

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

The Stavronian

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*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 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)***

THE MORE YOU LOVE THE MORE YOU ARE LOVED

Have our Panagia, His dear, sweet Mother, as your protectress and entreat her constantly. Embrace her holy icon as if she were alive, and wet it with tears as the myrrh-bearer did to Jesus' feet. And you will derive substantial consolation as if she were beside you.

Our Panagia hastens everywhere. She bestows her grace abundantly upon anyone who fervently cries out to her. She is a mediatrix to Christ for everyone, because she was deemed worthy to give birth to the Lord and to become the Mother of God. She carries Him in Her arms and continuously entreats Him.

Since we sinners do not have the boldness to run directly to God from the start, we cry out to His Mother. She regenerates us; she intercedes; she anticipates all our afflictions. She is our protectress and helper, more honourable than all the angels, beyond compare more glorious than the Cherubim and Seraphim, second in rank only to the Holy Trinity. Oh, but she is good, my good girl, so sweet, that you want to embrace her at every moment and obtain consoling grace. The more you love, the more you are loved.

From Letter 74 of the Letters of Elder Joseph the Hesychast in *"Monastic Wisdom"*

THE MOST-BLESSED QUEEN

In actual fact, through the ages many were granted the divine condescension, glory and might, as David also says: *"Thy friends, O God, have been greatly honoured by me; and their rule has been greatly strengthened. I will number them, and more than the sands shall they be multiplied"*

(Ps. 138/139:17-18). *"Many daughters,"* according to Solomon, *"have obtained riches, and many have wrought valiantly"* (Prov. 31: 29-30). And here is the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and She is most exceedingly exalted over all and for all. While she alone stood between God and the human race, God became the Son of Man, and made men sons of God. She made Heaven of earth and deified the human race. She alone of all women is shown to be a mother by nature and the Mother of God transcending every law of nature. Through ineffably giving birth, She has become the Queen of everything in both the earthly and heavenly creation. Through Herself, She exalted those subject to Her, and while on earth showed obedience to heavenly rather than earthly things, and She shared in greater rewards and greater power. Through the ordination She received from Heaven through the Divine Spirit, She became the most exalted and most-blessed Queen of a blessed lineage.

Part of a sermon on the Dormition of Virgin Mary by St Gregory Palamas

For the whole sermon please click [here](#).

THE GIFT OF CHILDREN AND PARENTHOOD IN THE BIBLE

Children are a blessing; they are the fruit of procreation in which men and women share in God's creation and reflect His creative power. The Lord Himself orders the world in such a way that mankind is to be fruitful and multiply in order to be stewards of His creation (Genesis 1:28). God is gracious and so we read in Genesis that when Sarah was barren and beyond child bearing years God gave her the joy

of a son. Her son's name Isaac meaning laughter reflected both her doubt of God's promise that she could bear a son in her old age and the joy and laughter that the child brought her when he was born. Nothing is impossible for God

The Psalmist recognises this bestowal of grace when he says in Psalm 127: *"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing."*

Hannah also in Old Testament times (1 Kingdoms 1) prayed for a child and the Lord granted her request in the birth of Samuel who became the great prophet of Israel. As she prays before the Lord she prays from the heart such that her lips move but there is no sound. St Cyprian sees her prayer as a model of the Church, *"pouring her heart out in prayer silently and modestly within the recesses of her heart and with manifest faith."* Hannah foreshadows the Most Holy Theotokos in that she displays faith in God's answer before receiving it. She exclaimed: *"The Lord has filled my heart with joy; how happy I am because of what he has done!"*

Of course parents have a duty of care to protect their children and to bring them up in accordance with God's law. In the book of Proverbs we read the wise saying: *"Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older he will remain upon it"*.

Nevertheless, Our Lord saw in children a loving simplicity and a natural appreciation of mystery and holiness: *"Let the children come to me and do not stop them because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these..."*. He goes further and uses them as a model of discipleship... *"I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."*

This is the pattern for all people, that as children are dependent upon their parents so we should be dependent upon and obedient to Our Father in heaven.



QUOTES

"Let the temptation to retire from our place be a proof for us that our life there is pleasing to God. For being warred against is a sign that we are making war."

--- Ven. John of the Ladder, Abbot of Sinai +603 A.D.

We observe this spiritual counsel as we enter into the Dormition Fast: On one occasion there was a feast, and the brethren were eating in the congregation, and there was among them a brother who said unto him that ministered at the tables, *"I do not eat boiled food, but only bread and salt,"* and the servant cried out to certain other brethren before the whole assembly, saying, *"Such and such a brother does not eat boiled food, therefore bring him salt."* Then one of the Elders came to that brother and said unto him, *"It would have been better for you this day to have eaten meat in your cell than that this word should have been heard before all the assembly."*

--- Quotation from the Paradise of the Fathers, the Sayings of the Fathers of Egypt

MEMORY ETERNAL!

We would like to remember the falling asleep of **Fr. Athanasios Ledwich** in this issue of the Stavronian. I knew him from his days as an Anglican Priest; fr. Athanasios embraced Orthodoxy to the full, living as a monk on Mt Athos, setting up the first Orthodox School in Britain and latterly serving as a priest in Suffolk. He was a great pioneer of the faith, his strictness was born of his love of Orthodoxy and I owe him a debt of gratitude in my own pilgrimage to Orthodoxy and attended his ordination.

May his memory be eternal!

Fr. Jonathan



HEAVEN ON EARTH

A Psalm of David: *“The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein”.*

My Dear all,

This is just a snapshot from what could be described as Heaven on Earth in the very beautiful and blessed Danube Delta. The picture was taken by a mem-

ber of our anthropological team in Maliuc on 6 July, this year.

I would like it to be your guide to see all this beauty, this natural wild place on the Earth.

In Christ,

Fr. Bogdan Georgescu



MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

6th Aug: The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

13th Aug: St. Tikhon, Bishop of Voronezh, Wonderworker of Zadonsk and all Russia

15th Aug: The Dormition of our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

16th Aug: St. Gerasimus, Wonderworker of Cephalonia

20th Aug: St. Oswin, King and Martyr

22nd Aug: St. Sigfrid, Abbot of Wearmouth

23rd Aug: Apodosis of the Dormition of the Theotokos

24th Aug: St. Cosmas of Aetolia, equal-to-the-Apostles

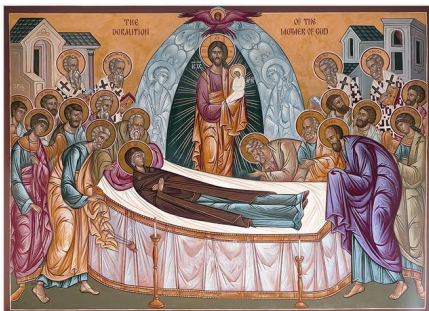
27th Aug: Martyr Phanourius

29th Aug: Beheading of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

31st Aug: The Placing of the Cincture of the Most Holy Theotokos in the Church of

Chalkoprateia and St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne

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



Services during August*

Sat. 6 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 13 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 20 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sun. 28 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in AFC followed by Parish lunch

*Help setting up the church is greatly appreciated and starts from 9.15 a.m.

“We have been called to become unknown heroes,
visible only to the unsleeping eye of God”

- Elder Ephraim -



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