

SUNDAY
26th December 2021
**Holy Family &
St Stephen**
Charity Number
SC010781

The Scottish Episcopal Church

St John's, Arpafelie: St Andrew's, Fortrose: St Regulus, Cromarty

The Black Isle Family of Congregations

The Rev'd Canon (Father) Mel Langille
Tha Eaglais Easbuigeach na h-Alba / The Scottish Episcopal Church
1 Dean's Road
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EVERYONE WHO IS BAPTISED is welcome to share with us in Communion this morning. There is no need to be a member of the Episcopal Church. Please feel free to celebrate with us.

If you are not baptised or would prefer, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing (simply come forward with hands together and head bowed as a sign to the priest).



CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00pm 10pm Scottish time is 12 midnight in Bethlehem) "Midnight Mass" in St Andrew's (Fr Mel)

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:45am Eucharist in St Regulus' (Rev Christine)

11:00am Eucharist in St John's (Bp Mark)

11:30am Eucharist in St Andrew's (Fr Arthur & Fr Mel)

26 DECEMBER : HOLY FAMILY

11:30am Eucharist in St Andrew's (Fr Mel)

(This will be the only service on the Black Isle Charge)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect of the Holy Family Father in heaven, creator of all, you ordered the earth to bring forth life, and crowned its goodness by creating the family of mankind. In history's moment when all was ready you sent your Son to dwell in time, obedient to the laws of life in our world. Teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace with all people that we may share in your life forever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect of Saint Stephen Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

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THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD cont.

+ FIRST READING : 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

Hear the word of the Lord.

+ PSALM 148

Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host. **Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. **Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

Let them praise the Name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will; **Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds; **Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; Young men and maidens, old and young together. **Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for his Name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven. **Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.**

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

Praise God, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

+ SECOND READING : Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hear the word of the Lord.

+ THE HOLY GOSPEL : Luke 2:41-52

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke:

Glory to Christ our Saviour!

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Give thanks to the Lord for this his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord!

PRAYER REQUESTS

For grace to live the joy of the Incarnation For grace to be Jesus' hands, feet, voice, eyes & heart in the world...that we all may LIVE and BE the GOOD NEWS.

OUR WORLD

For all affected by Covid 19 and the new variant, Omicron. For all researchers and all working to protect and heal. For healing and peace among all nations. For an end to terrorism and hatred in all its forms. For our fellow Christians and all who are persecuted for their faith.

OUR COMMUNION

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. Pray for our sisters and brothers of the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (Anglican Church of Central America)

OUR DIOCESE

For our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Laura S, Rachael W, Cn Graham T, Cn Ian B, Bp Anne, Rev Dr John MacN S, Niccolò A, their families and all who are studying for Ordination or Readership. For their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop, and for our brothers & sisters of St Trola at the Crask. For our sister Dioceses of Quebec, Canada & Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Ireland.

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS

For families of every shape and size...those joined by blood and those by friendship...as well as that formed by being daughters and sons of the Most High. For a Happy and Holy 12 days of Christmas that fills us with a deeper awareness of God's love for us! For Iain. Pray for our schools and all who study, teach and work within them...especially in the midst of the Covid Pandemic. Pray for those who are infected with Covid 19. For Jeremy. For those working with Samaritans, Mikey's Line & other help groups seeking to be there for those who are struggling. For those joining in worship online. Pray for all undergoing tests, awaiting results and undergoing treatment. For Janet S as she studies for ordination. For those whose relationships / marriages are struggling. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. Pray for our Sunday Club in St Regulus'. For the safe return of our Teens and our Teen Gatherings. For James and his work in Biblical translation in Nigeria. For all we know to be in need of our prayers.

A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK

Spend a moment in silence and call to mind any particular concerns...then pray:

Let us adore the Son of the living God, who became son in a human family.

– Lord Jesus, bless our families.

By your obedience to Mary and Joseph, teach us how to respect proper authority and order.

– Lord Jesus, bless our families.

By the love that filled your home, give our families the grace of loving harmony and peace.

– Lord Jesus, bless our families.

Your first intent was the honour of your Father. May God be the heart of all our family life.

– Lord Jesus, bless our families.

Your parents found you teaching in your Father's house. Help us, like you, to seek first the Father's will.

– Lord Jesus, bless our families.

By your reunion with Mary and Joseph in the joy of heaven, welcome our dead into the family of the saints.

– Lord Jesus, bless our families.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

A CHRISTMAS STORY to MAKE YOU SMILE

About a week before Christmas a family bought a new nativity scene. When they unpacked it they found 2 figures of the Baby Jesus.

"Someone must have packed this wrong," the mother said, counting out the figures. "We have one Joseph, one Mary, three wise men, three shepherds, two lambs, a donkey, a cow, an angel and two babies. Oh, dear! I suppose some set down at the store is missing a Baby Jesus because we have 2." "You two run back down to the store and tell the manager that we have an extra Jesus. Tell him to put a sign on the remaining boxes saying that if a set is missing a Baby Jesus, call 7126. Put on your warm coats, it's freezing cold out there."

