

Saints of the Month

A selection of lives of the saints for November



THE CHURCH UNION



The Society
under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda

1st November – All Saints

Today is the day when we celebrate our Christian family. The saints are our brothers and sisters in Christ and we are called to grow to be like them, to follow their example and to grow in holiness. In the New Testament the saints, the holy ones of God, are simply all those who believe in and follow Christ. As the Church progressed, we find a different sense of the word 'saint' evolving and it is perhaps this sense which we are more familiar with today. The saints are those whose Christlikeness and holiness has been so visible that the Church is able to declare with confidence that, having passed through this life, they are fully alive in Christ and present to God in the joy of heaven.

Our Church year is scattered with the feast days of different saints, but we only scratch the surface of those who have been officially canonised by the Church, and then there are countless more men and women who rejoice in the life of heaven and are fully alive in the Resurrection life. That is where today's feast comes in as we remember the whole company of heaven.

The saints were not perfect during their lives here on earth. They are real people and they display many of the less impressive human characteristics, but they sought God in their lives and strived to be holy. They are our example, they are companions on our journey and they are also our friends and just as we might ask our friends in this world to pray for us, we can ask the saints to pray for us too.

At times we might feel lonely or isolated on our Christian journey but, in Christ, we are never alone because the saints are with us. In St Paul's image they are the great cloud of witnesses cheering us on our way.

O almighty God,
who hast knit together thine elect
in one communion and fellowship,
in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord:
Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints
in all virtuous and godly living,
that we may come to those unspeakable joys,
which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

2nd November – All Souls Day

Today is a day of prayer for the faithful departed. It is natural for Christians to pray for one another, it is an important part of our faith. We believe that for those who have died, life is changed not ended and so it is natural that we should pray for our departed loved ones as much as we pray for the living, and praying for the departed is an ancient practice of the Church.

When we pray for the departed, we are expressing our belief that we are all one family in Christ, living and departed, and our belief in the resurrection and that we are all alive in Christ.

After our death we believe that there is a time of further journeying and preparation before we can enjoy the fullness of our life in heaven and the resurrection life. In praying for the dead we are seeking to support our brothers and sisters on that journey by commending them to God, in this we are not trying to bribe God but assist our loved ones with our prayers.

C.S. Lewis wrote beautifully about his practice of praying for the departed: *“Of course I pray for the dead. The action is so spontaneous, so all but inevitable, that only the most compulsive theological case against it would deter me. And I hardly know how the rest of my prayers would survive if those for the dead were forbidden. At our age the majority of those we love best are dead. What sort of intercourse with God could I have if what I love best were unmentionable to Him?”*

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,
grant us, with all the faithful departed,
the sure benefits of your Son’s saving passion
and glorious resurrection
that, in the last day,
when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

3rd November – St Martin de Porres

Martin was born in Lima in Peru in 1579. He was the son of a Spanish nobleman and his mother was probably of African descent who had been a slave and had been freed. As someone of mixed-race, Martin faced racism and prejudice throughout his life

He grew up in poverty and was placed in an apprenticeship with a barber-surgeon. In those days barber–surgeons not only cut hair and did shaves but undertook medical and surgical procedures and Martin would have learnt these medical skills which would become a feature of his life. Martin was very devout and would spend hours of the night in prayer.

He wanted to enter the religious life but, under Peruvian law, descendants of Africans were prevented from becoming full members of religious orders. So, the only route for Martin was to become a volunteer in the Dominican order. In this role he undertook the most menial tasks of the monastery such as kitchen work, cleaning and laundry, but he was also allowed to continue the skills he had learnt of barbering and healing. After eight years the Prior decided to turn a blind eye to the law and allowed him to prepare to take vows as a lay brother, but sadly Martin suffered racist abuse from some of the brothers.

In time Martin was placed in charge of the Infirmary and was very skilled and diligent in his care for the sick, both those inside the monastery and those in the local community. He was also in charge of the alms that the monastery distributed and encouraged the rich to provide alms, clothing, food and bedding for the poor. He cared for all people, regardless of race or wealth and his life reflected his love for God.

O God, who led Saint Martin de Porres
by the path of humility to heavenly glory,
grant that we may so follow his radiant example in this life
as to merit to be exalted with him in heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Also 3rd November - St Winifred

St Winifred lived in the 7th century, but the earliest accounts of her life date from the 12th century.

According to legend, Winifred's father was a Welsh nobleman and her mother was a sister of St Beuno, another Welsh saint. Her family had connections to the kings of South Wales.

