

Reflection Wednesday 1st Week Advent St Andrew Apostle 2022

St Andrew was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, and worked as a fisherman. He may have been a disciple of St John the Baptist. He was one of the first to follow Jesus and introduced his brother, Simon Peter, to him. As one of the twelve Apostles he was widely venerated in ancient times, and became patron saint of Scotland because, according to legend, some of his bones were brought there and buried at the place where the town of St Andrews now stands.

Apostle means *one who is sent out*. It is understood to mean a vigorous and pioneering advocate or supporter of a particular policy, idea, or cause, an important early Christian teacher or pioneering missionary.

One could never accuse Jesus of not being a great leader. Before beginning his ministry, he chose those who would help him and continue his mission once he left them. His succession planning could not be faulted. Having lived with Jesus the Word, they became bearers of the Word. The same Word we prepare to meet again this Christmas. *Listening* has become an important request of late.

It was an important part of our preparation for the Synod of the Laity. Listening was key to Andrew and the apostles who were inspired by the Word both in what they said and did. Through their time with Jesus their faith grew and developed so that the Word spoke in them and through them.

Quotes attributed to St Andrew:

Love is acceptance. When you love someone . . . you take them into your heart, and that is surely why it hurts so much when you lose someone you love, because you lose a part of yourself.

If we strive for goals, relishing in the pleasure of circumstance, nothing is enjoyable, and life becomes purposeless.

When Fred's dog died, he took it to the local Catholic church and asked if he could have a funeral service for his beloved pet, but the priest explained that they didn't do services like that for animals.

Fred asked who would and the priest suggested that the Baptist church might give the dog a funeral service. Fred then asked, "*Father, do you think £5,000 would be enough payment for the dog's funeral?*" The priest replied, "*Dear Fred, why didn't you tell me that your dog was a Catholic?*"