

## ST AIDAN FEAST DAY

(Mt 28: 16-20)

At the Modawa Institute during the Passion week we have a group of students (pastoral group) who work on liturgies for each of the services.

Last year Passion week my group did Easter Vigil, and it took us some time to plan it. We plan everything properly with one of the students up in a Tree hiding so that no one knew. We prepared a fireplace and then the other student from the group called for the fire to come down from the sky.

It happened that both students were from the Highlands, and they actually were brothers. What we all did not know was they decided to do a bit of addition to what we planned to do and none of us in the group knew. They used the call sign they used back in their home to pass message from mountain top to the next of the bringing of the gospel message by Bishop David Hand the assistant Bishop Niugini under Bishop Philip Strong.

All those present thought how wonderful it was but were surprised to hear that it was never plan. Some even thought it was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 52 7-10 gives us that picture: How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of the messengers who announce the peace, who bring good news, who announce salvation. There is Joy, there is sing because the gospel message preached establishes the reign of God. People see this with their plain eye that God redeemed Jerusalem.

People see the presence of God, people heard Gods word, people see changes in their lives and that of their communities and Nation and they Rejoice. These messengers are special and this morning we celebrate the life of one of them St Aidan our patron saint.

### WHO ARE THESE MESSENGERS

They were men and women who knew God loved them, who recognised it and responded to that love. These were men and women who came to Jesus and receive life eternal and learnt from him. These were men and women who are members of the body of Christ as Paul says in Romans 12: 4, For as one body we have many members.....ff

But in that one body are many parts with many different functions. In that body members have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each one and Paul goes on to list them.

Prophecy in proportion to faith, Ministry, in ministering, the teacher in teaching, the exhorter in exhortation, the giver in generosity, the leader, in diligence, the compassionate in cheerfulness.

Jesus called the disciples 'come follow me' this was a time of training, of learning of been with Jesus. Now in our gospel reading he said to them " 'go' therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always to the end of the age.

#### ST AIDAN AT LINDISFINE.

In the only visit I made to England in 2017 took me to this island. On that day it rained but the tide was low, so we drove across. I thought our guest took us there to freeze to death. It was indeed a Holy Island and St Aidan's metal statue still stands there. Under King Oswald request Aidan arrive and set up a monastery there in 635 AD. He was an Irish monk from the monastery St Columba had founded on the Island of IONA.

It was here that Aidan established an Irish type monetary of wooden building a small church and a larger common hall. The monks learnt English and started evangelising the north of England.

They also established a monastic school and took in 12 boys to begin with. It was here that St Cuthbert was also trained. On the Island is a building in ruins that was the remains of a more permanent monastery. Looking out towards the main island on the rocky coastline stand the castle of King Oswald.

We give thanks to God for St Aidan and others who brought the Gospel to the north of England. May his life and ministry continue to speak to us.

Amen!!!!!!!!!!