Her suitor, Caradog, became enraged when Winifred decided to become a nun and in his anger he beheaded her. It is said that her head was rejoined to her body due to the effort of her uncle St Beuno and she was restored to life. A healing spring appeared where her head had fallen and holy springs and wells became a feature of devotion to Winifred, with several appearing in places where she lived or travelled.

Winifred did indeed become a nun and spent eight years at Holywell before becoming Abbess at Gwtherin.

After her death, her shrine and well at Shrewsbury became a place of pilgrimage until it was destroyed during the Reformation. However, one of the wells associated with St Winifred survived and you can still visit St Winifred's Well in Holywell in North Wales.

God of steadfast love,
who graciously revealed the beauty of virginity
when you willed that your Son should be born of the blessed Virgin Mary,
grant, we pray,
that as we honour the memory of your holy virgin Winifred,
we may, at her intercession,
enjoy your gifts of healing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

7th November – St Willibrord

Born in Yorkshire around the year 658, Willibrord was a student of St Wilfrid at Ripon monastery and Wilfrid was a great influence on his life. In his 20's he moved to Ireland where he studied for 12 years, and was ordained a priest.

He returned to England but in 690 he set out on a mission to Frisia, which now includes parts of the Netherlands and northern Germany.

In 695 he was consecrated as a Bishop and he built a monastery at Utrecht in the Netherlands, which would become his cathedral. He preached the Gospel in Denmark and North Germany and founded several dioceses and monasteries in the Netherlands and Luxembourg. He died in Luxembourg in 739.

He was the first of the great Anglo-Saxon missionaries to Europe and is remembered not just for his devotion in preaching the Gospel but also for his joyfulness of character and his holiness of life.

God, the Saviour of all,
you sent your bishop Willibrord from this land
to proclaim the good news to many peoples
and confirm them in their faith:
help us also to witness to your steadfast love
by word and deed
so that your Church may increase
and grow strong in holiness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

8th November – The Saints and Martyrs of England

You may be surprised to know that there are a great number of those from England whom the Church has declared to be a saint. This country has sometimes been referred to as the ‘island of saints and martyrs’, which is testament to the importance of the Christian faith in this country. England is blessed with thousands of canonised and beatified saints and martyrs – both those whose names are famous and those whose names have been forgotten by us but not by God.

St Arsenios of Paros, who lived in the 19th century, had this to say: “the Church in the British Isles will only begin to grow when she begins again to venerate her own saints.” Wise words for us to heed today.

O blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother,
look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry
and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.
By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world;
and He has given thee unto us that we might hope still more.
Plead for us thy children,
whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother.
Pray for us all, dear Mother,
that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God,
together with thee, in our heavenly home.
Amen.

God, whom the glorious company of the redeemed adore,
assembled from all times and places of your dominion:
we praise you for the saints of our own land
and for the many lamps their holiness has lit;
and we pray that we also may be numbered at last
with those who have done your will
and declared your righteousness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

10th November – St Leo the Great

Born about the year 400, Leo was a Roman aristocrat.

He became Pope in 440 and served for 21 years until his death. He was the first Pope to be given the title 'the Great'. He was a true shepherd and father of souls. Leo was known for his love of God, his intelligence and his persuasive nature. He was gifted in bringing about reconciliation and settled many disputes, and worked hard to defend the unity of the Church.

He led Rome's defense against the invasions of the barbarians, famously persuading Attila the Hun not to march on Rome in 452 and preventing the invading Vandals from massacring the population in 455.

He was devoted to the pastoral care of his people, and undertook much charitable work to help Rome's citizens in times of famine and poverty as well as helping refugees. To him, being a Christian was not only about embracing the fullness of the Gospel theologically, but living it out in a world filled with hurt, suffering and need.

We still have over 100 of his sermons and 150 of his letters preserved, which are a treasure of the Church's teaching.

God our Father,
who made your servant Leo strong in the defence of the faith:
fill your Church with the spirit of truth
that, guided by humility and governed by love,
she may prevail against the powers of evil;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

11th November – St Martin of Tours

Born in Hungary in the 4th century, Martin's father was a senior officer in the Roman army. As was the custom, on his retirement from the army he was given some land and the family moved to northern Italy.

Martin started attending church when he was 10, although this was against the wishes of his parents. Although he was a 'catechumen' that is, one who was receiving instruction in the Christian faith, he did not get baptised until later in life. Aged 15, he joined the army as this was his obligation as the son of an officer.

Once, when serving as a soldier he encountered a naked beggar. He cut his cloak in half and gave it to the beggar. That night he had a vision of Jesus who said, 'Martin, a mere catechumen, has clothed me.'

