



Painting by Artus Wolffort

Today we celebrate the feast day of St. Andrew.

He was one of Jesus' first disciples. Jesus called out to two brothers fishing, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4:18-20) These two brothers were Andrew and Simon. Simon was renamed "Peter" by Jesus. Andrew and Peter left their jobs nets, their livelihoods as fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, like James and John, to follow Jesus. Andrew was an apostle, a missionary, a brother, a martyr, a disciple of Jesus and a disciple of John the Baptist.

"Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, 'we have found the Messiah.' Then he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:40-42) "He was one of the two initial disciples of John the Baptist who encountered Jesus at the beginning of John's Gospel. Because he followed Jesus before St. Peter and the others, he is called the *Protoklete* or 'First Called' apostle." ([National Catholic Register](#)) Andrew is well-known because he told Jesus about the boy with the five loaves and two fish during the Feeding of the Multitudes.

Pope Benedict XVI noted, “The first striking characteristic of Andrew is his name: It is not Hebrew, as might have been expected, but Greek, indicative of a certain cultural openness in his family that cannot be ignored. We are in Galilee, where the Greek language and culture are quite present.” ([General Audience](#)) This fact reflects the mixed Jewish-Gentile environment of Galilee. This connection to both the Jewish and the Gentiles is evident in John’s Gospel where Andrew is believed to serve as the bridge between the Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus.

He – like many missionaries – spread the Good News after Jesus’ Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. Andrew ventured to modern-day Greece, Turkey and Russia in the first century. He was crucified by the Romans in Greece on an X-shaped cross. This is now his distinctive symbol as well as the symbol of Scotland, of which he is the patron.

St. Andrew, pray for us.