



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

***The Stavronian***

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

*The Parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,  
belongs to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian 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)***

## REPAIRING TIME

I have in my possession two wrist watches that do not work. The one I bought not long ago was quite expensive, but of the old fashioned wind-up type. The other I inherited from my father which is special. It is an automatic which self winds through the action of the wrist. I took these to a local jeweller who specialised in watches and said one was irreparable and the other not worth being repaired as it would be too expensive.

Here we have two responses. One which says, it cannot be repaired it cannot be put back together in working order. The other it is not worth spending time and energy on such a watch.

If we were watches would God take either of these views? Most certainly not! Indeed the one who creates us out of nothing and puts us together cares for our life. The problem is that we can waste time, we can lose time. For some, time stops in a stupor or torpor! We may not add time but we can repair and recover time. For Christians who are adopted children of God live in *Kairos* not *chronos*. We have been given moments of eternity and opportunities which will restore Paradise. Our recreation can be a time for re-creation, our holidays can be holy-days with Christ.

### Re-Creation

Beyond all things was God the Word  
From the void of eternity  
Time and space in creation heard  
The Voice speaking infinitely.

Spirit of God on the waters  
Divine Word of life in the night  
“Creatio ex nihilo”  
Father said “Let there be light!”

You divided light from darkness  
You split the first atom to say  
How we should separate evil  
And distinguish the night from day.

Lord, you brought chaos to order  
Your great Wisdom cushioned the deep  
Recording a holy cosmos  
Awakening formless sleep.

You placed the orbits and quasars  
Winding the clock into time  
The coherence behind the laser  
The reason within the rhyme.

You bring pure joy out of sadness  
You still bring life out of breath  
Sanity in human madness  
Gladdening sorrowing death.

The real hub in revolution  
The one who planted the Tree  
Adam and Eve-lution  
The One who caused things to be.

The Great Mover pushed the button  
Silence before seraphim sang  
Infinite God formed the finite  
The Big One made the Big Bang.

One of our parishioners took the watches to their country and both have been repaired! Having the will, learning patience and applying wisdom is a recipe for repair for most things.

*Fr Jonathan*



## THE CROSS AND JOY OF MOTHERHOOD

As we journey along the hard yet joyous road of motherhood, the most holy Theotokos accompanies each of us, mothers, and inspires us. As mothers, we have been granted the very special gift of experiencing in a very small and imperfect measure the feelings that the Mother of God must have gone through and still does as the Mother of us all.

When we read and pray the words of Saint Luke's Gospel "*And behold you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest.*" We cannot but share the feeling of wonder and awe of the Theotokos, as she replies "*How can this be...?*"

Every mother has experienced a shadow of this wonder, when she discovered or was announced that she carries a child in her womb. The mystery of conception is so great that it is with awe we must receive the gift of life within us. At times, the amazing joy is shadowed by practical considerations and anxieties, just as the Mother of God felt "troubled", since the time and circumstances did not seem propitious in human terms. Ultimately, any worries about material considerations are subdued by the unspeakable joy of motherhood.

The baby's first cry, so dear and yet so painful upon the first breath of life marks in some way the pain of separation. After the pangs of labour, the joy of a mother at seeing her baby for the first time also contains a grain of sadness, what was perfect oneness is now two persons, mother and child. From that moment onwards, motherhood becomes an exercise of dying to oneself a little each day in order to give more. A mother gives up her own will and desires in order to minister to the needs of her child. Just as

Mary follows her Son all the way to the Cross to "minister to him" and has her heart pierced, so does every Christian mother, called to bear the sufferings and to partake in the joys of their child.

Every step towards independence of a child brings great joy to a mother's heart. Can we ever forget our child's baptism and first Holy Communion, their first word or first step, the emotion of the first day at school? And yet with each new step they take towards independence, they need us and want us a little less. The wisdom of love teaches us that letting go is a part of motherhood's daily cross. We have to view our children as a gift and ourselves as the custodians of these special gifts, always remembering that all comes from God and belongs to Him. In this light we can better understand the words of the Gospel: "*he who loves son or daughter more than Me, is not worthy of Me*" Matthew 10:37.

Through all our anxious moments when our children are ill, sad or appear lost, we must remember, that these feelings are only a drop in the ocean compared to what the Mother of God must have felt caring and protecting the Son of God Himself. Similarly, what must She have felt when she discovered her Son missing while journeying away from Jerusalem! When she finds Him, just like any mother, she is both relieved and perturbed saying "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have sought you anxiously?"

"*She will be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control*" Timothy 1:15. Motherhood, lived in Christ is indeed a way to holiness and sanctification. As our children grow, we must diminish in their life, to allow for their own ministry to flourish. All four Gospels depict the Mother of Christ standing and watching by Cross as the apostles and Jesus' followers have run

away in fright. We stand with Mary and the Galilean women at the foot of the Cross, bearing our own children's small crosses and sharing in the suffering of The Most Holy Mother of all.