Martin left the army, got baptised and spent some time as a hermit before moving to a monastery in western France where he was guided by St Hilary and was ordained a priest. He became Bishop of Tours in 371, although this was against his wishes, the will of the people prevailed. He was a good shepherd of his people and preached the Gospel to the poor. He set up a system of parishes in his diocese and made a point to visit each parish in his care at least once a year. Martin also placed an emphasis on the education of the clergy, the care of the poor and he founded several monasteries.

He died in the year 397.

God all powerful,
who called Martin from the armies of this world
to be a faithful soldier of Christ:
give us grace to follow him
in his love and compassion for the needy,
and enable your Church to claim for all people
their inheritance as children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

16th November – St Margaret of Scotland

Margaret of Scotland is sometimes also known as Margaret of Wessex. Her father was an English prince, but she was born in exile in Hungary, the country of her mother's birth in 1045, and she grew up in the Hungarian court.

The family returned from exile to England, but faced further persecution after William of Normandy conquered England after the battle of Hastings in 1066. The family fled north to Northumbria and Margaret found refuge with King Malcolm III, who she married and together they had eight children.

Margaret was regarded as a strong and pious woman who spent much time in prayer, and she had a great deal of influence over her husband. She reformed the royal court, founded monasteries and supported major reforms of Church life as well as considerable works of charity.

She died in Edinburgh on 16 November 1093. She is remembered for the happiness of her marriage, for her devotion to prayer and learning, and especially for her generosity to the poor.

God, the ruler of all,
who called your servant Margaret to an earthly throne
and gave her zeal for your Church and love for your people
that she might advance your heavenly kingdom:
mercifully grant that we who commemorate her example
may be fruitful in good works
and attain to the glorious crown of your saints;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Also 16th November – St Edmund of Abingdon

Sometimes also known as St Edmund Rich, he was born in Abingdon, Oxfordshire around the year 1175. His father was a rich merchant, hence the surname (which he never in fact used himself).

From an early age he led an ascetic life, and took a vow of chastity aged 12. He studied at Oxford and Paris, and became a teacher in about 1200 or a little earlier. For six years he lectured on mathematics and dialectics, apparently dividing his time between Oxford and Paris, and winning distinction for his part in introducing the study of Aristotle. He is the first known Oxford Master of Arts, and the place where he taught was eventually renamed St Edmund Hall.

Between 1205 and 1210 he changed direction, studying theology and being ordained a priest. He took a doctorate in divinity, and soon won fame as a lecturer on theology and as a preacher. Some time between 1219 and 1222 he was appointed vicar of the parish of Calne in Wiltshire and Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral, and finally became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1233. He was a notable and effective reforming Bishop.

He held uncompromising views on discipline and this brought him into conflict with the King as well as others in the Church, including the authorities in Rome.

He resigned as Archbishop in 1240 and he retired to a Cistercian monastery in France where he died on 16 November that year.

God, by whose grace the Bishop Saint Edmund of Abingdon
was vigilant over integrity in public office
and discipline in religious life,
grant, we pray, through his intercession,
that same spirit of constancy to your Church,
that she may be fearless in promoting justice.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

17th November – St Hilda of Whitby

(in some calendars, St Hilda is celebrated on 19th November)

St Hilda is a significant figure in English Christianity.

Born in the year 614, she was a member of the Northumbrian royal family and details about her life are recorded by Bede. She converted to Christianity as a time of political and religious change following the collapse of Roman rule in Britain. She was baptized in 627, with King Edwin and the whole Northumbrian court, by Saint Paulinus, the first Bishop of York. Following Edwin's death in 633 she fled Northumbria with Queen Ethelburga. Eventually, having decided to become a nun (perhaps having been widowed) aged 33, she was persuaded by Saint Aidan, the Bishop and Abbot of Lindisfarne, to return to Northumbria and enter the first royal monastery there. In 657 she founded the Abbey of Whitby as its first Abbess. Whitby was a 'double monastery', in which women and men lived separately, under the authority of Hilda as Abbess, but worshipped together. It had a monastic school, five of whose pupils became bishops. It was at Hilda's abbey that the Synod of Whitby was held in 664.

Saint Hilda died on 17 November 680. The *Oxford Dictionary of Saints* comments: "Hilda enjoyed great personal prestige; not only did religious and learned men value her wisdom, but kings, rulers, and common people would ask her advice. She was an excellent example of how in the Anglo-Saxon church an able woman could attain to great influence and authority without, however, there ever being question of her being ordained."

