

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

The Stavronian

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*Πάντοκρας Χριστός, Ζωοδότης.
(Φ. Κόντογλου, 1962).*

*The Parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,
belongs to the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland.
The Patriarchate of Antioch is third senior of the Orthodox Churches.
The Patriarch is His Beatitude John X.*

*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!

CREATIVE ORDER

The popularity of Antiques programmes on T.V. does not arise simply out of a discovery of escalating value over cost. Neither are such programmes simply nostalgia trips of family interest. Perhaps interest is found in such items themselves at auction and for sale; there is an appeal to the more noble aspiration of human endeavour in the search for quality and in the recognition of excellence.

The “Arts and Crafts” movement which flourished from 1860 until around 1910 was a re-embrace of traditional craftsmanship and a reaction to mass machine production. Led by artist and

writer William Morris it sought to marry human creativity with excellence, uniqueness with functionality, individual expression with beauty of form. One of the spin offs of this movement was that it gave birth to the literary genre of fantasy- the movement inspiring JRR Tolkien to write “The Lord of the Rings”. There is today a fascination and plethora of fantasy books and games; it is a genre of fiction that commonly uses folklore and myth, magic and other supernatural phenomena without any externally defined moral boundaries.

What we find in the Creation narrative in Genesis is a Creative Order. Before the Word spoke, there was a formless void, a lack of structure, no order, no demarcation, no distinction, no separation or lines of defining boundaries. Creation obeyed the voice of God: Genesis 1:3-4; *Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.*

It is only when humankind begins to blur the boundaries that the obedient order of Creation is disturbed. Romans 8:22-24; *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

Such acts may seem “creative” at the time- the desire for greater knowledge- the building of a Tower into the heavens, but in fact they are acts of uncreation that bring chaos and disorder. Man’s desire to be creative should always be linked to obedience, freedom should be seen in the light of grace which is the fulfilment and not the obliteration of the law. The image of God is reflected in and through the ordering of His creation. Our ears should always be attuned to the still small Voice in the formless void of our own mental representational images and intentions!

Fr Jonathan

THE JERUSALEM OF THE AEGEAN

This is a name that's very frequently given to the island of Patmos; and rightly so, as, the same way the Lord in Jerusalem walked, taught and performed His miracles, likewise on the island of Patmos, He appeared before His beloved Apostle St John, walked in front of him and showed him the future of History!

But whilst there is much knowledge and research about the Book of the Apocalypse (aka the Revelation) and St John the Theologian, very little is known, especially in Western Orthodoxy, about the Saints that sprang from, or lived on this Sanctified island since the Glorious Apostle!

One such Figure, is St Prochorus the Deacon who came together with St John and was a disciple of his. He was the one who actually wrote the Book of the Apocalypse whilst his teacher narrated his visions!

A thousand years later, a Monk from Mount Latros in Asia Minor (nowadays Turkey) who was later to become known as St. Christodoulos, built a magnificent Monastery in St. John's honour that fits like a crown on top of one of the island's hills. This Monastery is built like a fortress to safeguard its monks and the people who lived around it from crusaders' attacks! St Christodoulos who was a great ascetic (some biographers say that he could perform over 6000 prostrations a day), acquired the Lord's grace and became a Wonderworker and the second Patron of the island of Patmos. His holy relics are, to this day, treasured in his own Monastery, a source of sanctification and many miracles!

St Leontius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem who came to Patmos as a pilgrim but was miraculously instructed by God to stay on the island; he later became an

Abbot of St Christodoulos' Monastery and an exemplary Monk in terms of humility, asceticism and love!



Another important Saint was Hierodeacon Makarios Kalogeras. Born to a wealthy family, he went on to study in Constantinople, the most important City of the time, and whilst there, he came in contact with important personalities and completed many years of study. After becoming a Deacon, he went back to Patmos where in 1713 he founded the Patmias School. He did so, in order to help the island and the Nation who were under oppression from the Turkish rulers. The students were taught free-of-charge, and the education was a quality one. The Patmias School became one of the most significant schools of the country, more buildings were built as its students exceeded 100 and Makarios became known as "Teacher-of-the-Nation". He fell asleep in the Lord in 1737. He was never raised above the rank of a Deacon, because, as he said himself, he was much more pleased to serve instead of being served.

The Patmias School of the Nation, one of the most ancient Schools of Europe that still exist to this day, gave rise to many students, some of whom were inspired by its founder and the sacred environment to live a holy life and become Saints themselves! Such people were Gerasimos Vizantios, who took over the School's direction after St Makarios and who was also tonsured a Monk in the Monastery of St John. Also, the Ecumenical Patriarch Gregory V and Platon Aivazidis who were both hanged by the Ottomans. St Dorotheos, Bishop of Adrianople and a great scientist and teacher was also a Patmias student!

Moreover, a number of Holy People came to the island for various reasons and connected their name with its land. Such people were the "Kollyvades" St Makarios Archbishop of Corinth and St Gregory of Grava who used the Monastery's infinite academic resources to start writing the Philokalia, an invaluable collection of texts on Orthodox Hesychasm! Also, the Martyr Parthenios Partheniadis and Niphon the Cenobiarch.

The Monastery also holds a number of holy Relics from various important Saints such as the glorious Apostle Thomas, St Antipas, Bishop of Pergamon and Martyr Pachomy the Athonite from Russia.

