Turkey and Greece, including Byzantium (Istanbul). For this reason, among the many countries of which St Andrew is patron, are included Romania, Russia and Ukraine. St Andrew was martyred during the reign of Nero on 30th November A.D. 60 at Patras in Greece. Early texts say that he was bound, not nailed to, the cross so as to prolong his suffering. Those texts also describe the cross (a Latin cross) as being of the type on which Jesus died. However, a tradition developed that Andrew's cross was X-shaped as Andrew had said that he was not worthy to die on a Latin cross, as Jesus had done, though evidence for this dates only from about the 14th century. In about A.D. 357 St. Andrew's relics were translated from Patras to Constantinople to the Church of the Apostles. When the French took Constantinople at the beginning of the 13th century, the relics still there were brought to the cathedral in Amalfi, Italy. One exception was Andrew's skull which had been sent back to Patros in the 9th century, then transferred to St Peter's, Rome in the early 15th century. In 1964, as a goodwill gesture to the Eastern Orthodox church, Pope Paul VI returned the head to Patros.

-*Stephen S*.

Entrance antiphon: **When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.**

First Reading: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7

Psalm 50: Response: **Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Second Reading: Romans 5 12-19

Gospel Acclamation: **Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

Memorial Acclamation: **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

First Sunday of Lent

Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection: **The lesser-known apostles: (1) St Andrew:** All practising Christians are aware that Jesus called an initial 12 men to be His apostles. We are perhaps more familiar with 6 of them, these being Peter, James & John (sons of Zebedee), Thomas, Matthew and Judas Iscariot. That leaves 6 others of whom relatively little is mentioned in the New Testament and not a great deal is known historically. The purpose of series is to provide some background about these important men since, according to St Mark, Jesus appointed all 12 *"to be with Him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out devils".* In St John's Gospel Andrew is said to be a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John say of Jesus: "*Behold the Lamb of God!*" Andrew then found his brother, Simon Peter, saying: "*We have found the Messiah"* and brought Peter to Jesus. On this basis it has been said that Andrew was the first-called apostle. St John also tells us that the city of Andrew and Peter was Bethsaida which was to the north of the Sea of Galilee. The other Gospels tell us only that Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called Simon Peter and Andrew from their fishing.

It seems that Andrew, along with Peter, James & John, apart from being the four first-called, may also have been a group particularly close to Jesus. We know from Mark (13:3) that they were the ones who asked Him privately when the destruction of the temple would take place. It was this question which gave rise to Jesus' discourse about the end of time. Andrew is also specifically referred to as present at the feeding of the five thousand when he told Jesus about the lad who was there with five loaves and two fish (John 6:8). Shortly before the Passion some Greeks asked Philip if they could see Jesus. Philip informed Andrew, perhaps because he was closer to Jesus, and they both went and told Jesus. Jesus replied to them by saying that the hour had come for the Son of man to be glorified (John 12:20-23).

Early church writings suggest that, after Pentecost, Andrew's mission extended to numerous areas of modern-day Romania, Ukraine, Russia,