

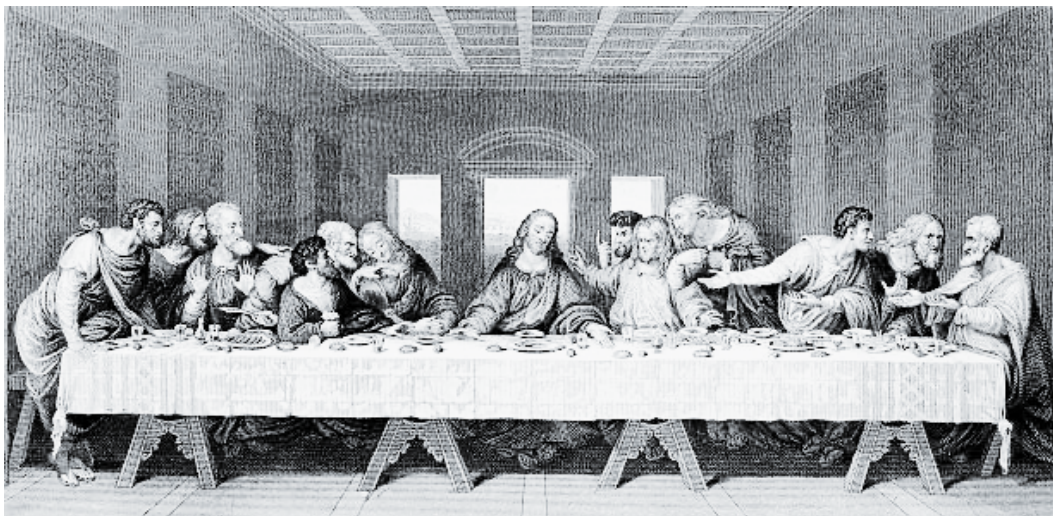


Nazareth Chronicle



*A quarterly record of the life and prayer of the Community of Nazareth
shared with our Friends*

Issue I - Easter 2026





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Welcome, Friends

Dear Friends of the Community of Nazareth,

It is with deep joy that I welcome you to the very first edition of our newsletter. Though you may not live within the daily life of our community, you are very much part of our wider family, and it is a privilege to share something of our spirit and journey with you.

We begin this first communication in the light of Easter, the great feast of hope at the heart of our faith. The Resurrection of the Lord is not only something we celebrate; it is something we are continually invited to live. It assures us that no darkness is final, no loss without meaning, and no life beyond the reach of God's renewing love.

The Gospel account of the Supper at Emmaus offers us a particularly meaningful image for this season. The disciples walk together in confusion and sorrow, yet Christ draws near, listens to them, and opens the Scriptures. It is in the breaking of the bread that their eyes are opened, and they recognise Him.

This moment lies close to the heart of our Eucharistic charism. Like those disciples, we are a people who encounter the Risen Lord in Word and Sacrament, often after journeys marked by uncertainty or longing.

Here in the Community of Nazareth, our spirituality is rooted in the hidden life of Jesus. Those quiet years marked by simplicity, faithfulness, and the presence of God in ordinary things. The Eucharist deepens this vision for us. In the humble signs of bread and wine, Christ makes Himself known in a way that is both simple and profound, drawing us into communion with Him and with one another.

This is a grace not only for us, but for you as well. Wherever you find yourselves, in family life, in work, in times of joy or uncertainty, you share in this same invitation: to recognise Christ who walks beside you, and to encounter Him in the breaking of bread. In this, we are united, companions on the road, sustained by the same presence, called to the same hope.

I hope that this newsletter will become a way of sharing our reflections, our prayer, and our life, while also accompanying you in your own journey of faith. You are not outside our community; rather, you stand alongside us as friends, companions, and fellow pilgrims.

At Emmaus, the disciples rose at once and returned with renewed hearts to share the good news. May we too be people of the Resurrection, renewed in hope, attentive to Christ's presence, and ready to bear quiet witness in the world. May our lives, shaped by the Eucharist, reflect something of that same recognition: that He is alive, and that He is with us.

Thank you for walking with us.

With my prayers and Easter blessings.

John-Aelred CN
Prior

Why Nazareth?

taken from our first monthly in person Community gathering, at St. Columba's, Brora



After we had eaten together, Fr. Prior led us in discussion.

