

Advent Traditions: Advent Prose

The Advent Prose is sometimes known by the Latin name *Rorate Caeli* taken from the Prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 45.8) and when sung in English, translated as 'Drop down ye heavens from above.' This phrase is often sung as a refrain to the Prose which can be used at Mass or during Morning and Evening Prayer. At Mass it might be used as part of a procession or more properly between the second reading and the Gospel. The Advent Prose speaks of the longing of the Prophets and Patriarchs for the coming of the Messiah. Their hope and longing is the same as the Church's as we pray for the coming of Christ. The Advent Prose makes a good text to reflect upon during Advent as it speaks profoundly of the human longing for God. Listen to the words as they are sung and see what God is saying to you through them.

Saints & Heroes: 30th November St Andrew the Apostle

St. Andrew was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, and worked as a fisherman. He may have been a disciple of St John the Baptist, and he became 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 Andrew's now stands.

Prayers to Remember

Collect for St Andrew

Almighty God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him without delay: grant unto us all; that we, being called by thy holy Word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

28th November 2021
First Sunday of Advent

Eternal Words



The natural world, the political orders of communities, are subject to change and chance. Nothing remains the same, nothing is certain or guaranteed. Every generation witnesses global and calamitous change, the world is a churning confusion in which there is little stability. These are the facts of life. In Advent we face the fact of Eternal Life and the purposes of God. We anticipate a time when all this turbulence will cease and the eternal purpose of God, the End and Beginning of all, will break up and break through everything as we know and experience it. It will all pass away. Advent reminds us we are called to live expectantly, trusting in those truths and realities that last forever. Take careful note of the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: 'heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.' Keep the Word of God in your heart and you will not be afraid.

Today's Gospel: St. Luke 21: 25-36