



Expectation

Monday 13th January



*Holy Spirit and Fire with Baptismal Font,
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville,
TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56760> [retrieved January 8, 2025].
Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/42622611981/>.*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

To reflect

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Luke 3.15-17

Today is the Feast Day of St Kentigern (also known as St Mungo). St Mungo's name means 'dear one' or 'beloved' and he grew up in the late sixth century in Fife at Saint Serf's monastery. There are four miracles associated with St Mungo – which are depicted on the City of Glasgow's Coat of Arms (St Mungo is regarded as Glasgow's founding father). St Mungo is told to have revived a dead robin, lighting frozen hazel branches, finding a lost ring (that proved someone's fidelity) and rejuvenated a bell that had been lost at sea.

Stories of saints sometimes involve expected elements and sometimes not, what are some of your favourite examples of Saints living out their Christian lives? St Mungo is known as 'beloved' the same words used as God (the Father) speaks of Jesus at the Baptism – and words that describe us to God – God's beloved.

A Collect for St Kentigern (also known as St Mungo)

Almighty God,
through the preaching of your servant Kentigern
you made the light of the gospel to shine in our land:
may we prove to you our thankfulness for his life and labours
by following the example of his zeal and patience;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus' by Charles Wesley, one performance is by the St Michael's Singers.
- 'Mother Glasgow' by Michael Marra, one version is by Alan Cumming. This contemporary song about Glasgow draws from the imagery on the City's coat of arms which represents the legend of St Mungo (St Kentigern).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.