

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

The Stavronian

a monthly magazine & newsletter published by the 'Holy Cross Synodia'



*Ἦθρονος 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!

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

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!



THE WILD GOOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

On the Wednesday of Bright week a small group of pilgrims set out from Holy Cross, Lancaster on Pilgrimage to visit St Herbert's Island. We were blessed with a visit to Fr. John Muster's lovely house chapel and Church in Braithwaite; after this we rowed across Derwentwater to the Island of the hermit Saint Herbert. We were met by a honking Goose who then after making his presence known disappeared. Indeed, when I have made this Pilgrimage to this Holy Island before, almost every time the Goose's presence has been there by the cell of St Herbert, audible and confrontational. In the Celtic tradition, the Holy Spirit is represented not as a dove but as a Wild Goose (An Geadh-Glas).



Geese are noisy and difficult to control. You can't easily make a wild goose bend to your will. They are raucous and loud-challenging those who approach them and defending that which is their territory. Unlike the sweet and calming cooing of a dove which is the common symbol of the Holy Spirit the goose is strident and a little unsettling. I think this is an important symbol because the Holy Spirit should confront us in our easy comfort zones!

In much the same way the Spirit of God can be demanding and unsettling. We only have to consider the story of Pentecost, and what an impression the disciples made on the crowds.

Celtic Christians saw the whole of life as a pilgrimage, they employed simple yet poetic prayers, they had a vivid sense of the presence of the saints, of the angelic and unseen world. The Wild Goose will certainly awaken us out of complacency and stir us into movement.

Fr Jonathan



Photos of Fr Jonathan, Jessica, Kleio, Apostolos and Nausica at St Herbert's island taken by Aidan.

STATUS' IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL

What do we really desire and why? Our contemporary society advertises (through the media) manifold answers, but it can all pretty much be boiled down to unholy triad of Money, Fame and Power. Why do we desire these things? An evolutionist answer would connect or even identify them as the basic survival tools: possessing one or more of these three is increasing our human chances of both flourishing and propagating; but all three combined – guarantees easy, successful and pleasurable 'life-sailing'.

Whether possession of MFP exhausts our deepest desires is the question that we need to focus on with much more attention. In Genesis 2, God asks Adam to give names to the animals. Such a bestowal of authority on the first humans has been resonating in our hearts since the very beginning of time. Divine power communicates Trust, Respect as well as Admiration; by inviting us to participate in His creative work. Can there be a more exciting vocation ever imagined?

If Trust and Respect and Admiration are part of our 'primordial experience', do we continue to have them as an expectation in our everyday lives? I believe that

answer is yes – not only expect, but long, crave and constantly strive to have them permanently. But, can money, fame and power replace or perhaps somehow meet these expectations in relation to others?

Let's imagine a rich person whose source of wealth was a lottery win. Is she admired because of her wealth? Not at all; flattered, envied or simply hated –yes, but never respected. She could maybe gain some admiration by giving her money away to good causes or a charity – but that's a different story.

What about fame? Supermodels may be famous for their looks, but are they respected? Again fame is the source of secret envy - but it will not last beyond her good looks. Also, fame is often quite ambiguous – it can easily be reversed to infamy, given enough time and few facts exposed.

And power? Powerful people control the lives of others, while living lives full of poisonous doubts. Politicians and oligarchs have enormous power – but they are isolated through their ever-increasing fear of those who look to their positions. They don't trust anyone and rarely inspire trust in anyone.

MFP does not equal trust and respect or admiration. Our basic survival chances are strengthened through them, but our lives could never be fulfilled and actualised just by chasing money, fame and power. To have a Status that is good enough for us - our lives still need to encounter the Eden-based experience of being a creature that inspires deep reaction in others.

Christ rejected, fully and eternally, the appeal of MFP during His temptations in the Desert, He also eventually decided to let go of the attachment of being trusted, admired and respected as well. His disciples betrayed (in Judas' case), denied (St. Peter) and were ashamed of Him. His enemies mocked him and tried to humiliate and undermine Him. It is too easy to

forget that He could have chosen otherwise if He wanted so.

So, where does this leaves the rest of us? The race for MFP not only about mere survival has something to do with our self-esteem as well. Many (mistakenly) believe that money, fame and power MUST deliver to us desired status and high self-esteem. In reality, it is God's estimate of our own worth that really counts. We want to be trusted, admired and respected, because that is our divinely given promise

Will we ever seek out trust instead of power; admiration rather than money; respect rather than fame? We tend to turn everything into an idol; God-mediated admiration, trust and respect can become a basis for the cultivation of Pride- the worst of all human passions.

Our significance as God-imaged creature, nevertheless, resides in the recognition of being someone worthy of admiration, respect and trustworthiness – nothing else truly matters to us. We must increase our efforts to replace the value of MFP in our lives, by recognising the source of our true desires and we need to carefully discern the impact that the world has on us, and its subtle ways in tempting us away from Truth, Beauty and Goodness.

It's a perilous journey, in which the only reliable compass is our humble faith and our modest hope is eternally embodied in the Person and Works of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

*Aleksandar Miljkovic
London*



NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES TO BE REMEMBERED THIS MONTH

May 26: Paraskeui

MEMORY ETERNAL!

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



PARISH NEWS

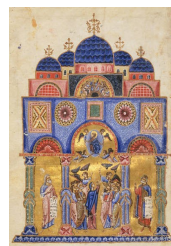
On Apr. 26th, Paul Morgan was joyfully received in the Faith via the Holy Sacrament of [Chrismation](#). We warmly welcome him and give him and his family our best wishes for a spiritually fruitful journey in the Faith! May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ give the blessing!



Fr Jonathan has given, on behalf of the Parish, a cheque of £300 to the Catholic chaplain as our donation for the use of the RC chapel, quiet room and facilities in the Chaplaincy Centre.

OLD STAVRONIAN CORNER

We extend our many thanks to [Maria Christofidou](#), [Eutychia Schini](#), [Sophocles and Angeliki Iouliauou](#), [Konstantinos Papakonstantinou](#) from Cyprus, as well as [Tatiani Rapatzikou](#), [Konstantinos Bratsas](#), [Ioanna Nasiopoulou](#), [Nikolaos Andrielos](#), [Thomas Tziortziotis](#), [Maria](#) and [Antonia Eleutheriadou](#) from Greece for their Paschal gifts of large and small white candles, plastic candle holders, icon cards of the Resurrection and red dye to paint our Easter eggs! May God bless you richly for your kindness! We express our gratitude on behalf of everybody at the Parish of Holy Cross, which is God's, ours and yours!



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: The Holy Ascension and 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

31st May: The Holy Pentecost

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

Services during May*

Sat. 2 nd	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 9 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 16 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 23 rd	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sun. 31 st	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 -



For further information please contact:

Father Jonathan Hemmings
67 Sibsey Str., Fairfield, Lancaster, LA1 5DQ
Tel: +44 1524 840759, +44 1524 580600

Email: frjah@yahoo.co.uk
www.orthodox-lancaster.org.uk
www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk

