



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 2024 / January 2025

Galatians 6:14

Editorial

The season of Advent is, for Christians, one of penitence and sober preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. Yet in the general population it is largely forgotten. The commercial imperative instead drives us to an ever earlier *anticipation* of Christmas, now put back, in some cases, as far as the beginning of September. Advent has been relegated to a distant memory, existing now in popular culture only in the ultimate contradiction to what is traditionally a period of fasting: the chocolate Advent calendar.

By the time Christmas Day is over (the first of the twelve days of Christmas) we are already tired of it and, from Boxing Day, decorations start coming down. By 1st January, broadcasters are commenting that 'Christmas is well and truly over' and everyone has the January sales and booking their summer holidays in mind.

What can Christians today do about this kind of 'backwards season creep'? The time when most people attended church and were taught about these things in Sunday School, for now, has passed. So how can we bring back that expectation, the joy and the true focus of the Christmas season to a world that thinks more about receiving than about what we have already received?

Perhaps the very least we can do is to give a good example by following the Church's year properly ourselves. In the Church, traditions, like other good habits, are there to help remind us of the best ways to live our own lives, through following the life and teachings of Christ.

Celebration is of course a big part of our traditions. We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. But these events are meaningless without the context within which they occur. It was the sinfulness of mankind that made them necessary



in the first place. The seasons of Advent and Lent preceding Christmas and Easter are times of reflection during which we are challenged to face our personal demons. Jesus was sent to redeem us, and we need to be ready and willing to receive that redemption. So we should ponder on the Fall of Man, on the sin of Adam, whilst looking forward to the Advent (the Coming) of Jesus Christ, the Second Adam. The Father's response to the Fall of Man was to send us his Son. The Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh reflected not only Jesus' kingship, but also the sacrifice he would ultimately make (myrrh was used to embalm the dead). The coming of Jesus was, and is, a time of great joy and gratitude for the gift of eternal life that he brings with him: the ultimate Christmas present.

May we all enjoy a peaceful and uplifting Christmas season this year, perhaps with friends and relatives, perhaps helping others who have no-one to celebrate with. And may we also reflect, with humility, on why we are celebrating it.

Martin Andrews (Churchwarden)

Prayer for Advent

Make us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of thy Son Christ our Lord; that when he shall come and knock, he shall find us not sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in his praises; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gelasian Sacramentary

Services in December

Sun 1	Advent Sunday	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.
Wed 4	St Francis Xavier (tr)	Lay-led 10.00 a.m.
Sun 8	Advent II	Lay-led 11.00 a.m.
Wed 11	Immaculate Conception of the BVM (tr)	Lay-led 10.00 a.m.
Sun 15	Advent III	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.
Wed 18	Feria	Lay-led 10.00 a.m.
Sun 22	Advent IV	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.
Wed 25	Christmas Day	No service
Sun 29	First Sunday of Christmas The Holy Family	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.

If a priest is not available, a lay-led service may replace Mass.

Saints' and Special Days for December

JESUS CAME **JESUS COMES**
 on the in the
First Christmas Day **Blessed Sacrament**
JESUS
WILL COME
at the Last Day

Sunday 1st 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

Tue., 3rd Dec. – St Francis Xavier, Pr. and Miss.

Born in 1506, St Francis Xavier was an original member of the Society of Jesus with St Ignatius Loyola – he took vows of poverty and chastity, and committed himself to evangelise the pagans. He is one of the greatest of all Christian missionaries, preaching in India, South-east Asia and Japan – where he landed in 1549. There, he learned Japanese, and formed a Church that endured



long drawn-out persecution. He died while on his way to China in 1552. Not only was his preaching effective in drawing people to Christ, but he was able to organise communities so that they could survive when he left them.

Mon., 9th Dec. – Immaculate Conception of the BVM



The Feast of the Conception of the Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Orthodox and some Eastern Catholic Churches. It is also the name given in the Catholic [Tridentine calendar](#) for 8 December. In the [General Roman](#)

[Calendar](#), it is called the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. In the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#), the holy day was once called the *Feast of Conception of Saint Anne*.

The feast was eventually observed in the West. Although the name changed to the Conception of Mary, it still focused on the miracle accorded to her parents. As she was due no less honour than John the Baptist, it was believed that, like him, Mary must have been sanctified before birth.

The Eastern and Western Churches focus on different aspects. The East celebrates the miracle of God taking away the barrenness of Anna's womb, while the Western Church emphasizes Mary's purity from all sin from her conception.

Wikipedia

Services in January 2025

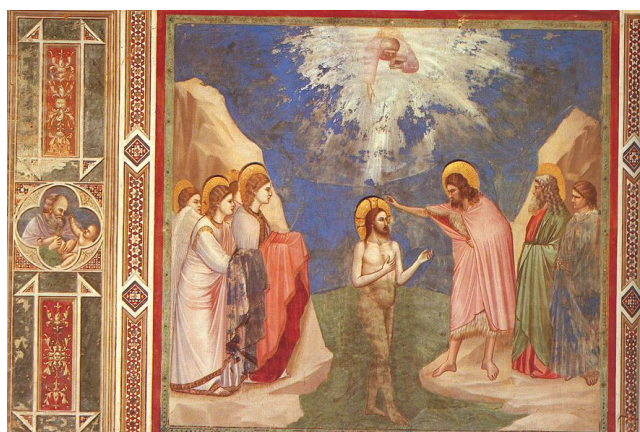
Wed 1	Naming of Jesus	No service
Sun 5	Epiphany (ant)	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.
Wed 8	Feria	Lay-led 10.00 a.m.
Sun 12	Baptism of The Lord	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.
Wed 15	St Hilary of Poitiers (tr)	Lay-led 10.00 a.m.
Sun 19	Epiphany II	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.
Wed 22	St Agnes (tr)	Lay-led 10.00 a.m.
Sun 26	Epiphany III	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.
Wed 29	St Thomas Aquinas (tr)	Lay-led 10.00 a.m.

