

December 2006



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

Meeting at the Chaplaincy Centre of Lancaster University

Newsletter



*Ἅγιος Χριστὸς 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 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)*

PERMANENT PLACE OF WORSHIP

As most of you may already know, we are trying to persuade Lancaster University to provide a permanent place of worship for us on campus.

We have contacted Kevin Huggett the Anglican chaplain of the Chaplaincy Centre as well as the Estates director of the University and they suggest that it is rather unlikely the University will be able to provide another Chapel on campus for the Orthodox students.

What we were asked to do instead, is to look at how the Orthodox Liturgy is practised on other campuses around the UK, which may help in thinking how best we might use a shared space. It is much more likely that in any future provision on campus for religious groups, shared use spaces will be made available, rather than a dedicated space. As a result we were asked to provide ideas on what sort of items and facilities might be needed to celebrate the Liturgy in a shared space, what storage facilities that might entail, and what the best shape for the shared space would be from our point of view.

This seems to be a slight step forward but still having a permanent space for us would be vital as it is difficult to set up the church with the iconostasis and all the icons before the Liturgy and then after the end to move everything back in a store room. This procedure must also be done each time we have vespers and all other liturgical celebrations.

We would therefore be grateful to anybody who could provide the means to establish a permanent Orthodox Church in Lancaster. Please contact fr. Jonathan for more information on this matter.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE CHAPLAINCY CENTRE

On the 28th of November, the Management Committee of the Chaplaincy Centre held a meeting in order to discuss matters concerning all religious communities within the University. The Chaplaincy Constitution was revised recognising our Orthodox Community, officially from now on, as an existing and thriving community within the University.

In the next meeting which will be held at the beginning of the new term, we will possibly discuss our views about the way we would like to make use of facilities provided in the future.

ORTHODOX RADIO STATION

A 12-hour Orthodox radio station has newly opened on the 15th of November. **"Al Orthodoxyia"** radio station is playing Byzantine and Russian hymns as well as Liturgy Services, Daily Readings, Prayers and music from all over the world. You could visit and listen to it live at www.orthodoxyia.org

NEW MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-07

At the beginning of the new academic year we were very happy to include many new members in our community. During freshers fair, we watched a documentary



on Mt. Athos, "Passages through Paradise" which has received several international awards. We also continue having lunch together in the quiet room regularly. This is done mainly after the celebration of the Liturgy on Sundays, which is always a nice opportunity to come together and strengthen the bonds that hold our community together.

We wish Nicholas many years as his Chismation was celebrated on the 3rd of December, receiving his name after St. Nicholas Planas.



ORTHODOX ECOLOGICAL GROUP

There is an effort put to form a group of Orthodox faithful who are interested in and committed to ecological considerations.

There have been many movements involving people who are concerned to halt the desecration of our God-given environment and we also would like to form a Pan-Orthodox group in the U.K to support conservation. We believe that constant vigil and continuous action by all who are able to make a contribution are vital and we would like to involve as many people as possible.

An inaugural meeting is to be held on the afternoon of Saturday 20 January 2007 starting at 2 pm at:

The House of St. Theosevia,
2 Canterbury Road,
Oxford
OX2 6LU

We are delighted to inform you that Bishop Kallistos has agreed to address the meeting and we hope to arrange for an *ad hoc* committee to be formed after the meeting.

We would suggest the agenda to include the following topics (other suggestions would be welcome):

- The group should be Pan-Orthodox.
- It would define areas of concern, both local and international, and would try to make contact with other Orthodox groups.

- It would research journals for articles relating to ecology and would review the Orthodox theological perspective.
- It would provide an infrastructure for ongoing involvement in ecological affairs in the form of an Orthodox Ecological Fellowship.
- It would bring together interested and concerned parties to meet, initially define aims and objectives, form a steering and action committee for eventual involvement with international forums.

MAJOR SAINTS CELEBRATED THIS MONTH

4th Dec: **The Holy Great-Martyr Barbara and St. John Damascene**

6th Dec: **Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker**

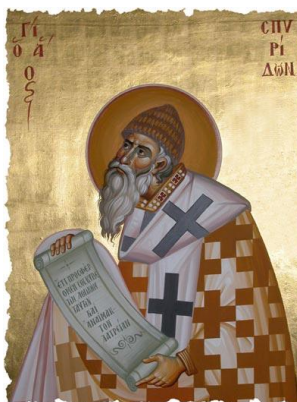
12th Dec: **Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker**

27th Dec: **The Holy Protomartyr Stephen**

If you are interested in attending the inaugural meeting at Oxford, or if you would like to know more about this initiative, please contact:

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For the lives of Saints please visit the Prologue of Ohrid:
www.westsrbdio.org/prolog/prolog.htm



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