



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.

December 2023/January 2024

Galatians 6:14

Message from Fr David

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It is a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for a movement towards a beginning. The season of Advent, as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, of four Sundays before Christmas Day.

It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

Christmas is one of the highlights of the Christian year and a time of great celebration. We celebrate the mystery of God coming to live among humanity as one of us in the person of Jesus, son of Mary, the Saviour promised by the Old Testament prophets.

This great feast marking the anniversary of Jesus' birth has inspired the many joyful customs and traditions we use to mark Christmas. Many of these – carols, cribs, decorations, and special foods – are shared with and enjoyed by billions of people across the world. But there is more than tinsel, trees and reindeer. There is amazement, wonder and joy here.

The gospel accounts of the first Christmas provide so many ways for us to enter into the mystery of God becoming human. There are hosts of angels filling the night sky with singing; a group of astounded shepherds on a hillside who find their lives and expectations turned upside down; there is a shining star and the birth of a child, which, like many other births before and since, bring hope and possibility.

And the readings for Christmas day – including the prologue to John's gospel – invite us to look beyond



the joy of Jesus' birth to the significance of his life, and the saving power of his future death and resurrection.

Christmas is a Season, not just a day, which opens up for us the entire mystery of our salvation and it includes another feast – the Epiphany on 6th January, when we recall how Jesus was first revealed to the wider world in the visit of the Magi (or Wise Men). At the centre of the Christmas Season "is someone who is joy and love ... Jesus. When we meet Jesus Christ we find love and healing and hope and certainty and an underpinning of our lives that gives us a sense of where we're going and what we're called to be" (Archbishop Justin Welby, 2018).

Apparently, it was Princess Elizabeth, then aged 13, in the dark, early days of the Second World War, who handed the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins to her father King George VI during his 1939 Christmas message so he could read out the words:

"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.'"

Oremus pro invicem – let us pray for one another!

With Every Blessing,

Fr David

Prayer for Advent

Grant, O Almighty God, that as thy blessed Son Jesus Christ at his first advent came to seek and to save that which was lost, so at his second and glorious appearing he may find in us the fruits of the redemption which he wrought; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end.

Scottish Prayer Book

Services in December

Sun 3	Advent Sunday	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 6	St Nicholas of Myra	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 10	Advent II	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 13	St John of the Cross (ant)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 17	Advent III	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 20	Feria	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 24	Advent IV	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Mon 25	Nativity of the Lord	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 27	St John	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 31	Christmas I	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.

Saints' & Special Days for December

Sunday 3rd December – Advent Sunday



Advent Sunday, also called the First Sunday of Advent or First Advent Sunday, among the Western Christian Churches, is the first day of the liturgical year and the start of the season of Advent. On the First Sunday of Advent, Christians start lighting their Advent wreaths, and praying their Advent daily devotional. [Wikipedia](#)

Wed., 6th Dec. – St Nicholas of Myra, Bp

Nicholas was a fourth-century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by a 9th-century hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern



his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick, saved endangered sailors and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from prostitution by providing them with dowries, and so developed the tradition of

bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated for the Christmas celebrations. St Nicholas is also patron saint of seafarers, and is one of the patron saints of Russia.

Thu., 14th Dec. – St John of the Cross, Pr. & T.

Born into an impoverished noble family near Avila in Spain in 1542, St John was brought up by his widowed mother and went to a charity school. He worked as a nurse and received further education from the Jesuits before entering the Carmelite order when he was twenty-one. Having distinguished himself at Salamanca University, he was ordained in 1567 and met St Teresa of Avila soon afterwards. Small of stature, he made a great impression on her and she persuaded him to help with her reform of the Carmelites. His labours brought him into conflict with the religious authorities, and he was even imprisoned for a period, yet these experiences prompted some of his finest poetry and mystical writing. He described the 'dark night of the soul' as it is purified in its approach towards God. After ten years as superior to several different houses, he again fell out of favour and was banished to Andalusia in southern Spain, where he died after a severe illness on this day in 1591.

