



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

October 2023

Message from Fr David

Dear Friends in Christ,

I remember once holidaying in the Scottish Borders. I stood outside the cottage one evening, just looking up at the stars and because the cottage was quite remote, the night sky wasn't obscured by city or town lights. The constellations stood out very clearly, and between them you could see the thousands of other stars which are usually invisible to the naked eye. It was very beautiful.

The night sky is awe-inspiring, and it has fed the dreams and imaginations of men and women since we first appeared in the universe. And the more you think about it, the more amazing it all becomes.

It can tend to make us feel very small and perhaps even insignificant. Yet, the things which amaze us and inspire these feelings in us, give us a clue to our nature. The stars, however beautiful, are incapable of such reflection and insight. They cannot reason or think; they cannot reflect or meditate; they cannot care or love. Only we human beings, alone in all the universe – as far as we know – are capable of these things. Unless there are indeed intelligent beings on distant planets, in us the universe has reached its highest expression. In us, ordinary matter, the kind that makes up the sun and the stars, has become conscious.

Planetary scientist, Dr Ashley King, writes, 'It is totally 100% true: nearly all the elements in the human body were made in a star and many have come through several supernovas'. So, that old song by Joni Mitchell is spot on: 'We are stardust, we are golden'.



It was St Francis of Assisi, whose feast day falls on October 4th, who spoke so powerfully about the relatedness of everything in the universe. He spoke of the sun as a brother and the moon as a sister. Unlike the sun and the moon, however, some divine spark has brought us to life and consciousness. In us, God has formed and loved the universe until it is capable of loving him back.

At this season of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth, we acknowledge the interdependence of the created universe; we give thanks for the goodness of God shown in the provision of food and nourishment, but we must also examine our use of God's gifts and strive for ways to use them in ways which reverence the creation. By reverencing the creation, we show our respect for the Creator in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

Oremus pro invicem – let us pray for one another!

With Every Blessing,

Fr David

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Prayer for Harvest Thanksgiving

Almighty Father, who hast at this season bestowed upon us such an abundant supply for all our necessities: Grant that we may never be destitute of those better gifts which nourish and enrich the soul, that we may bring forth abundant fruit to thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Canadian Prayer Book

Services in October

Sun 1	Harvest Thanksgiving	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 4	Francis of Assisi	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 8	Trinity XVIII	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 11	Alexander Penrose Forbes (tr)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 15	Trinity XIX	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 18	St Luke	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 22	Trinity XX	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 25	St James of Jerusalem (tr)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 29	Trinity XXI	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.

Services in November

Wed 1	All Saints Day	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Thu 2	All Souls	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.

Saints' and Special Days for October

Wed., 4th Oct. – St Francis of Assisi, D. & Friar

Born in 1181, the son of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up everything to obey literally the words of the Lord: 'Leave all, and follow me'. He lived in poverty, preaching the Gospel. Others joined him, and they lived by a simple rule based on the Gospel. The Franciscan Order spread rapidly in his own lifetime, though Francis ceased to be its leader. His life put into practice the Beatitudes, and was characterised by faith, joy, service of others, prayer and love of all created things. Two years before his death in 1226, Francis received the Stigmata, the marks of Christ's wounds.



Sun., 8th October – Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop

Alexander Penrose Forbes was born in Edinburgh, the son of Lord Medwyn, a judge of the Court of Session. He served with the East India Company for three years but returned to Britain on health



grounds and studied at Brasenose College, Oxford. There he was strongly influenced by the Tractarian Pusey, who, after Forbes' ordination, appointed him to St Saviour's, a slum parish in Leeds, in 1847. A few months later, aged thirty, he was elected Bishop of Brechin, a diocese of eleven parishes, one of which – in Dundee – Forbes pastored himself. He exercised a notable ministry among the poor and among the victims of a cholera epidemic. He built the present cathedral for his own congregation, and founded several new congregations in the city, including St Salvador's. His doctrine of the real presence of Christ in the eucharist led to controversy and in 1860 to a trial before his fellow bishops, at which he was supported by John Keble. His Tractarian theology had a growing influence upon the Scottish Episcopal Church for the rest of the century. His writings include doctrinal and devotional works, as well as research into the lives of the saints of Scotland. He died in 1875.

Wednesday 18th October – St Luke, Evangelist

S. LUKE
A doctor, probably also an artist



The author of the Gospel bearing his name, and also of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. From Acts we learn that he was a gentile convert to Christianity, a doctor, who accompanied St Paul on his 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys, and who stayed in Rome with him while he was in captivity. Eastern Christians credit St Luke with having produced the first ikon. Thought to have died in Greece at the age of 84.

Mon., 23rd Oct. – St James of Jerusalem, Martyr

James, 'the Lord's brother', was a leader of the Church in Jerusalem from a very early date, and is regarded as its first bishop. Though not one of the Twelve, St Paul includes James among those to whom the risen Lord appeared before the Ascension, and records that James received him cordially when he visited Jerusalem after his conversion. James was regarded as the leader of the Jewish community when the Church expanded to embrace the Gentiles, and was successful in bringing many of his fellow Jews to faith in Christ. He presided at the Council of Jerusalem. He is thought to have been stoned to death around the year 62.