With St Wilfrid, she is co-patron of The Society.

Eternal God,
who made the abbess Hilda to shine like a jewel in our land
and through her holiness and leadership
blessed your Church with new life and unity:
help us, like her, to yearn for the gospel of Christ
and to reconcile those who are divided;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Also 17th November – St Hugh of Lincoln

Born around 1135 in Avignon into French nobility, Hugh entered the monastery aged 15, and nine years later he was sent to become Prior of a nearby monastery.

He left the Benedictine order to become a Carthusian and entered the Grand Chartreuse. He was sent to England to become the Prior of the first Carthusian house in England, which had been built in Somerset. This Carthusian house had been endowed by King Henry II in penance for the murder of Thomas Beckett.

In 1186, Hugh was elected as Bishop of Lincoln. The previous year, the cathedral in Lincoln has been damaged by an earthquake and Hugh set about rebuilding it. He was responsible for lots of church building around the country. In 1194 he expanded St Mary Magdalene's church in Oxford, and Hugh's work still survives in the east wall of the chancel, the south aisle and the altar dedicated to St Thomas Beckett.

St Hugh was noted for his boundless charity, energy and sense of humour. He was a favourite saint of Fr Alfred Hope Patten, the restorer of the Shrine at Walsingham.

St Hugh is often depicted in statues and art with a white swan. A swan was said to follow Hugh about and was a constant companion during Hugh's time in Lincoln.

O God,
who endowed your servant Hugh with a wise and cheerful boldness
and taught him to commend to earthly rulers the discipline of a holy life:
give us grace like him to be bold in the service of the gospel,
putting our confidence in Christ alone,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

20th November – St Edmund

Born in the year 841, Edmund became king of East Anglia in 856.

He was brought up as a Christian.

Edmund fought alongside King Alfred of Wessex against pagan Viking and Norse invaders. However, in 869 his forces were defeated and Edmund was captured. The Vikings offered him a power share with them, on condition that he renounced his Christian faith. Edmund refused.

He was bound to a tree, shot with arrows and then beheaded. The site of his martyrdom is thought to have been close to the town now known as Bury St Edmunds.

His shrine soon became a place of great pilgrimage and he was the original patron saint of England, until he was replaced by St George at a later date.

Eternal God,
whose servant Edmund kept faith to the end,
both with you and with his people,
and glorified you by his death:
grant us such steadfastness of faith
that, with the noble army of martyrs,
we may come to enjoy the fullness of the resurrection life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

21st November – Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple

The account of Our Lady being presented in the Temple is not found in the Bible, but in another ancient writing of the Church, the Protoevangelium of James.

This apocryphal work details how Mary's parents consecrate Mary to God aged 3 in the Temple in Jerusalem, the account says that she stays there until she was 12 and was betrothed to Joseph.

What today's feast celebrates is Our Lady's dedication to God, and her entering into the service of God.

In giving birth to Jesus, she became a greater temple than any temple made by human hands. Mary was the first tabernacle and, having been chosen by God to carry his Son, she had to be first formed and prepared for this vocation.

Today we pray that we should be better prepared to serve God as Our Lady did and to dedicate ourselves to God afresh.

As we venerate the glorious memory
of the most holy Virgin Mary,
grant, we pray, O Lord, through her intercession,
that we, too, may merit to receive
from the fullness of your grace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

22nd November – St Cecilia

Cecilia was born to a wealthy family in Rome she was given in marriage to a youth named Valerian. She wore sackcloth next to her skin, and fasted, and invoked the saints and angels, beseeching them to guard her virginity. And she said to her husband, "I will tell you a secret if you will swear not to reveal it to anyone." And when he swore, she added, "There is an angel who watches me, and wards off from me any who would touch me." He said, "Dearest, if this be true, show me the angel." "That can only be if you will believe in one God, and be baptised."

She sent him to Pope Urban, who baptised him; and when he returned, he saw Cecilia praying in her chamber, and an angel by her with flaming wings, holding two crowns of roses and lilies, which he placed on their heads, and then vanished. Shortly after, Tibertius, the brother of Valerian, entered, and wondered at the fragrance and beauty of the flowers at that season of the year. When he heard the story of how they had obtained these crowns, he also consented to be baptised. After their baptism the two brothers devoted themselves to burying the martyrs slain daily by the prefect of the city, Turcius Almachius. They were arrested and brought before the prefect, and when they refused to sacrifice to the gods were executed with the sword.

