

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

Meeting at the Chaplaincy Centre of Lancaster University

Newsletter



*Ἐθρονος Χριστός Ζωοδότης.
(Φ. Κόντογλου, 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 John.
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)***

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη!

Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto!

Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment Il est ressuscité!

Cristo ressuscitou! Verdadeiramente ressuscitou!

Cristo ha resucitado! Verdaderamente, ha resucitado!

Al-Masih-Qam! Hakkan Qam!

基督復活了 他確實復活了

ハリストス復活！実に復活！

DECORATION OF THE EPITAPH AND SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION





ST. GEORGE KARSLIDES

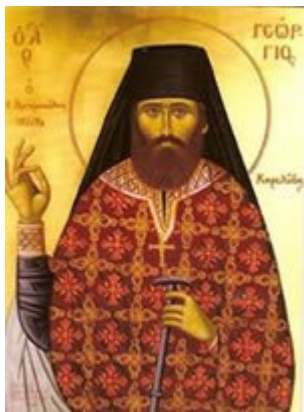
St. George the New Confessor of Drama was born in Argyroupolis, Pontos in 1901 of pious parents, Savvas Karslides and Sophia. At baptism he received the name Athanasius. He is known to have been in Georgia, Armenia and Russia before spending most of his life in the village of Taxiarches in Drama of Northern Greece. He established a small monastery there and slept in the Lord November 4, 1959. He was glorified by the Patriarchate on November 2, 2008. The elder was well known for his miracles and prophecies. The church commemorates his memory November 4. He is one of few saints known to bear an imprint of the sign of the cross on his skull.

While still being an infant, he was left orphaned and his grandparents looked after him and his two siblings; a brother and a sister. His brother did not treat him very well and noticing that this was a problem his grandparents gave him to a Turkish family to look after him at an early age. When he was seven years old, his grandmother, being a devout Christian, took him on a pilgrimage to an ancient and famous monastery in the Pontos area; the Panagia Soumela.



In 1930 he permanently settled in the village of Sipsa in Drama, where he had quite a few acquaintances such as his first cousin, Elder Gregory Kiourtsides. He did not have much of an estate bringing only a few previous items; a few ecclesiastical books, priestly vestments, icons and a portion of the relics of his sister Anna.

In 1936 the Elder went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He visited many monasteries and also visited the Jordan river. At one of the hermitages near the Monastery of St. Savva he met in a wondrous way an ascetic who was his uncle. God enlightened the ascetic and revealed to him that the young clergyman passing by was his nephew.



In 1938 the Ministry of Agriculture granted four stremmata of land to the Elder. With the assistance of the villagers he built a little church, dedicated to the Nativity of the Theotokos. With the ever present help of the inhabitants, the construction of the monastery took place in the following year until eventually the consecration of the monastery church took place September 14, 1939.

In 1941 the Bulgarians captured the elder and led him to be butchered. He followed without protest and when they

arrived at the place, he prayed and with calmness asked them to proceed with their work. They abandoned him out of fear and ran away.

Quotes:

"If you pray without giving alms, your prayer is dead. Your hands should always be open. Give alms to orphans and widows. Alms and prayers go together."

"God cares for everyone. Despair is in effect a lack of faith"

"Strive to intensify your faith, and during the Divine Liturgy be undistracted and attached to the celebration of the service so that you might be granted to behold the majesties of God."

"What saves man is the good works of God, humility, obedience, love, and charity".

"Neither should wealth impress you, nor honor, but always walk justly. Eat your bread with your honorable sweat and not through unjust means. The things you gain honorably, do not squander aimlessly. Live honorably and humbly, and as much as possible extend your hands in charity... Knock on the doors of the poor, the sick, the orphans. You should prefer the homes of the afflicted to the homes of the joyous. If you do good works, you will have a great reward from God."

"Love all your fellow men, even your enemies. This is the most basic thing. Always love not only those who love us, but also those who hate us. Let us forgive them and love them all even if they have done us the greatest evil; then we are truly children of God. Then our own sins are also forgiven... Always preach love."