We worked through the opening sections of the Rule. Most of the conversation stayed with Nazareth as the starting point for the Community—what it means to take seriously a life that is ordinary, consistent, and mostly unseen. We spoke about obedience, attentiveness, and perseverance, not in abstract terms, but in how they actually show up day to day.

We also spent time on the idea of hiddenness. That it isn't about withdrawing or stepping back from responsibility, but about not being driven by recognition or status. The distinction mattered. It led into a more practical conversation about how we live that out while still being fully engaged in parish life, work, and ministry.

The section on the shape of the Rule brought us onto the influences behind the Community—Benedictine stability, the spirituality associated with Nazareth and Charles de Foucauld, and the rhythm of Anglican common prayer. We talked about how those things hold together, and what it looks like in practice rather than on paper.

A good portion of the discussion focused on dispersion. The fact that we are not living in one place but remain where we are. We talked about what actually holds us together:

prayer, the Eucharist, fidelity to the Rule, and accountability to one another. There was a clear sense that dispersion only works if those things are taken seriously.

We finished by working through some of the discussion questions. What aspects of the Rule are speaking most strongly at the moment, and what needs attention. Nothing complicated, just an honest look at where we are.

Andrew-Thomas CN

Get to Know Br. Nicholas

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear friends, it is with great joy that I write to you in this first issue of the Nazareth Chronicle. Since my brothers and I began to discern that there might be a place for a community such as ours in the Scottish Episcopal Church, we have been overwhelmed by your messages of support, encouragement and prayers.

We are right at the beginning of what we are certain is going to be a fruitful and affirming journey together as we walk with Our Lord on the path of Religious Life. An important part of that journey is about getting to know each other and so I have been asked by my brothers to share a little about my own life with you (some of you will already know quite a bit)!

I live with my partner, Peter and our two teenage boys in Sutherland in the far North of Scotland. I work full time as a Primary Head Teacher in the area and I am also the non-stipendiary priest in charge of two rural charges - which encompass three congregations. I am also a Canon of our Cathedral church in Inverness. I am a monk.

And I am His.

On finding out about my many different roles – partner, dad, head teacher, priest - many people ask me how I manage to fit it all in? And how on earth do I find time to commit to

the life of a Religious brother? My answer is usually something along the lines of “these are not things I do, these are things I am.”

Finding the time is not relevant, because I am all of these things, all of the time. Yes, of course there are particular tasks and activities associated with some of these roles, but at the very core they are all centred on the loving service of God and of those of His children who I come into contact with day by day.

As a member of the Community of Nazareth, our cycle of prayer each day provides an opportunity to be able to constantly re-centre who we are and what we are about - teaching us patience, attentiveness and perseverance, hidden in what can sometimes be the busy and chaotic schedule of day to day life.

Within the Community of Nazareth, we do not live apart from the world, in fact quite the opposite, we live within it. Wherever we find ourselves in our day to day lives, by the grace of God and through the support of our community we grow in obedience, labour and quiet fidelity.

Continue to pray for us, as we will pray for you.

Easter Blessings upon you and all those you hold dear.

Nicholas CN



[Click here to read our vocation stories.](#)

Simple Profession of Vows, Saturday 6 June 2026

Dear Friends,

On Saturday 6 June, at St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, I will make my Simple Profession of Vows in the Community of Nazareth.

I've been trying to find the right way to write this to you, and I keep coming back to the same simple truth: this is what I have always wanted. Not in a passing or romantic sense, but in something steady that has stayed with me over time. Even when I didn't fully understand it. Even when I tried to put it to one side. It has remained.

Getting to this point hasn't been straightforward. There have been moments where it felt clear, and others where it felt uncertain, costly, or even out of reach. I think that's part of why this feels as it does now—not a sudden step, but something that has been coming into place over years.

When I make my vows, I will promise Stability of Heart, Obedience, and Conversion of Life for a set term within the Community of Nazareth. I am aware that I am only at the beginning of understanding what that will look like in practice. These promises will have to be lived out day by day—in prayer that is sometimes steady and sometimes difficult, in choosing to remain when it would be easier not to, and in allowing my life to be shaped gradually rather than quickly.

