

Monday 30th November: St Andrew's Day

Who was St Andrew?

Andrew was a Galilean fisherman before he and his brother Simon Peter became disciples of Jesus Christ. It was Andrew who brought the boy with the loaves and fish to Jesus before the feeding of the five thousand.



What happened?

Andrew travelled the known world spreading to share the story of Jesus, reaching as far as Asia Minor, Poland and Russia. Eventually he found himself in Greece where the Romans captured him and crucified him. Andrew asked to be hung from a diagonal cross as he felt himself to be unworthy to be crucified from an upright cross like Jesus.

The Fable

Legend has it that a Greek monk known as St Rule (or St Regulus) was ordered in a vision to take a few relics of Andrew to the 'ends of the earth' for safe keeping. He set off on a sea journey to eventually come ashore on the coast of Fife at a settlement which is now the modern town of St Andrews.



The Vision

In 832 AD Andrew is said to have appeared in a vision to a Pictish king the night before a battle against the Northumbrians in what is now the village of Athelstaneford in East Lothian. On the day of the battle a Saltire, an X-shaped cross, appeared in the sky above the battlefield and the Picts were victorious.

How do we celebrate it?

In Scotland, and many countries with Scottish connections, St Andrew's Day is marked with a celebration of Scottish culture with traditional Scottish food, music and dance.

Fascinating Facts

- The Saltire, or Saint Andrew's Cross, was adopted as the national emblem and flag of the Scots.
- Andrew was first recognised as an official patron saint of Scotland in 1320 at the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath.
- The presence of Andrew's relics in Scotland – a tooth, a kneecap, arm and finger bones – meant that St Andrews became a popular medieval pilgrimage site.