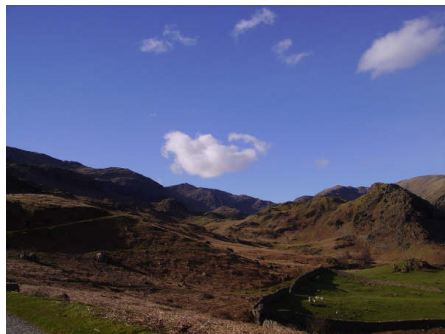
This is the most basic law of God: love and love alone."

Source:

[http://orthodoxwiki.org/George \(Karslidis\) of Drama](http://orthodoxwiki.org/George_(Karslidis)_of_Drama)

DAY TRIP IN CONISTON

It was on a beautiful, bright, sunny Saturday that we made our way up to the Old Man of Coniston. The scenery, breathtaking. The climb was steep and the sun hot on our backs. Heavy clothes, heavy boots, heavy backpacks, the heat, the steep ascend, muscles still dormant after a long winter hibernation. The more we walked the more of a struggle it felt.



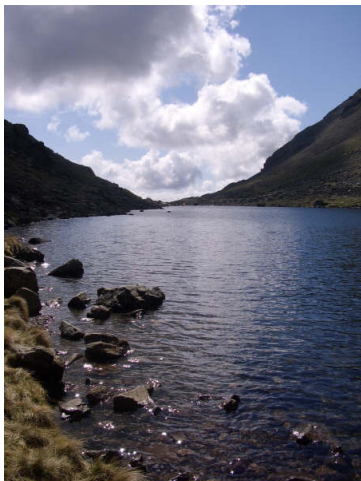
It made me think: life is a bit like this. It usually starts on a flat road that sooner or later starts going up. The burdens we carry feel heavier and heavier and our strength weaker and weaker. One of the members of our walking party was holding a komboskini. It made me realise that I could be saying the Jesus prayer. All of a sudden I felt strengthened, my backpack a bit lighter and I resumed my resolve to make it to the top. We walked in silence but we also got together from time to time, to commend on the beauty of the landscape, or the difficulty of the

ascend, to share some food, to share both difficulty and pleasure. We made it to the



top, we made it down again and back where we started and back home, and all this time I couldn't help thinking that the same things that made the climb up the mountain easier, make our way through life easier too: good company that you feel comfortable with, in silence and in conversation, and the Jesus prayer, not only to stop us from thinking of all the negative things but also to renew our strength. It also made me think that when we struggle up a mountain, real or





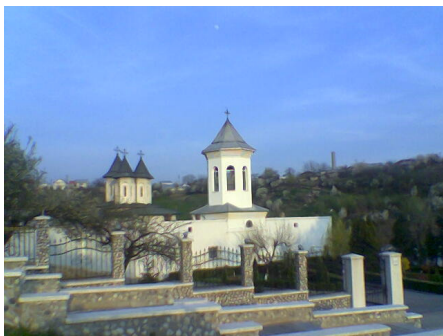
metaphorical, we should remind ourselves of Christ's struggle up Golgotha, and how small in comparison our suffering is. It certainly gave me strength and patience."



TISMANA MONASTERY

Tismana Monastery is one of the oldest and most important Monasteries in Romania. Cristina Denise has been there during April with fr. Bogdan Georgescu and sent us some very beautiful photos.





MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

8th May: St. John the Theologian and St. Arsenius the Great

13th May: Mid-Pentecost

15th May: St. Pachomius the Great Martyr

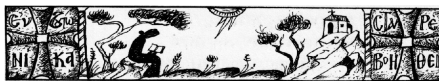
21st May: St. Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the Apostles

25th May: Third Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist

27th May: Apodosis of Pascha

28th May: The Ascension of our Lord into Heaven

For the lives of Saints please visit the Calendar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: www.calendar.goarch.org



“God cares for everyone. Despair is in effect a lack of faith”
- St. George Karslides -



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