

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 30th November)

30th November



Saint Andrew - *Apostle, martyr*

It seems that Saint Andrew may have been born from AD5 - 10 in Bethsaida in Galilee. He was the brother of Saint Peter and the both of them were fishermen. Saints Matthew (4: 18 - 22) and Mark (1: 16 - 20) record the brothers being called by Jesus at the same time: though Saint John (1: 35 - 42) says that he was initially a follower of Saint John the Baptist. Various episodes in the Gospels record him being present at important moments, (which is not the case for all the Apostles). He was martyred by crucifixion in Achaia. The tradition developed that his was an X-shaped cross - or "Saltire" - as is used on the Scottish flag.

6th December

Saint Nicholas of Myra - *bishop*

Nicholas is said to have been born in AD270. Very little is known for sure about his life. He became Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (Turkey today). Accounts suggest that he might have attended the Council of Nicaea (AD325), but there is no corroborative evidence from those whom we know to have been there. He may also have been imprisoned during the persecution of Diocletian, being released when Constantine came to power. Many legends were built on his noted generosity and kindness - he is the person on whom Father Christmas (Santa Claus) is based. He is said to have died in AD343. Newcastle Cathedral is dedicated to his patronage.

