

Chaplaincy Newsletter

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Saintly Inspirations

St Andrew the Apostle - Feast Day November 30th

St. Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a Christian Apostle and the older brother to St. Peter.

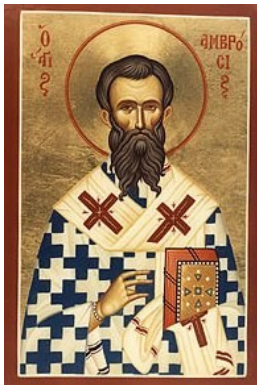
According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means 'strong' and he was known for having good social skills.

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

Little else is said about Andrew in the Gospels, but it is believed Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes, according to John 6:8. Andrew was also present at the Last Supper. St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and singers. He is also the patron saint to several countries and cities including Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras.



St Ambrose - Feast Day December 7th



Ambrose was born around 340 AD to a Roman Christian family. He grew up with his siblings, Satyrus and Marcellina, in Trier, Belgic Gaul (present-day Germany). After Ambrose's father passed away, he was educated in Rome, where he studied law and literature. Ambrose was baptised, ordained and duly consecrated bishop of Milan on December 7, 374. As bishop, he donated all of his land and gave his money to the poor. This made him widely popular and often times more politically powerful than even the emperor. Saint Ambrose was generous to the poor. He considered them not a group of outsiders, but rather those of the united people. To him, giving to the poor was just a repayment of God's resources, which were intended for everyone equally. Ambrose authored many of the Church's important writings and hymns.

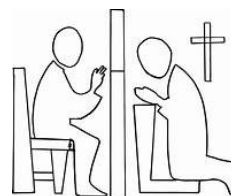
St. Ambrose is the Confessor and Doctor of the Church. He is the patron saint of bee keepers, beggars, learning and Milan.

Chaplaincy News.....



Advent Carols and Readings: For the past few weeks, the Year 7 and 8 choirs have been meeting separately to prepare for our annual Advent Carols and Readings service so it is with great disappointment that we have had to cancel the live event due to restrictions. However, all the students' hard work will not be wasted as we will be recording the service and sending it out via a link and through the website. Further details to follow.

As we prepare for Advent, we are offering students the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in school. Following advice, and to ensure the safety of our students and visiting priests, the sacrament will be offered to a different year group each week. We will be informing students of their allocated week via email and through their tutors.



Don't forget!

We take donations for the Ealing Foodbank all year round.

The collection box is in the RE Office, on the 1st floor of Jerusalem.

All Things for Christ

The WORD Explained

Sunday's Gospel 1st Sunday of Advent

Mark 13:33-37 'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Last Sunday we began the Season of Advent. Advent is more than a time of waiting for Christmas. It is a time for us to long, to yearn and to prepare ourselves for the coming of our God. The Advent readings are filled with hope, anticipation and the promise of Jesus' coming! The temptation for us may be to think we only need to look for the coming of God during the Advent season but we really need to have open eyes and hearts and look for the coming of God each and every day.

It is unlikely that God's coming will be spectacular. God is more likely to come in quiet, unobtrusive and peaceful ways. However, this means we need to consciously look for God each day. We need to be aware of the small things in life. God may be where we least suspect Him, in the smile of a stranger, the words of a friend, the act of a fellow student or colleague. We need to be awake so we will not be "sleeping" when God comes to us.

Today may we open our minds, hearts and eyes and consciously "look" for God. Be awake and alert. And perhaps, be surprised. God will come!

Please follow the link for information from the parish of St John Fisher, Perivale, regarding next year's Confirmation preparation. This is for all students from the parish of St John Fisher who are in Year 8 and above;

[Article for Cardinal Wiseman\[4137\].pdf](#)

Advent Charities

This year, more so than ever, our brothers and sisters here and abroad are needing our help. We have two Advent charities which are being supported by Years 7, 8 and 9. Please look out for an email in the coming days with further details.



Awaken us,
O Lord God,
with your grace for the future.
so that we may serve you
with a clear conscience,
and joyfully receive
our Lord Jesus Christ
when he comes again in glory;
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.



All Things for Christ