If a priest is not available, a lay-led service may replace Mass.

Saints' and Special Days for January

Mon., 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 Jan. – '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.



Sunday, 12th January – The Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, or Theophany, is the **feast day** commemorating the **baptism of Jesus** in the **Jordan River** by **John the Baptist**. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on **Epiphany**, which commemorates the coming of the **Magi**, the baptism of Christ, and the **wedding at Cana**.

Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany. It is celebrated in the **Catholic Church** as well as the **Anglican** and **Lutheran Churches** on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6). Some **Lutheran** churches celebrate it on the Sunday before **Lent**, or **Quinquagesima**.

Tue., 14th Jan. – St Hilary of Poitiers, Bp & T.

S. HILARY wrote many books



Hilary was born at Poitiers in about the year 315 into a pagan family and was well-educated, becoming proficient in both Latin and Greek. After extensive personal study he was baptised at the age of 30, becoming bishop of his city shortly afterwards, in 350.

Immediately he was caught up in the Arian controversy on the side of those defending the true divinity of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. His learning and oratorical skills made him a strong champion of orthodoxy and helped to achieve the Church's eventual victory over Arianism. Despite his reputation as a sharp and indefatigable opponent in controversy, Hilary was known as a kind and gentle friend. He died in the year 367.

Tuesday, 21 January – St Agnes, Martyr

S. AGNES put to death at 13



Agnes is one of the most well-known and widely venerated of the early Christian martyrs in Rome, perhaps because of the expression of mature resilience and sheer bravery remarkable in a girl so young. Just 13 years old, Agnes is

believed to have died in the last major Roman persecution under the emperor Diocletian, in the year 304, and her feast has long been celebrated on this day. Her name means 'a lamb'.

Tue., 28th January – St Thomas Aquinas, Teacher

Thomas Aquinas has been described as the greatest thinker and teacher of the medieval Church. Born near Aquino, in Italy, in about 1225, he came from a noble family, and was educated first by the Benedictines at Monte Cassino and then at the University of Naples.



Against his family's wishes, he became a Dominican friar while in Naples in 1244. His profound theological wisdom and capacity to impart this, as well in sermons as in hymns, along with his gentleness of spirit, earned him the title 'the Angelic Doctor'. He died in 1274.

Extracts from the Chairman's AGM report

This year has been a year of changes and upheavals, of terrible wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, of inflation in this country, rising prices and challenging times. We also face challenging times in the church, but, come to think of it, when haven't we?!

In the past 12 months we sadly lost from our congregation, Ann Noltie in January, and Evelyn Kelly in October.

On the first of August Fr David moved to two charges, Elie and Pittenweem in East Neuk, and Fr Gary was made Interim Rector by the bishop. However, after our 150th Anniversary Service in September, of which more later, Fr Gary realised that he would not be able to do justice to what is effectively a full-time job, on top of his existing full-time job in Information Technology, and he reluctantly asked the bishop to release him from the post of Interim Rector. He still comes to celebrate Mass with us on most Sundays.

We hope this situation will be only temporary and that a more permanent arrangement with a new priest can be made in the new year. Our income is still not high enough to pay for a priest, although we do have positive signs for stabilising our financial situation. New leases for the Maxwell Centre and Club 83 are in the hands of solicitors, and the much delayed work to refurbish the Rectory should be completed very soon. The Rectory (which does not meet current eco-rate standards required by the Diocese) will be put on the market, and the money will go to purchase another property to use as a 'house-for-duty' arrangement for a new priest.

Amongst other glimmers of hope, we had two baptisms this year, one adult, and one baby.

The Soteria Ensemble provided us a festive quartet on 2nd December 2023, and a viola and cello recital on 30th June 2024. We plan to have more musical events in the church in the New

Year to help raise our profile and draw some new people to our congregation.

The big event this year was our 150th Anniversary Service commemorating the consecration of our church on 14th September, 1874. We are grateful to Alan Tavener and the Strathclyde University Chamber Choir, and also to The Very Rev. Dr Emsley Nimmo, Rector of St Margaret's, Aberdeen who celebrated and preached at that service. The service can still be seen via a link on our website.

Doors Open days were kept on 28th and 29th September, and we had about 25 visitors this year.

Thanks go to everyone that helps to keep St Salvador's open, especially the altar servers, organist, Cantor, Vestry members, and all those who come to support the running of our Sunday Food Cupboard drop-in. Thanks also to all those who make regular and occasional donations, both to the church and to the Food Cupboard.

Finally, although things may seem to have been especially challenging this year we should remember why we are here. As Fr David said last year, we are custodians and proclaimers of the greatest story ever told: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not only that, but we have the Holy Spirit to guide us and to encourage us. If we remain faithful, in humility, hope and gratitude we shall indeed see God's glory here.

Martin Andrews

Christmas services

Owing to shortage of staff we are sorry that there will be no service on Christmas Day or New Year's Day (both Wednesdays), and congregation members have been kindly invited to attend St Mary Magdalene's at 10.00 a.m. on Christmas Day.

Prayer for Epiphany

Lord Jesus, our Master, go with us while we travel to the heavenly country; that, following thy star, we may not wander in the darkness of this world's night, while thou, who art our Way, and Truth, and Life dost shine within us to our journey's end; for thy mercy's sake.

After Mozarabic Sacramentary

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