The manager of the store copied down mother's message and the next time they were in the store they saw the cardboard sign that read, "If you're missing Baby Jesus, call 7126." All week long they waited for someone to call. Surely, they thought, someone was missing that important figurine. Each time the phone rang mother would say, "I'll bet that's about Jesus," but it never was.

Father tried to explain there are thousands of these scattered over the country and the figurine could be missing from a set in Florida or Texas or California. Those packing mistakes happen all the time. He suggested just put the extra Jesus back in the box and forget about it.

"Put Baby Jesus back in the box! What a terrible thing to do," said the children. "Surely someone will call," mother said. "We'll just keep the two of them together in the manger until someone calls."

When no call had come by 5:00 on Christmas Eve, mother insisted that father "just run down to the store" to see if there were any sets left. "You can see them right through the window, over on the counter," she said. "If they are all gone, I'll know someone is bound to call tonight."

"Run down to the store?" father thundered. "It's 15 below zero out there!"

"Oh, Daddy, we'll go with you," Tommy and Mary began to put on their coats. Father gave a long sigh and headed for the front closet. "I can't believe I'm doing this," he muttered. Tommy and Mary ran ahead as father reluctantly walked out in the cold. Mary got to the store first and pressed her nose up to the store window. "They're all gone, Daddy," she shouted. "Every set must be sold."

"Hooray," Tommy said. "The mystery will now be solved tonight!"

Father heard the news still a half block away and immediately turned on his heel and headed back home. When they got back into the house they noticed that mother was gone and so was the extra Baby Jesus figurine. "Someone must have called and she went out to deliver the figurine," my father reasoned, pulling off his boots. "You kids get ready for bed while I wrap mother's present."

Then the phone rang. Father yelled "answer the phone and tell 'em we found a home for Jesus." But it was mother calling with instructions for us to come to 205 Chestnut Street immediately, and bring three blankets, a box of cookies and some milk. "Now what has she gotten us into?" my father groaned as we bundled up again. "205 Chestnut. Why that's across town. Wrap that milk up good in the blankets or it will turn to ice before we get there. Why can't we all just get on with Christmas? It's probably 20 below out there now. And the wind is picking up. Of all the crazy things to do on a night like this."

When they got to /

When they got to the house at 205 Chestnut Street it was the darkest one on the block. Only one tiny light burned in the living room and, the moment we set foot on the porch steps, my mother opened the door and shouted, "They're here, Oh thank God you got here, Ray! You kids take those blankets into the living room and wrap up the little ones on the couch. I'll take the milk and cookies."

"Would you mind telling me what is going on, Ethel?" my father asked. "We have just walked through below zero weather with the wind in our faces all the way." "Never mind all that now," my mother interrupted. "There isn't any heat in this house and this young mother is so upset she doesn't know what to do. Her husband walked out on her and those poor little children will have a very bleak Christmas, so don't you complain. I told her you could fix that oil furnace in a jiffy."

My mother strode off to the kitchen to warm the milk while my brother and I wrapped up the five little children who were huddled together on the couch. The children's mother explained to my father that her husband had run off, taking bedding, clothing, and almost every piece of furniture, but she had been doing all right until the furnace broke down.

"I been doin' washin' and ironin' for people and cleanin' the five and dime," she said. "I saw your number every day there, on those boxes on the counter. When the furnace went out, that number kept going' through my mind. 7162 7162. Said on the box that if a person was missin' Jesus, they should call you. That's how I knew you were good Christian people, willin' to help folks. I figured that maybe you would help me, too. So I stopped at the grocery store tonight and I called your misses. I'm not missin' Jesus, mister, because I sure love the Lord. But I am missin' heat. I have no money to fix that furnace."

"Okay, Okay," said father. "You've come to the right place. Now let's see. You've got a little oil burner over there in the dining room. Shouldn't be too hard to fix. Probably just a clogged flue. I'll look it over, see what it needs."

Mother came into the living room carrying a plate of cookies and warm milk. As she set the cups down on the coffee table, I noticed the figure of Baby Jesus lying in the center of the table. It was the only sign of Christmas in the house. The children stared wide-eyed with wonder at the plate of cookies my mother set before them.

Father finally got the oil burner working but said, "You need more oil. I'll make a few calls tonight and get some oil. Yes sir, you came to the right place", father grinned.

On the way home father did not complain about the cold weather and had barely set foot inside the door when he was on the phone. "Ed, hey, how are ya, Ed?"

"Yes, Merry Christmas to you, too. Say Ed, we have kind of an unusual situation here. I know you've got that pick-up truck. Do you still have some oil in that barrel on your truck? You do?"

By this time the rest of the family were pulling clothes out of their closets and toys off of their shelves. It was long after their bedtime when they were wrapping gifts. The pickup came. On it were chairs, three lamps, blankets and gifts. Even though it was 30 below, father let them ride along in the back of the truck. No one ever did call about the missing figure in the nativity set, but as I grow older I realize that it wasn't a packing mistake at all.

Jesus saves, that's what He does.

