



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

The Stavronian

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*Ἰσθρονος 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 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)***

RESPONSES TO CHRIST

Picture the scene: A man preaching about Christ and the Resurrection in the open air in front of a crowd by the House of Commons in London. He has a small band of supporters but he has gathered some interested onlookers. His audience register a range of responses and attitudes from hostility, incredulity and scepticism through to surprise and rapt attention. A photographer from the press takes a picture of the scene and puts the photo into a newspaper with the heading “**Can you believe it?**”

Now read **Acts 17:16-34!** You will see that nearly two thousand years ago there was a similar scene. The man was St. Paul and he was preaching in front of the Areopagus, the judicial council. In the lower right of the scene are two converts that Paul made Dionysius and Damaris.

An artist **Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino** (March 28, 1483 - April 6, 1520), better known simply as **Raphael** chose to capture this scene in paint and this large canvass now hangs in the V&A Museum in London courtesy of H.M. The Queen.

Perhaps it is only the century that is different. Indeed, today we have more means at our disposal of making the Gospel known but it is whether we have the courage. As Elder Porphyrios said: “*Courage is the sign of the apostle.*”

At the start of the New Ecclesiastical Year may it be our purpose to strengthen, establish and enlarge the Church in peace. It is clear that not all will believe but some will. **Acts 17 ,32;** *And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.”*

A New Year's Prayer

O Master, Lord our God, the Fountain of life and immortality, the Creator of all

things both visible and invisible, who governs the seasons and the years and guides all things with Thy wise providence; we thank Thee for all the blessings Thou has poured out upon us during the past year of our lives, and we beg Thee, O all-bountiful Lord, bless this coming year with Thy goodness, direct our civil authorities in the path of goodness, bestow Thy heavenly blessings upon all Thy people: health, salvation, and growth in virtue. Deliver Thy Holy Church, this city, from every assault of the devil, and grant us peace and tranquility. **Remember Thy Holy Church, strengthen and establish it, enlarge it and give it peace,** preserving it forever unscathed by the gates of hell and impregnable against all the assaults of visible and invisible enemies. Deliver us throughout the coming year, and all the days of our life, from famine, earthquakes, flood, epidemics, hail, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies, and from civil war, from sudden death, from sickness, calamity, and distress, from faithlessness and hardheartedness, and from grievous temptations; and grant that we may always offer thanks to Thee: the Father who is Unoriginate, together with Thine Only-begotten Son, and Thy Most Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit: God glorified in three persons; may we joyfully praise Thine all-Holy Name. Amen.



PRAYER IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

Again we pray for all those who commit injustice against their neighbours, whether by causing sorrow unto orphans or by spilling innocent blood, or by returning hatred for hatred, that Thou, O Lord our God, would grant them repentance. Enlighten their souls with the light of love towards their enemies, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.



ABUNDANT FOUNTAIN

Although the narration of holy things be often repeated, yet in a mind that feels a thirst for true knowledge the satiety will never create disgust, but it receives it every day as if it were something new and what it wanted... And so if these things have been carefully taken in and stored up in the recesses of the soul and stamped with the seal of silence, afterwards like some sweet scented wine that makes glad the heart of men, they will, when mellowed by the antiquity of the thoughts and by long-standing patience, be brought forth from the jar of your heart with great fragrance, and like some perennial fountain will flow abundantly from the veins of experience and irrigating channels of virtue and will pour forth copious streams as if from some deep well in your heart. For that will happen in your case, which is spoken in Proverbs to one who has achieved this in his work: "Drink waters from your own cisterns and from the fount of

your own wells." (Prov 5:15, 16) ... And so it will come to pass that not only every purpose and thought of your heart, but also all the wanderings and roving of your imagination will become to you a holy and unceasing pondering of the divine law."

*St John Cassian,
First Conference of Abbot Nestoros,
Chapter 13*

HOLY CROSS T-SHIRTS

Here are two pictures of Fr. Jonathan's godson Stefan-Jonathan wearing the Holy Cross T-shirt that Fr. Bogdan Georgescu will kindly send to the Parish from Romania.



Waiting for the Day to fly to Orthodox England

MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

Mother Thekla who had established an Orthodox Monastery in North Yorkshire has fallen asleep in the Lord at the end of August. She was of a great age and was looked after by some Anglican nuns in her latter years. She had a great influence on the composer John Taverner and was his spiritual mother. A former pupil of Fr. Jonathan sung at the Orthodox funeral of Mother Thekla at Sneaton Castle in Whitby which was presided over by 9 priests (including the Archbishop). May her memory be eternal!



OLD STAVRONIAN CORNER

We would like to thank Tatiani Rapatzikou, one of our Proto-Stavronians, for her kind offer of big brown candles for the church. It is very kind of you to remember us, God grant you His blessing.

We would also like to thank Fr. Bogdan Georgescu for sending 3Kg of Romanian candles made of natural wax. It is also so kind and generous of you to make the holy gift of paying for the whole cost of the “Freshers Week” Holy Cross T-shirts. Your graciousness truly humbles us.

We would like to congratulate Elpida Galataki and Damianos on their marriage! Also express our gratitude to them and Fr. Constantinos of the church of *Agios Stylianos*, Lakatamia, Cyprus, for their kind gift of large brown candles to our community. May Christ bless you both!

Anna Sedina has also sent candles for the Parish for which we would like to express our thanks once again! May God grant you His blessing!



MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

1st Sept: The Ecclesiastical New Year

8th Sept: The Nativity of our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

9th Sept: The Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna

11th Sept: St. Euphrosynus the Cook

14th Sept: The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

16th Sept: The Great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised

17th Sept: Martyr Sophia and her three daughters, Faith (Pistis, Vera), Hope (Elpis, Nadezhda) and Love (Agape, Lyubov)

19th Sept: St. Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury

23rd Sept: The Conception of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

24th Sept: St. Silouan the Athonite

25th Sept: St. Sergius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Radonezh

26th Sept: The Falling Asleep of St. John
the Evangelist and Theologian
28th Sept: St. Lioba of Wimborne, Abbess
of Bischofsheim

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



Services during September*

Sat. 3 rd	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 10 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 17 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sun. 25 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 Ephraem -



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