Wed., 27th Dec. – St John, Apostle and Evangelist

St John was one of the sons of Zebedee, along with James, who followed Jesus. He is described as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved', and was one of the inner circle

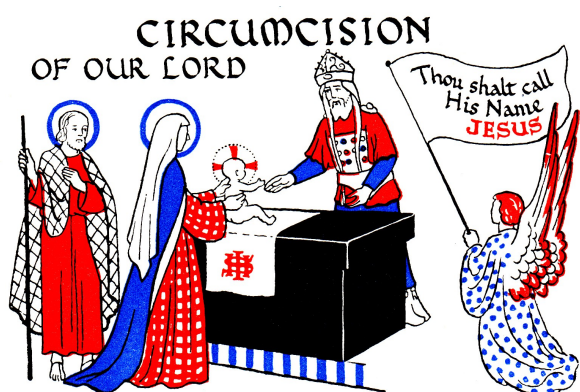


of Jesus' followers who witnessed and shared in all the major events of our Lord's ministry. In both the Gospel that bears his name and in the epistles credited to him, the powerful theological concept of the incarnate Word of God is proclaimed. St John is believed to have been the only one of our Lord's disciples to have lived to old age and not to have been put to death for his faith in the One who loved him and the One whom he loved. It is thought that he died in Asia Minor.

Services in January

Wed 3	Naming of Jesus (tr)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 7	The Epiphany (tr)	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 10	William Laud	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 14	Epiphany II	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 17	St Anthony of Egypt	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 21	Epiphany III	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 24	Conversion of Paul (ant)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 28	Epiphany IV	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 31	Charles Mackenzie, Bp	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.

Saints' & Special Days for January



Monday, 1 January – The Naming of Jesus

The celebration of this scriptural festival, that has been observed since the sixth century, marks three events: first, the naming of the infant Jesus; secondly, the circumcision as the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham 'and his children for ever', thus Christ's keeping of the Law; and thirdly, the first shedding of Christ's Blood.



Saturday, 6th January – The Epiphany of the Lord

Originally, this very ancient feast was celebrated on this day as the premier Christian celebration of the

Incarnation, including both the Nativity of Christ and His Baptism. At some point, Christians in the West began to celebrate the Nativity of Christ on 25 December, and by the fifth century, the eve of the Epiphany (5 January – 'Twelfth Night') commemorated the visit of the Magi and rounded off the western Christmas festivities. Christians in the East have retained the ancient unity of this festival, as the great celebration of the revelation of the Word made flesh.

Wed., 10th Jan. – William Laud, Bishop & Martyr

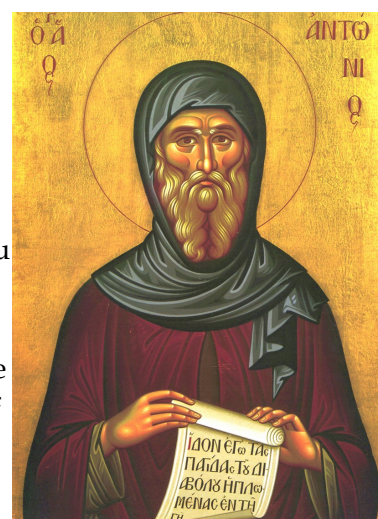
King Charles 1 appointed his friend William Laud Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633.

The aim of both Monarch and Archbishop was to counter the growing power and influence of the Puritans in Church and State. Laud was a High Churchman who felt that the majesty of God should be reflected in the liturgy of the Church. Rigorously and relentlessly he pursued this vision in the face of increasingly radical, anti-catholic and liturgically minimalist opposition. His many enemies in Church and State, however, overcame him in 1640, when he was impeached and imprisoned. His friend the King did not – or could not – save him and Laud was beheaded on this day in 1645.



