

30/11/67 ^{of} 322

Ps 116 Tape

Ju 1³⁵†

(Prayer for Y. Christ. p 42)

PRAYERS

Listen to some verses of Ps 22 - a Ps surely well-known to St Andrew, who recognised in Christ as his Shepherd & Lord.

Ps 22

November began with the feast of All Saints, followed on the 2nd of the month by the Commemoration of all the faithful who've departed this life. And today, rounding things off, we've the feast of St Andrew, one of the first men to throw in their lot with Christ, one of the Apostles to whom we and all the saints and everyone who's shared Christ's life & love through baptism owe our faith. Andrew, first to be called by Christ to follow Him; with his brother Simon Peter, from being a fisherman made a fisher of men; with John, one of Christ's closest friends. It's fitting that Andrew should come like this, at the end of one cycle of the Church's yearly celebration of the mystery of our redemption and at the beginning of another.

From next Sunday, the 1st of Advent we'll be looking ahead preparing for Christ's coming, to celebrate Christmas and His final coming at the end of the world. In those last weeks ~~of~~ of the Pentecost season our attention has been focused on the Church, on the Kingdom of God and the unity of mankind in Christ, which will have its fullest achievement in heaven.

→ I think St Andrew, apart from the accident of the Church calendar which puts him sometimes in Advent, sometimes before it, is a good link between these two places of the Church year. *When Christ came for him, he left everything to follow Him.*

In the Gospel's he's a bit enigmatic - he's always in the background, giving way to others, but also obviously very close to Christ. It was he who first introduced his more famous brother to Christ - the brother who was to be given such an important role to play in Christ's plan for carrying on ~~the~~ ^{His} work of redemption through His Church. But somehow, on the personal level one can suspect that Andrew, like John, was close to Jesus. He was at hand when Christ multiplied the loaves and fishes - in fact it was Andrew who told Jesus just what the situation was: that there was a boy in the crowd who had 5 loaves & a couple of fish, and it was with those that the miracle was performed. Later, in Jerusalem when

some Greeks were anxious to see Christ and asked Philip to bring them to him. Philip first went to get Andrew & together they went to tell Jesus. Was Andrew then, the kind of person who could most easily talk to and explain things to Christ? There seems no doubt, from these very few comments in the Gospel that Andrew had a personal place of honour among the 12 apostles. Beyond that, he's almost unknown - mentioned regularly among the first 4 in every scriptural list of the apostles, but no more details given.

[In the Liturgy, he appears among the other apostles in the list in the Canon of the Mass - and just once, untypically, where he's bracketed with Peter & Paul in that beautiful prayer which follows the Our Father.]

St Andrew has been regarded as the patron of the Orthodox Church. It seems he spent his missionary life in Asia Minor, where, like his Lord & beloved Master he was eventually crucified. The ^{Patriarchate} of Constantinople has claimed him as its founding Apostle. And of course Scotland too claims him as its patron.

His body is now supposed to lie in Amalfi near Naples. A few years ago St Andrew's Lead, first brought to Rome by Pope Pius 2nd was returned by Pope Paul to the Orthodox

Church in a gesture of goodwill towards our brethren who have had such devotion to him.

Let us pray that this gesture, and our own regard for & devotion to St Andrew may help to reunite all Christians in the friendship of Christ and the brotherly love of Peter & Andrew