



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

The Stavronian

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*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.
Our Metropolitan is His Eminence Bishop Silouan.
Our Patriarch is His Beatitude John X.*

*The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch
(Acts 11:26)*

Often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

المسيح قام ! حقا قام

(Al-Masih-Qam! Hakkan Qam!)

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

(Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!)

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

Христос възкресе! Наистина възкресе!

(Khristos vzkrese! Naistina vzkrese!)

Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!

(Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!)

Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Chrystus zmartwychwsta! Prawdziwie zmartwychwsta!

(Kristus zmertvykh-vstau! Pradzivie zmertvykh-vstau!)

Kristus (ir) augšāmcēlies! Patiesi viņš ir augšāmcēlies!

(Kristus (ir) aughsham-elias! Patiesi vin ir aughsham-elias!)

Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto!

Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment Il est ressuscité!

Cristo ressuscitou! Verdadeiramente ressuscitou!

Cristo ha resucitado! Verdaderamente, ha resucitado!

基督復活了 他確實復活了

ハリストス復活! 実に復活!



FRAGMENTS OF GLORY

Isaiah 60:13

"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the cypress together to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious."

Fragments of glory are dispersed but whole
For "Grace remains entire with every part"
The Cross an imprint for a wounded soul,
Three types of wood for a pierced heart:

*These substances were grown **for** Thee
The Fir, the Pine, the Cypress tree*

The splendour of Lebanon came to Him,
And by invitation comes to set free
Unworthy ones, to beautify their lives
With the dust of His earthly sanctuary:

*These substances were shaped **by** Thee
The Fir, the Pine, the Cypress Tree*

Take and venerate these earthly remains
Righteous remnants that Lot* watered in the

Law.

Three trees grew together for His holy pains
To construct the frame of the New Temple's
door:

*These substances were met in Thee
The Fir, the Pine, the Cypress Tree.*

“Why? For what purpose did these trees meet?”
Truth to tell.....
To make glorious His holy feet!

“For any other reason?” do I hear you ask,
“This meeting of the Threefold Tree?”
With tears I whisper...yes...for you and me!

<http://orthodoxchurchquotes.com/2015/03/19/ten-triopian-worshipping-thee-o-christ-our-god-with-cedar-pine-and-cypress/>

*There is a tradition that the three trees from
which the True Cross was constructed grew
together in one place. A traditional Orthodox icon
depicts Lot, the nephew of Abraham, watering
these trees

Christ is Risen!

Fr Jonathan

THREE GARDENS, THREE SISTERS, THREE SAINTS

Gardening has been our joy for a few years now
and one of the things that bind us together in spirit.
We each have an allotment now, overseen and
protected by a saint from the British Isles, who has
deigned to accompany us and help us in our
endeavours. Saint Melangell, with her love of all
living creation, Saint Hilda with her strong
determination have now been joined by Saint
Brigid the great healer and miracle worker.

As we have discussed many times and written
about, many parallels can be drawn between
gardening and spiritual life. They are both
governed by the miracle of life/faith hidden in a
tiny mustard seed. Both faith and plants require
care and nurture, good soil, feeding, watering and
weeding in order to grow and flourish.

When gardening, despite the sweat and dirt,
the hard work and tiredness, sometimes the
injuries, the spirit is mysteriously revived for no
apparent reason. It is true that not all people feel
the same, but us three sisters have often remarked
on the uplifting power of nature in our lives.
Being outdoors surrounded by the gentle sounds
and smells of the garden has a calming and
healing effect on the body and mind as going to
church has on the spirit.

Although we grow the same fruit and
vegetables, our allotments are very different and
pose different challenges. I think they are a mirror
of our personality and of the way we approach
spirituality as well. One of us is orderly and very
caring and worries a lot about how to approach
tasks, another allotment is wild and full of weeds,
it gets a great overhaul regularly but slowly the
weeds creep back, and the third very homely, a
little like a beehive where people come and go,
sometimes a little wild but always welcoming.