Author unknown



NOTE FROM THE RECTOR



Dear All,

I write on Tuesday afternoon looking forward to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I do so love Advent and the crowning glory that is Christmas and celebrating the Nativity of our dear Lord. It always becomes so real at the Altar and in the celebration of the Eucharist.

I stumbled upon this amazing quotation from the great C S Lewis:

“I once talked to a continental pastor who has seen Hitler, and had, by all human standards, good cause to hate him. ‘What did he look like?’ I asked. ‘Like all men,’ he replied. ‘That is, like Christ.’”

The quote quite startled me, but then I realised the good pastor was a man who truly understood Christmas and the Mystery of the Incarnation.

Something to ponder?

As our Christmas services are fast approaching, I would encourage one and all to consider taking a Lateral Flow Test before coming to any of the services and encourage others to do the same. Let people know when the services are and assure them precautions are being taken...masks worn, sanitizers, etc. We do believe we owe a duty of care toward one another...

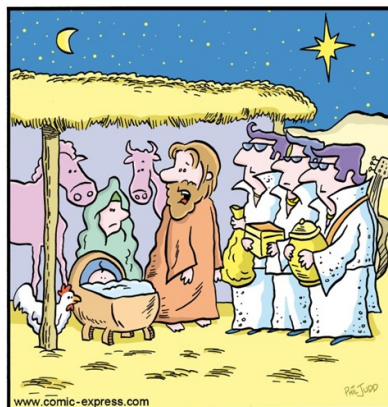
that “Love your neighbour...” stuff Jesus spoke of!!! HOPE TO SEE YOU OUT on the Eve and/or the Day and on the Sunday of the Holy Family.

From my heart to yours, I wish you a truly Blessed and Holy celebration of our Lord’s Birth!

Merry Christmas! Nollaig Chridheil!

Have a wonderful week. Blessings to one and all and much love too!

Mel +



"They say they are three kings."

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Daily Morning Prayer (8:30am – 8am on Sundays)

Daily Evening Prayer (6:00pm)

Mon: Rector's Day Off #1

Wed: Prep for Sunday

Thu: 10am Eucharist in St Andrew's

Fri: Rector's Day off #2

9:00am Celtic Morning Prayer via Zoom

Contact Gillian for details (AnneGillianNewman@gmail.com)

Sat: Prepping for Sunday & Catching up

SUNDAY 2 JANUARY 2022

Second Sunday after Christmas

EUCCHARIST

9.45am in St John's with Fr Mel

11.45am in St Andrew's with Fr Mel

FAMILY CELEBRATION

9.45am in St Regulus' with Lay Reader Patsy & Co

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

“PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE”

I am delighted to let you know that the application made by Diana Hamilton-Jones and me to the Woodland Trust has been successful and we are to receive, in March, 30 trees - 10 Silver Birch, 10 Rowan and 10 Wild Cherry all of which will be planted around the grounds of the Church to replace the diseased trees that were taken down and in so doing to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 - Ramsay



DAILY PRAYER - An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe you are truly present
in this Most Holy Sacrament
of your Body and Blood,
and since I cannot, at this time, receive you in
Holy Communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you
with all my heart, my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you.
In whose Name I pray.
Amen.

OR

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, cleanse me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy wounds hide me.
Never let me be separated from Thee.
From the malicious enemy, defend me.
At the hour of death, call me.
And bid me come to Thee.
That with Thy saints I may praise Thee,
forever and ever. Amen.

DAILY PRAYER - I will be offering these prayers at:

7 am : Invitatory & Office of Readings

8:30am : Morning Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

6 pm : Evening Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

10 pm : Night Prayer aka Compline

9:00am Fridays : Celtic Morning Prayer (Via Zoom: Contact Gillian for info: annegillianne-man@gmail.com)

St John's Arpafeelie

Sunday 26th December 2021



CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00pm 10pm Scottish time is 12 midnight in Bethlehem)
"Midnight Mass" in St Andrew's (Fr Mel)

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:45am Eucharist in St Regulus' (Rev Christine)

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FAMILY CELEBRATION

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OUR CHARITY SHOP
in Saint Andrew's Hall :
Wednesdays & Saturdays,
10am -1pm.



**THE CHARITY SHOP IS NOW
OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY
AND SATURDAY
10.00 am—1.00 pm**

The Books and cards normally on sale at the back of St Andrew's are not available during the present restrictions.



Please help local people in Crisis

Tins of ham

Tins of corned beef

Tins of mince/stew

Tins of Potato

Tins of custard

Soap powder (small)

Washing up liquid (small)

Shaving foam/razors

TINNED VEGETABLES

The food bank team are always very another you will find more of these at present.

The items on our list are still things that they need more of, also individually wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, sugar and toilet roll.

Thanks for all your ongoing generosity.

Thought for today

*We never reach horizons for they fade into the blue.
They recede as we advance towards the distant view.
That's the way it is in Life. There's always something more.
Some new dream to spur us on and fresh fields to explore.*



Church Rotas

St Andrew's

Readers & Intercessors

S A Jackson / J MacLennan / R McGhee / H Ireland

Sides-men

Ann McGhee and Bill Fraser

Servers

Sacristan

Flowers

Teas

Cleaning

St John's