

July 2007



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

Meeting at the Chaplaincy Centre of Lancaster University

Newsletter



*Ἦθρονος 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)*

THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH (20th JULY)

The grace bearing nature of Icons within Holy Orthodoxy means that we encounter a window into heaven. The veneration of an icon is the expression of the love we have for our Our Lord and Saviour, His most Holy Mother and His sanctified family, the righteous who foretold His coming and the saints who followed His example; it is the physical expression and consequence of our belief in the communion of saints. We venerate the prototype who is worthy and who in turn prays for us. The grace that is given to each Icon , which in its very formation and writing is the fruit of prayer rather than art, brings us to a deeper understanding of our own salvation.

I remember some years ago on the feast of the St. Elijah (Elias) looking at the Icon of the Prophet. I had read the story of this bold ambassador of God's word as a student of the Old Testament years before; how he dared to speak the word of God to his own people who were following other gods and how he earned the wrath of the evil Queen Jezebel and her 400 hundred prophets of Baal. Exhausted by his labours the righteous prophet seeks refuge in a cave. There God sustains him through commanding ravens to feed his servant.

The Icon of the prophet shows him in a cave with a black bird with food in his beak coming to feed the prophet.

1 Kings 17:2-6 (New King James Version) *2 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall*

drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

This for me, as I looked at the Icon was a revelatory moment. Exhausted spiritually, these words came back to me with great force for I too was hungry for spiritual food which was to be found in the East and God sent black robed priests from the west to come and feed me and others so that we could be strengthened and sustained.

O HAPPY BAND OF PILGRIMS

On the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of Great Britain and Ireland.

Acts of the Apostles 2:42: "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship in the breaking of bread and in prayers."

A Pilgrimage held in faith, a Constitution born of hope and a Fellowship bound in love

Gave substance to our journey into heaven on earth below, inspired by God above.

Oh blessed joy of the prodigal's return after his lonely sojourn in a foreign land

Hungry and of thirst, he sought for bread and water amidst dry stones and parched sand.

Like Elijah of old when faced with drought and famine, fatigue and near despair

The word of God said, "Turn east to Cherith's brook and my ravens will feed you there."

So we journeyed east and black-robed birds came from far western shores to bring

The ring of truth, the finest robe, the shoes of peace fit for the banquet of the King.

From a treasury of grace we learned from peaceful souls a fullness, no more to roam

Until the time appointed when our Father, hands outstretched said, "Welcome home."

Oh Happy Band of Pilgrims with the Beatitude that Christ spoke and willed!

"Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

An excellent sufficiency from the economy of God's mercy has been given for our way

Our resolve: to recover the right glory, that Pearl of Great price, entrusted to us today.

"And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." From there began the mission

The gospel of our holy faith, our life, our joy complete by the dynamic of tradition.

Antioch lies now in the hearts of those from North, South, East and West

It is found in the lives of faithful souls who in humility desire to serve Christ best.

May the homecoming that we enjoyed with Eucharistic warmth and holy tears

Bring others that, which we have found, growth in the Spirit and grant us" Many years."

For now is the time to labour for the Lord, for salvation is found in the day of affliction: for it is written: 'In your patience gain ye your souls'

Abba Isidore of Skete



**THE "LYDIA" TV STATION AND THE
APOSTOLICAL DIACONATE OF
GREECE**

Adelphotis "Lydia" (an Orthodox Christian fraternal order) is based in Thessaloniki, Greece and have recently started broadcasting TV programmes also through the internet. Their programmes could be watched on-line on www.tv4e.gr.

Also the monthly magazine (in Greek) of the Apostolical Diaconate of the Church of Greece could be found in a pdf format on the next link: http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr/gr_main/fk/fk.asp

**LITURGIES FOR THE NEXT THREE
MONTHS (at 10:00 am)**

July :

8th Quiet Room
15th Quiet Room
21st RC Chapel
29th Quiet Room

August :

4th, 11th, 18th: RC Chapel
26th Quiet Room

September :

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd: RC Chapel
30th Quiet Room

**MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS
MONTH**

4th July: St. Andrew the Hymnographer; Martha, Mother of Symeon Stylites

7th July: The Great Martyr Kyriaki

8th July: The Great Martyr Procopios

11th July: The Great Martyr Euphemia

13rd July: The Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel

18th July: Emilianos of Bulgaria

20th July: Prophet Elijah

22nd July: Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles

25th July: Dormition of St. Anna

27th July: Great Martyr Panteleimon

31st July: The Forefeast of the Holy Cross; Joseph of Arimathea

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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