

Every year on 30 November Scots all over the world celebrate Saint Andrew's Day but who was Saint Andrew and why does he have a special day?

Andrew was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. After the death of Jesus, Andrew travelled to many countries in order to preach Christianity. Like many Christians at that time Andrew was crucified but he chose a different shape of cross on which to die. The shape of his cross was like an 'x' and can be seen on the national flag of Scotland. After his death Andrew was declared a saint and he later became the patron saint of several different countries. These include Greece, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Romania, Cyprus, Barbados and of course – Scotland! These were places Saint Andrew either travelled to or where his relics were taken by his followers.

St Andrews is a seaside town on the east coast of Scotland, in the region of Fife, north of Edinburgh. The legend goes that relics of Saint Andrew were taken there in the eighth century and that's how the town got its name. These days St Andrews is more famous for golf and the university which is one of the oldest in the world.

This year, unlike last year, people in Scotland will be able to meet up and celebrate St Andrews Day together. Many events have been planned, and people all over Scotland are marking the day with concerts and story telling events. There's even going to be a torchlight parade in Glasgow. If you're going, wear warm clothes as it's going to be very cold!

Vocabulary

What do the following words/phrases from the text mean?

disciple preach declare(d) patron relic(s) marking the day

If you're a **disciple** of someone or something, it means you're a follower or a pupil of that person or organisation or belief. It originally comes from the Latin 'to learn' and was specifically related to religious teaching and even more specifically a follower of Jesus Christ.

To **preach** means to talk in a particular way, again originally related to religious teaching. The idea is to deliver a message or a belief that you passionately care about – in order to convince other people to believe the same way. A – non-religious – example could be: 'He's always preaching at me to stop smoking' (you can preach at or to). A well-known saying is 'Practise what you preach!' meaning 'take your own advice!'

'Anything to **declare**?' is a question you might get asked at an airport meaning 'please show / reveal / tell me about' items you might have which you pay duty on. Duty is like a tax and people also declare their income when they complete a tax return. In a similar way declare means to say – or to tell people – something (usually an important thing) in a way that is quite dramatic. In the above context – 'Andrew was declared a saint'. This means that someone (probably an important person) said – or told people – 'Andrew is now a saint'. You could also say he was made (passive voice way of saying 'he became') a saint.

If you're **patron** of something like a shop or hotel or restaurant it simply means you're a regular customer. You can also be a patron of a charity or a similar organisation – it means you support them. In both examples there is the idea of supporting or helping someone or something – sometimes with money. With a 'patron saint' it's like the saint is supporting or helping a particular group of people who need his/her help. Of course this all depends on whether you believe in saints!

A **relic** is a very, very, very old (ancient) object that people think is interesting or important because

it's related to history. Originally – and in the above context – a relic is a piece of a saint's body (usually a bone or part of a skeleton). Relics are very important in the Catholic religion (which is part of Christianity) and are sometimes displayed in churches and cathedrals. It is thought* that St Andrew's shoulder blade is kept in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh.

*'It is thought' = the story might – or might not – be true.

To '**mark the day**' means you think a particular day is special and you want to do something special to show others how special you think it is! You could say instead 'celebrate the day' but to 'mark the day' can also mean remembering a day which is sad. For example: 'The anniversary of my divorce is tomorrow, I'll mark the day by having a party!'

Quiz

1. What shape is the cross of Saint Andrew?

It's an X shape (see the picture on the lesson page).

2. Name three countries that have Saint Andrew as a patron saint.

Choose from Greece, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Romania, Cyprus, Barbados and Scotland.

3. Where in Scotland is the town named St Andrews?

It's on the east coast of Scotland, in the region of Fife which is north of Edinburgh.

4. What are the two other things the town is famous for?

Golf and having a very old university (the oldest in Scotland and third oldest in the UK; Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest).

General knowledge. Can you answer the following... ?

1. What's the national flag of Scotland called?

The Saltire (it's also known as the Saint Andrew's flag or flag of Saint Andrew.

2. What two famous people met and fell in love when they were students at St Andrew's University?

Prince William and Kate Middleton.

3. Which three other countries make up the United Kingdom? Can you name their patron saints?

England – Saint George

Wales – Saint David

Northern Ireland – Saint Patrick

Grammar

In the final paragraph of the text there are three different ways of talking about the future. What are they?

'...will be able to...' (will + verb)

'...are marking the day...' (present continuous)

'There's/it's going to be...' (going to)