 AM
Thurs., 4 June: Corpus Christi:
Mass at 7 PM
Sun., 7 June: Trinity 1: Masses at
9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 9 June: St. Columba: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 10 June: St. Barnabas (anticipated):
Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 14 June: Trinity 2: Masses at
9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 16 June: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 17 June: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 21 June: Trinity 3: Masses at
9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 23 June: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 24 June: Birth of St. John the Baptist:
Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 28 June: Trinity 4: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 30 June: Ss. Peter & Paul
(transferred): Mass at 7 PM

A DECADE!

On Wednesday, 3 June, Fr. Clive will celebrate ten years as Rector of St. Salvador's. There will be a Mass at 10 AM.

*"Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults Thou hast
borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and
brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly."*

—St. Richard of Chichester (d. 1253)

See St. Salvador's on YOUTUBE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtiKZqQYnYU>

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Dorothy Pirie, a regular member of St. Salvador's for many years. Dorothy had gone blind and was latterly living at Orchar nursing home in Broughty Ferry until she died, after a slow decline in health, on Friday, 17 April. The day of her funeral in church is undecided at time of writing.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord.

Diocesan Website:
www.brechin.anglican.org

The deadline for the next issue of 'Crucis' is Sunday, 24 May Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

St Salvador's Directory

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Saint Salvador's is a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) and is in the Diocese of Brechin.
The SEC is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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Magazine

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