

June 2007



The Orthodox parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross, Lancaster

Meeting at the Chaplaincy Centre of Lancaster University

Newsletter



*Ἰερωσύμος Χριστός, Ζωοδότης.
(Φ. Κάντογλου, 1962).*

*The parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,
belongs to the Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the United Kingdom and Ireland,
which is part of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Western and Central Europe.*

Our Metropolitan is His Eminence Archbishop Gabriel.

The Patriarchate of Antioch is third senior of the Orthodox Churches.

The Patriarch is His Beatitude Ignatius IV.

*The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch
(Acts 11:26)*

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SAINTS

From days long ago when this land was Orthodox in common with the rest of the world, there remain many sacred places, and perhaps one day the people of this land, now careless, will return to the true faith, and find inspiration in visiting them. Until then the faithful remnant will keep the memories alive, and this blessed Parish of the Holy and Life Giving Cross plays its part. Week by week the Divine Liturgy is celebrated - how very, very blessed we are to have a loving priest "on site" - and at various times our members have visited and worshipped in some of these venerable places. Recently we made a modestly adventurous pilgrimage to one.



In the middle of one of England's lakes lies an island, and in two rowing boats fourteen pilgrims (and as is usual with us five or six different nationalities represented, thanks to the students at Lancaster University) visited the place where St. Herbert of Derwentwater established his cell in the 7th century. Although it is one of the larger English lakes at three miles long by one and a half miles wide (five by two in metric) it is but 72 feet (23m) at its deepest with an average

depth of 15 feet (under 5 metres). Nonetheless regulations (and common sense) require the wearing of life jackets. The water was calm and the weather mild. On the Island we encountered children from a school in Bradford on a treasure hunt.

We set up Icons of the Saviour and the Mother of God, with a candle and incense and worshipped on the very spot where St. Herbert had worshipped all those years ago. Is it too fanciful that the robin who joined us may have been a descendant of robins who doubtless had joined the saint when he was worshipping there? He took the crumbs from the artoklasia.

St. Herbert was well known to another saint of his time, Cuthbert, Bishop of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on the other side of the country. Both of these saints are commemorated in our calendar on 20th March and both are thought to have reposed in the same year and the same day and on the same hour in 687. They were very different in their callings in obedience to the Lord, St. Herbert was a hermit, St. Cuthbert was very active and much travelled.

We enjoyed our picnic on the small stony beach; unlike the hermit we did not have to forage for nuts and berries or fish the lake. We walked around the island before, with a



bit of a struggle, we launched into the water. Father Jonathan left behind at St. Herbert's cell, adhered to the rock, a tiny icon of the Saviour to be discovered by some other visitor, perhaps long into the future, a witness and a reminder that this is a holy place.

Barnabas Dickinson



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. LYDIA

In our little community of the Holy and Life Giving Cross it has been a blessing for us to be asked to translate and proof read for a number of Orthodox Publications. We are indeed blessed by a certain academic presence at Lancaster which together with the will of man in accordance to the Will of God combines in a beautiful synergy.

The synodia of some of our Greek speaking members are working on a translation of the Life of Blessed Joakim of Vatodedi Monastery. Recently Fr. Jonathan was asked to proof read another publication by the Community of St. Lydia in Ambelokipi in Greece. It is a commentary on the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian. This is in addition to a former publication on "The Lady of Ro". It is hoped that

the Life of St. Lioba an 8th Century English Saint related to St. Boniface is to be published soon in Greek. May this holy work for the furtherance of the Gospel and Holy Tradition be blessed by God.

Father Jonathan

PETER AND PAUL, THE HOLY APOSTLES

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by inter-pretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who



art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptised by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. And straightway - O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labours and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously travelled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are expla-

ined in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

3rd June: **All Saints**

6th June: **Hilarion the New**

20th June: **Hieromartyr Methodios**

22nd June: **Hieromartyr Eusebius**

24th June: **Nativity of the Forerunner and Baptist John**

26th June: **Appearance of the Icon of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos of Tikhvin**

29th June: **The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

30th June: **Synaxis of the twelve Apostles**

For the lives of Saints please visit the Prologue of Ohrid:

www.westsrbdio.org/prolog/prolog.htm

or the Calendar of the Greek

Orthodox Archdiocese of America:

www.calendar.goarch.org



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