*Martha and Mary*

## WITHOUT TREES

Ξέρει άραγε κανείς ότι υπάρχει η Εντέκατη εντολή, η όποια δεν έχει καταγραφεί στη Βίβλο και λέει «Αγάπα τα δέντρα»; Αυτοί που δεν αγαπούν τα δέντρα, δεν αγαπούν το Χριστό.

— *Γέροντας Αμφιλόχιος της Πάτμου*

Does anyone know that there is an Eleventh commandment, which is not mentioned in the Bible, and says "Love the trees"? Whoever doesn't love the trees, they don't love Christ.

— *Elder Amphilochios of Patmos*

Without trees, there is no shade

Without trees, no icons are made

Without trees, no barbecue for heat

Without trees, there is no fruit to eat

Without trees, there is no home for birds

Without trees, no paper for these words.

*Fr Jonathan*

## SAYINGS FROM THE CELTIC FATHERS

Can it be out of the kindness of my heart that I carry out such a labour of mercy on a people who once captured me when they wrecked my father's house and carried off his servants? For by descent I was a freeman, born of a decurion father; yet I have sold this nobility of mine, I am not

ashamed, nor do I regret that it might have meant some advantage to others. In short, I am a slave in Christ to this faraway people for the indescribable glory of "everlasting life which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

— St Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland  
(†461)

## PARISH NEWS

Our Archbishop Sayedna Silouan is visiting the Parish on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April. For those who would like to meet him, please contact Fr Jonathan to learn the details of Bishop Silouan's visit in Lancaster.

We are so very grateful to those who remember us in their prayers and show their love as generous benefactors of our Parish. We would like to thank Nikolaos Georgopoulos and Christodoulos Skebes for sending us large brown candles made in the Monastery of St John the Theologian, Patmos, Greece. May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ give the reward!



*Photo of the Parish with the beautiful Cristelnita, i.e. Baptismal Font, which was sent by Fr Bogdan Georgescu and donors from his Parish in Ploiesti, Romania! We are so grateful to the donors of this most precious gift, and we pray that it may have much use to the glory of God!*



## NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES TO BE RE- MEMBERED THIS MONTH

Apr. 8: *Evangelos*

Apr. 14: *Jeanne*

Apr. 16: *Aristides*

### MEMORY ETERNAL!

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



## MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

1<sup>st</sup> Apr: **St. Mary of Egypt**

5<sup>th</sup> Apr: **The Great Cannon of St Andrew of Crete**

20<sup>th</sup> Apr: **Lazarus Saturday**

21<sup>st</sup> Apr: **Palm Sunday**

26<sup>th</sup> Apr: **Holy Friday**

27<sup>th</sup> Apr: **Holy Saturday**

28<sup>th</sup> Apr: **Great and Holy Pascha**

29<sup>th</sup> Apr: **St George the Great Martyr and Triumphant**

30<sup>th</sup> Apr: **The Apostles St Mark and St James**

For the lives of Saints please visit the Calendar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: [www.calendar.goarch.org](http://www.calendar.goarch.org)



## Services at St Martin's in April\*

<b>Fri. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	18:30	Akathist to the Theotokos and Little Compline
<b>Sat. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	13:30	Bishop Silouan's Welcome
<b>Sun. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	09:30	Matins, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and Memorial
	12:15	Blessing of the foundation of our Sunday School
<b>Fri. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	18:30	Akathist to the Theotokos
<b>Sat. 13<sup>th</sup></b>	13:30	Great Vespers, Memorial, Confessions and Catechism
<b>Sun. 14<sup>th</sup></b>	09:30	Matins and Divine Liturgy
<b>Sat. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	13:30	Great Vespers, Memorial, Confessions and Catechism
<b>Sun. 21<sup>st</sup></b>	09:30	Matins and Divine Liturgy
<b>Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	18:00	<u>Great Monday</u> Matins
<b>Tue. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	18:00	<u>Great Tuesday</u> Matins
<b>Wed. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	18:00	<u>Great Wednesday</u> Matins and Euchelaeon Service
<b>Thurs. 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00	<u>Great Thursday</u> , Divine Liturgy of St Basil - Mystical Supper
	18:00	The Twelve Gospels
<b>Fri. 26<sup>th</sup></b>	09:00	<u>Great and Holy Friday</u> , Royal Hours
	10:00	Preparation of Epitaphion
	13:00	Great Vespers and Confessions
	18:00	Matins, Lamentations, and Procession of Epitaphion
<b>Sat. 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00	<u>Great and Holy Saturday</u> , Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
	22:00	Receiving of the Holy Light and Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection, followed by refreshments to break the fast
<b>Sun. 28<sup>th</sup></b>	15:00	Vespers of Love followed by Parish Feast

\*Help setting up the church is greatly appreciated and starts half an hour before the service.

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



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The following blogs of Old Stavronians are available in Romanian, [Constiinta Ortodoxa](#), in English, [Orthodox city hermit](#), and in Greek, [Orthodoxy rainbow](#).