A special mention should be made of two holy figures of the later days. The first, Elder Theoktistos came to Patmos in 1875 and told its people very little about his previous life. He lived for certain time-periods on various segregated places around the island where he would build a small hut and give his life to prayer. Some rumours said he was a Bishop but it was never confirmed. He would always go to the Monastery for Sundays and Feast days. He was always calm, quiet and inspired reverence and respect. He would occasionally leave his hermitage to visit certain troubled homes unannoun-

ced. On knocking the door he'd say: "do you want to accept me? The Lord sent me. If you don't want me you may send me away but the Lord will be sad". With his wise, loving advice and prayer he helped many people, lay and clerics, with various problems. He would perform 2000 prostrations daily and he prayed fervently and in tears for his sins and the sins of others! On Holy Tuesday 1917, while the sun set, the great ascetic's Soul flew out of his tired 87 year old body to meet his Lord. The people of the island, after 42 years of caring, loving, and wisdom-filled advice had lost their spiritual father, a fact they mourned extensively.

However, the Lord who cares for His people, did not leave the Patmians without spiritual support. Born in 1888 in Patmos, Elder Amphilochios Makris was to become one of the most important Spiritual Fathers of our days! He became an Abbot of the Monastery at the time of the Italian occupation of the area. Whilst at this position, he founded the female Convent of the Annunciation (1937) and ensured the nuns taught the children the Greek language and other useful skills while they were also taught the glories of the Greek history in an attempt to have their patriotic feelings strengthened. For his action he was exiled from the island by the Italians, a fact which, nonetheless, gave him the chance to meet important spiritual figures such as Saint Nektarios and help many people as well as to found an Orphanage in Crete. When he was able to return to Patmos, with the encouragement of the Metropolitan of Rhodes, he undertook the Rhodes Orphanage where he put Sisters from the Annunciation Monastery in charge. He supported many missionary efforts mainly in Africa and he encouraged many people to work there. He had many spiritual children whom he supported and guided with great care. He loved God with all his

being and this love extended to humans and the entire nature. His spiritual children were all asked to plant trees and care for them. He organised them to pray in various times of the day for the Greek nation, the Church and other causes so that there would be prayers on a 24-hour basis! He would travel many miles with the elementary means of the time in order to support people who were in need. His immense ascetic struggles which he kept secret as much as he could, elevated him to Saint-hood. He reposed on Good and Holy Friday 1970 and since then he has worked many miracles. This fact, in combination with his holy life, made many people talk about a contemporary Saint, something that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is taking seriously under consideration and there is information that he will be officially canonised soon!

These are the Saints and holy figures of this island which is indeed small in size but huge in Spiritual Treasures!

A Patmian

References:

1. Blog "[Orthodoxia](#)" (in Greek)
2. Blog "[Full of Grace and Truth](#)"
3. [Orthodox Synaxarion](#) (in Greek)

PUBLICATIONS FROM IOCS

The Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies (IOCS), an allied institution of the University of Cambridge, announces new publications! Please follow the link [here](#) to have a look!



NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES TO BE REMEMBERED THIS MONTH

May 26: Paraskevi

Please send us the names of your departed loved ones and date of their departure in order for them to be remembered.

PARISH NEWS

We would like to thank [Alexa Potraskof](#) for her kindness to buy new sand for our candle stand, which was especially useful during Pascha! May God give the blessing and reward!

Donations: Our Parish has contributed £200 towards the building of the [Monastery on Mull](#). The Parish has also donated £300 as an offering to the University for our use of the Chaplaincy Centre. We additionally thank the family who kindly paid for Liability Insurance for our Community!

OLD STAVRONIAN CORNER

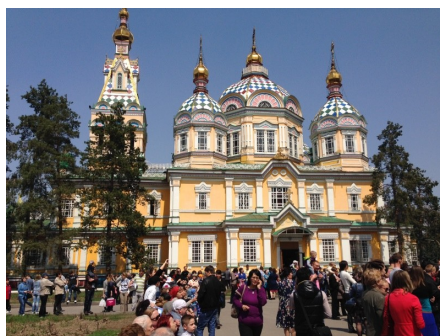
[Ioanna Nassiopoulou](#) from Greece has sent us plastic holders for the Paschal candles, as well as incense and charcoal; we thank her for her generosity of spirit!

Fr Jonathan received news from [Fr Deacon Ionut and Diaconissa Maria](#), who has now delivered their second daughter Ekaterini in Cyprus. We wish her many years and pray that St Catherine will keep her under her protection!

We would wholeheartedly like to thank [Eutychia Schini](#) from Cyprus for a big parcel that Fr. Jonathan received for our Parish. It consists of children books

and Bible, a large box of incense, a large bottle of communion Nama wine, two small blessing crosses, one large silver and wood blessing cross, an icon of St Herakleidios -our Parish has links with the nuns at St Herakleidios Monastery in Politiko Cyprus, who kindly pray for us-, a large packet of candles and a small packet of candles! What can we say except thank you and God may give the reward for these beautiful gifts!

Anna Sedina sends Paschal greetings from Kazakhstan! A few photos follow below.



MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

5th May: The Great Martyr Irene

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

11th May: Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Equal-to-the Apostles

15th May: St. Pachomius the Great Martyr

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

23rd May: The retrieval of the relics of St. Joachim of Ithaca

25th May: The 3rd Finding of the Precious Head of the Forerunner and Baptist John

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

Services during May*

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	Hours and Typica by the laity in R.C.
Sun. 25 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in Q.R. followed by Parish lunch

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

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



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