In the meantime, St. Cecilia, by preaching had converted four hundred persons, whom Pope Urban baptised. Then Cecilia was arrested, and condemned to be suffocated in the baths. She was shut in for a night and a day, and the fires were heaped up, and made to glow and roar their utmost, but Cecilia did not even break out into perspiration through the heat. When Almachius heard this he sent an executioner to cut off her head in the bath. The man struck thrice without being able to sever the head from the trunk. He left her bleeding, and she lived three days. Crowds came to her and she preached to them or prayed. At the end of that period she died, and was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons.

O God,
who gladden us each year with the feast of your handmaid Saint Cecilia,
grant, we pray, that what has been devoutly handed down concerning her
may offer us examples to imitate and proclaim the wonders
worked in his servants by Christ your Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

23rd November – St Clement I

There is little known about this saint who dates from the very early days of Christianity.

We do know that he was a disciple of St Peter and possibly also of St Paul.

It is possible this Clement that Paul praises as a ‘faithful fellow worker’ in Philippians 4:3.

According to Tertullian, Clement succeeded St Peter as Bishop of Rome. But other sources say that he is 3rd in line after Linus and Cletus.

Clement’s letter to the Corinthian church has survived and is the earliest Christian writing outside of the New Testament. In this letter he exhorts the church to live in peace and harmony

Creator and Father of eternity,
whose martyr Clement bore witness with his blood
to the love he proclaimed and the gospel that he preached:
give us thankful hearts as we celebrate your faithfulness,
revealed to us in the lives of your saints,
and strengthen us in our pilgrimage as we follow your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

24th November – St Andrew Dung Lac and his companions

Christianity came to Vietnam through Portuguese missionaries. The Jesuit order opened the first permanent mission in 1615 and ministered to Japanese Christians who had been driven from Japan.

Christians in Vietnam faced horrific persecution and in a series of persecutions between 1625 and 1886, 130,000 Christians were killed.

Today we remember the martyrdom of Andrew Dung Lac who was a priest and another 116 Christians who were martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. These are remembered in particular because their sufferings were the cruellest and best documented.

Of this company of 117 saints:

8 were bishops

50 were priests

59 were lay men or women

It is recorded that they died by the following means:

75 were beheaded

22 were strangled

6 were burned alive

5 were torn to pieces whilst still alive

9 died of torture in prison

There are now 6 million Christians in Vietnam – 10% of the population.

O God, source and origin of all fatherhood,
who kept the Martyrs Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc and his companions
faithful to the Cross of your Son,
even to the shedding of their blood,
grant, through their intercession,
that, spreading your love among our brothers and sisters,
we may be your children both in name and in truth.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

25th November – St Catherine of Alexandria

Born in the 4th century, Catherine was the daughter of the Governor of Alexandria.

She devoted herself to study and after a vision of the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus, she became a Christian.

She rebuked the Emperor for his cruelty towards Christians. He reacted badly to this and summoned 50 of the best pagan philosophers to debate with her over Christianity – Catherine won the debate.

She was then scourged and imprisoned. She was brutally treated and held without food so that she would starve to death. During her imprisonment over 200 people visited her, all of whom converted to Christianity as a result of speaking with her and were subsequently martyred. The Emperor had failed to make Catherine yield by way of torture, so he tried to win her over by proposing marriage. Catherine refused, stating that Jesus was her spouse.

The furious Emperor demanded that she be put to death on a large, spiked wheel that was often used in execution of people by dropping it on their limbs or being harnessed to it. But at Catherine's touch, the wheel shattered. He then ordered her to be beheaded, and Catherine herself ordered the execution to commence. A milk-like substance rather than blood was seen to have come from her neck.

Almighty ever-living God,
who gave Saint Catherine of Alexandria to your people
as a Virgin and an invincible Martyr,
grant that through her intercession
we may be strengthened in faith and constancy
and spend ourselves without reserve
for the unity of the Church.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

30th November – St Andrew

The Gospels recall that Andrew, brother of Simon Peter, was from the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee.

He was a fisherman by trade and Jesus called him to be a ‘fisher of men’.

Early church writings suggest that he travelled around the Byzantine world as far as Kiev, preaching the Gospel.

He was said to have been martyred by crucifixion in Achaea in western Greece on an X-shaped cross or saltaire. This was supposedly at his own request, as he felt he was not worth to be crucified on the same shaped cross that Jesus had been.

Legend says that his relics were brought from Constantinople to Scotland, where the town of St Andrews stands today. His intercession was invoked in battle and he became Scotland’s patron saint.

Almighty God,
who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew
that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with
him:
call us by your holy word,
and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your
kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

