2019.12.01 Homily by Fr. Gabor

Today we begin Advent and as I reflected on the readings I felt God the Father wanted to direct our attention to light, His light in our darkness, in our struggle.

Through the prophet Isaiah in the first reading He tells you: **‘O House of Jacob, come let us walk in the light of the Lord!’.** Through St. Paul’s letter to the Romans He tells us: **‘let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light.’** Through the Gospel reading Jesus tells you: **Stay awake, and stand ready to welcome the Light, the Son of God, because He can come back at any time**.

Today I would like to speak to you about someone who stayed awake and followed the true Light, Jesus. He is St. Andrew, the Protector of Scotland, we also call him, the patron Saint of Scotland.

Andrew was born in Bethsaida, which is one of the small villages around the Sea of Galilee, just in the north of it. We don’t know anything about his family, except that they were fishermen and that his brother was Peter. We know this from the fact that the Bible mentions that Andrew took Peter, his brother to Jesus, saying that ‘we have found the Messiah’ (Jn 1:41).

This also makes Andrew into a true evangeliser of his own family members. Since he loved them, he wanted the best for them. He led his own brother, Peter, to Jesus, the true light. So in this respect Andrew is a reminder for all of us that we should not hide the light we have found, we should not hide our faith, our experience of Jesus, but should share it, at least with family members. Your own joy or whatever good you get out of your relationship with Jesus is infectious when you share it. Sharing your experience of Jesus has much greater influence on people than simply living as a Christian, and never talking about your experience of Jesus. Without making the connection between your life and Jesus people will just think you are a good, kind and nice person, but they may never ask you what or who motivates you to be like that. So the light that you have found has to be made known to people around you, andyour first responsibility is towards your own family and people who are close to you.

Andrew’s behaviour, namely that he immediately goes to Peter to tell him about the Messiah, that quick sharing also indicates that all throughout his life he had been eagerly looking for the arrival of the Messiah. This is quite a rare thing. Otherwise he would not have been so excited when he had arrived. Advent is a call, or even a warning, to stir up in our hearts this eager waiting, this inner longing for the coming of the Messiah, to say to Jesus: ‘Come Lord Jesus, come’, not just because there is so much darkness in the world, but because we love you, we want your Kingdom come, we want you to rule in our hearts as King. We also have to open our minds and hearts, or stay awake spiritually, to see His light, the little and greater blessings he gives us, to hear His word, his gentle word in the midst of our darkness, in the midst of our difficulties. Do not focus on the darkness, but on the light.

To listen to and hear His word, His light, first of all you have to ask the Lord: ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening’, just like the child Samuel did in the temple; you also have to ask him to make your heart willing to hear him. Then believe in an impossible message, for the Lord’s ways are not ours, and finally expect the Lord talking to you everywhere, not only in the church, or through the Bible, but also through the radio or through daily events, or through other people, etc. in many other ways. Then take courage and do what you believe the Lord is telling you, and do not worry, if you make a mistake, because He uses even our mistakes and turns them for our good.

St. Andrew was a man like this.