This year we have dwelt on three particular
aspects of gardening. Firstly the cyclicity of the
gardening year with the well-regulated succession
of flowers. Crocuses succeed snowdrops, then the
daffodils start dotting the fields, followed by
tulips, after which peonies appear and then
sunflowers and later chrysanthemums and so on
and so forth until winter brings the delicate
cyclamens and winter roses (hellebores) and then
it all begins again with snowdrops... There are
flowers for every season and specific times for
every action. A crop can be ruined by planting
even a couple of days too early. There is a time
that was ordained for everything. Similarly, in the
church year there is a time for everything, for
feasting and fasting, for repenting and rejoicing.
Each saint as each flower has a well ordered place
and time. The story of our salvation repeats year
after year and we are invited to join in and enter
this mystery a little deeper every year. It goes the
same for our personal spiritual growth. God alone
knows the right time and way in which we must
increase spiritually: a challenge, an encounter, a
misfortune...it all happens at the right time for
each of us. Just so, gardening is essentially about
right timing. I read somewhere that our God is a
“seasonal “ God although He is unchanging, our
self and our relationship with him follows
nature’s seasonal pattern. These gentle changes in
our life and spiritual life are necessary for our
growth. There are rainy times and sunny joyous

times, times of drought, when we are on the brink of despair but then our Father sends his gentle merciful shower of grace. Spiritual drought is as necessary as the shower of grace.

This year, which is my fifth season of serious gardening I started musing about the joys of spring. Spring brings hope to the gardener, last year's slate is wiped clean, and any mistake which was made is a thing of the past and an increase in wisdom. Spring is a new chance and a new lease of life; this will be a better year, we won't repeat the mistakes of the previous years and the promise of amazing fruit can be seen in the tiny seed. Just so, our God is a God of chances and of slates wiped clean. He gives us endless chances and wipes the slate clean after every confession.

Finally, I remembered when I first started being alert to nature and enjoying gardening. It was as if I had fallen in love with plants. Planting seeds and watching them germinate was particularly fascinating. I was so alert and excited, I could barely sleep and felt consumed but also extremely happy. I would wake up at unearthly hours in the morning and creep around in the dark so I could do some planting on the kitchen table before I started work. This morning routine fed me joy and kept me going until the end of the day. After 5 years though I have settled into a healthier relationship with nature. I do not feel giddy at the thought of spending 2 hours in the garden but rather I find my balance in it, I do not despair if the rabbits eat all my cabbages or if I have overwatered the cucumbers, but I accept that some things will not bear fruit but others will and that I have made mistakes. Reflecting on this change in my gardening life, I am reminded of the changes in relationships -- after the first tumultuous year of marriage where emotions run high and all thought is about one's husband or wife, we settle into a wiser love, a gentler and more real and lasting feeling. I am also reminded of the zeal of my spiritual youth. When I first came to love God, the beginning of my conversion, I experienced a mixture of wretchedness at my unworthiness and the state of the world and absolute elation at being so loved by God. It was not a comfortable feeling... being in love hardly ever is. There is a mixture of joy and pain and yearning which is difficult to sustain long term. Just as in the garden, I have accepted that some of my good plans will bear fruit and some will not, sometimes I will feel devoid of grace or joy but I still need to put in the

work in prayer and deeds, that ultimately it is all in God's providence. So, in the garden, in marriage or in prayer we should give Glory and thanksgiving to God for fruit and love and grace since all is gift from the Almighty and humbly accept the dry and arid times where our work seems fruitless, always remembering all the past blessings and hoping for the ones to come.

Martha and Mary

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.

MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

7th May: Sunday of the Paralytic

10th May: Simon the Zealot & Apostle

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

14th May: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

15th May: St. Pachomius the Great Martyr

21st May: Sunday of the Blind Man. Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the Apostles

23th May: The retrieval of the relics of St.

Joachim of Ithaca

25th May: Holy Ascension

26th May: Third Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist

28th May: Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

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

Services at St Martin's in May

Sat. 6 th	16:00	Great Vespers
Sun. 7 th	09:30	Holy Liturgy. 4 th Sunday of Pascha (<i>Note earlier time</i>)
Sat. 13 th	16:00	Great Vespers
Sun. 14 th	09:45	Holy Liturgy. 5 th Sunday of Pascha
Sat. 20 th	16:00	Great Vespers
Sun. 21 st	09:45	Holy Liturgy. 6 th Sunday of Pascha
Wed. 24 th	18:30	Leave Taking of Pascha; Vespers for the Ascension in Church followed by refreshments
Sat. 27 th	16:00	Great Vespers
Sun. 28 th	09:45	Holy Liturgy. 7 th Sunday of Pascha (Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council 325)

“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](#).

