

Saint Andrew,

You responded to the call of Jesus to follow him. Pray for us that we may also have the faith to answer his call.

You were not daunted by the size of the crowd, but led to Jesus one boy who generously shared what he had. Pray for us that we may work to bring about a fair and just world through God's grace.

You shared the good news that you had heard. Pray for us that we may also have the confidence to share the message of God's love.

St Andrew, pray for us.

Amen.

A thought to take away

Andrew brought other people to Jesus, and trusted Jesus in order to follow him. His action of bringing a boy with only five loaves and two fish resulted in many people being fed. If we take a small step in faith to try to address issues of hunger, who knows what the result will be?

An action to complete

- Write a message to the Prime Minister on an outline of a fish or loaf, return it to CAFOD, and ask a friend or member of your family to write a message too. Why not make a display of your messages on loaves and fish?

*Saint Andrew
Pray for us*



Feast Day
30 November

Birthplace
Bethsaida, on the Sea of Galilee

Born
Early 1st century

Died
Mid to late 1st century
(crucified in Patras)

Canonised
Apostle – known as a saint in early Church

Patron saint of
Scotland, and many other countries; fishermen, ropemakers and performers



*How beautiful
are the feet of
the messenger
of good news.*

”

The first reading used on the feast of St Andrew is from Romans 10:9-18. Paul referred to the words of the prophet Isaiah when he wrote:

“How beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news.”

In what way can I bring good news to others?

- At home?
- With my friends?
- At school?
- In my community?
- In the wider world?

The life of St Andrew

Andrew was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. In Matthew's Gospel we first meet him when he is fishing with his brother Simon, soon to be known as Peter. Jesus called to them, "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people." In John's Gospel, Andrew is described as being a disciple of John the Baptist, who brings his brother to Jesus.

Andrew was a disciple with faith, who took people to Jesus. John 6:1-13 describes a time when a large crowd of people was following Jesus. Jesus asked Philip, a disciple, where they could buy bread for the people to eat. Philip answered, "It would take six months' wages to buy enough bread for each person to have a bite!" However, Andrew had noticed a boy with a packed lunch.

Andrew spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus accepted the bread and fish, gave thanks, and distributed the food. Everyone had as much as they wanted, and there were twelve baskets of food left over.

Church tradition teaches that St Andrew preached in many places in Eastern Europe, until finally being martyred in Patras, which is now in Greece. Early texts suggest that St Andrew was crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus: but a tradition developed that he was crucified on an X-shaped cross, as he did not believe he should be crucified on the same cross as Jesus. This is why he is often shown with an X-shaped cross, and why the flag of Scotland has that white X on a blue background.

In this Year of Faith, Andrew's example can inspire us.

He was not overwhelmed when he saw the crowd and heard Jesus' request for food. Instead, he did the little he could, giving Jesus the opportunity to share and multiply the loaves and fish. Can I show the same faith in my life?

CAFOD's campaign: Hungry for change

In our world, one person in eight is hungry, but there is enough food for everyone. This year, CAFOD is accepting Andrew's invitation, and is using the story of the loaves and fish to encourage others to get involved in our Hungry for change campaign: Take it, share it, multiply it.



David with his mother, Rose, and his younger sister, Tabita.

David, 12, lives in an area of Kenya that often faces drought. In the past, the family's animals and crops have died. CAFOD's partner, the Diocese of Maralal, has given David's family a dairy goat, which can survive droughts because it will eat things that local goats won't, and doesn't need to be taken to pasture.

"When I'm hungry, it feels like I don't have strength, but I can drink water and feed the goats." David's life is not only improved by being able to drink the goat's milk. His family can sell the excess milk for food, and when the goat has kids, these can be sold at a higher price than local goats.

David says, "My favourite dinner is rice and cakes. A world without any rice and cakes would still be good because of the people in it. A world without food would be bad. People would not be able to work and they would die – they would be hungry. I thank God for giving me the food and ask him to remember those who don't have any." Five loaves and two fish, blessed and broken by Jesus and shared among the people, were multiplied into enough food for five thousand.

**HUNGRY
FOR
CHANGE**

*Working with our neighbours
in the way Jesus showed us,
our hunger for change can
transform our world.*

We believe that governments need to make sure global food companies are open and accountable about how they do business. We are asking the Prime Minister to call for power to be given to small farmers, not global food companies.

» Find out more by visiting cafod.org.uk/secondary and searching for food.