Wednesday, 17th Jan. – St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot

Born in about the year 251 into a wealthy family, Anthony heard the gospel message, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give your money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' Thus it was that, at the age of 20, after the death of his parents, Anthony gave everything he had away and went to live an austere



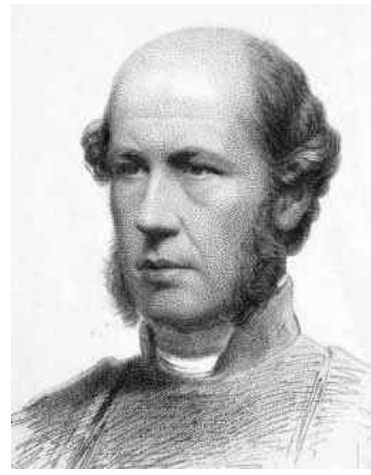
life of work, charity and prayer in the Egyptian desert. His many spiritual struggles left him both wise and sensible and he became a spiritual guide to many who flocked to him. His simple rule of personal discipline and prayer was taken up and spread throughout Christendom. He died in the year 356.

CONVERSION OF S. PAUL



Thursday, 25th January – The Conversion of Paul

This feast recalls the dramatic conversion of the anti-Christian zealot Saul and his calling by Christ to become an apostle. It is one of the pivotal moments in Christian history, so great was the impact this particular convert was to have on the course of the gospel's progress. Christians have celebrated the feast of Paul's conversion since the sixth century, but it became a universal celebration of the Church in the twelfth century. In modern times, this festival rounds off the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



Wed., 31st Jan. – Charles Mackenzie, Bishop, Missionary & Martyr

The Universities Mission to Central Africa was formed in response to an appeal by David Livingstone, the great explorer and missionary. Charles Mackenzie was consecrated Bishop in Cape Town in 1861 to lead this mission

from South Africa up the Zambesi River into central Africa. The missionaries' preaching and their efforts to release slaves provoked opposition from native leaders and Portuguese colonists. Mackenzie succumbed to illness and died after only a year of devoted service in this very difficult, dangerous and exacting work.

Drawings © Enid M. Chadwick

From Fr David's report to the AGM on 19th November 2023

Forgive me for sharing this with you again, but perhaps my favourite memory from this past year was when I was at Dens Road Primary School Assembly just before Easter. I showed the children a short, animated film about Easter, which they watched very patiently. And when, at the end, Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, the whole school spontaneously burst into applause. It still gives me goosepimples thinking of it. As I said at the time, it reminded me very powerfully that we are the custodians, and proclaimers, of the greatest story ever told.

This is my 3rd AGM at St. Salvador's, and it will, almost certainly, be my last. I came to St Salvador's in July 2021 with the appellation "Transitional" attached to my role here. The norm for a Transitional role is that it lasts three years. The Bishop is keen for my two transitional ministries (here and at All Souls) to come to an end in July 2024 at the latest. The bishop has met with the Vestry and continues to look at how St Salvador's could be best served in terms of ministry in the future.

As I hope you can tell from my report, over the last year St Salvador's has been actively engaged with the MAXwell Centre and their good work, with Dens Road Primary School and the children there, with community events, with civic leaders, with

members of other faiths, and with our nearest Church of Scotland colleagues. We've been actively engaged in feeding and supporting some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our community. We've added to the cultural life of the city and beyond through welcoming visitors to our beautiful building and through our concerts. We've been actively engaged in supporting a student on the way to ordination, and so also supporting our Scottish Episcopal Institute which trains people for Lay Readership and ordained ministry in Scotland. Most of all, we have been reminded very powerfully (through those young children at Dens Road Primary School) that we are the custodians, and proclaimers, of the greatest story ever told. We may, quite rightly, celebrate these successes, partnerships, **and the gift of the Gospel**, and so go into our future with humility, faith, hope, love, and gratitude.

Fr David

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