Within the liturgy, these vows will be given concrete form. I will receive the cowl, the ring, and the Rule of the Community—signs of a life that is both hidden and bound.

It is a beginning, and in some ways, a very ordinary one. The kind that doesn't unfold all at once. Our life as a community is still in its early stages. Much of what we are doing is simple: praying together, studying our Rule and way of life, working out how to live this vocation faithfully in the context we have been given. There is nothing polished about it yet, and I think that honesty matters. We are learning by doing, and by remaining committed to it.

My profession sits within that. It is not separate from the life of the community, but part of how it is taking shape. In July, Br. Nicholas will also make his vows, which is an important moment for us, not just individually, but as we begin to grow into a shared and recognisable life together.

I also want to say thank you, properly and without rushing past it. The support we have received as a community, and that I have received personally, has been more than we could ever have imagined. Messages, encouragement, prayers, support in the background—it all adds up. It has made a real difference, especially in recent months as this has become more real. I am very aware that I am not coming to this point on my own.

If you are reading this as one of our Friends, please know that you are part of this. Your prayers and your support are not separate from what is happening here. They are part of what sustains it.

As the day approaches, I would be very grateful for your prayers—for me, as I prepare to make these vows, for Br. Nicholas as he prepares for July, and for the Community of Nazareth as a whole. We are still learning what this life asks of us, and we want to be faithful in it.

Be assured of my prayers for you all, especially as we move through Holy Week and towards Easter.

Andrew-Thomas CN

Talk, Q&A

On Palm Sunday, Fr. Prior and Br. Andrew-Thomas led an evening sharing about our community—offering a short talk, time for questions, and prayer together.

If your parish or group would like to host something similar, you're very welcome to get in touch.



A Gallery of Our First Few Months



Looking Ahead

June 6 - Br. Andrew-Thomas' Simple Profession of Vows

July 25 - Br. Nicholas' Simple Profession of Vows

September/October TBC - Founding Day and Mass, Inverness Cathedral



Of your charity, pray for

***Dom Andrew-Thomas
MacIntosh-Graham, CN***

on his
Simple Profession of Vows
in the
Community of Nazareth

*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit; for
you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.*

Psalm 31:5

St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth
in the Octave of Corpus Christi,
VI VI MMXXVI

Send us a Prayer Request

We hold all our Friends in our daily prayer, carrying your names and intentions with us before God.

If you would like us to pray for a particular intention, you are very welcome to share it with us. You can email us at contactus@nazarethcommunity.org, message us via our Community social media accounts, or use the “Send a Prayer Request” form on our website under the Contact Us tab.

It is a privilege to pray with you and for you.

Ways to Pray with Us

The Daily Office

Although we do not gather daily in one place, but we are held together by shared prayer, faithful presence, and attentiveness to God in ordinary life. You do not need to be a member of the Community to pray with us. You are welcome to join us wherever you are, and in whatever way is possible.

At the heart of our common life is the Daily Office. When you pray Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer, or Compline — whether regularly or occasionally — you are praying in the same rhythm that sustains our community.

[Pray Compline with us here.](#)

Join Us in Eucharistic Prayer

Members of the Community are anchored in Holy Communion, received in their local parishes and chapels. If you share in the Eucharist in your own context, you share in the prayer that nourishes our common life. Wherever the Eucharist is celebrated faithfully, Christ gathers his people into one body.

The Community designates an hour a day to adoration — a commitment to pause, remember one another, and turn toward God.

Donate to Support

For those who have asked how to support us practically, we have set up a GoFundMe to help with the early costs of establishing the Community of Nazareth.

Funds will go towards things like running our website, printing materials, study resources, and the practical costs of gathering and formation. If you would like to support us in this way, we are very grateful.

[You can find the page here.](#)

Prayer of the Community of Nazareth

Lord Jesus Christ,
who hallowed the hidden life of Nazareth,
form us in quiet faithfulness.

Give us stability of heart,
obedience that listens,
and patience in conversion of life.

Bind us together in charity,
faithful to your Church and attentive in prayer.

May our lives be hidden with you in God,
to your glory and the good of your people.

Amen.

with our love, our prayers, and our thanks, until the next issue,

John-Aelred, Fr. Prior



Br. Andrew-Thomas



Br. Nicholas

