

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

20 MARCH 2021

No. 20

*Weekly Worship, Events & Announcements —
Submissions Welcome!*

Upcoming Week

- ❖ Please pray for newly departed Kussay, Cyril, Elias, for the sick Peter & Philip.
 - ❖ Sunday service at home: [Typika Service](#) (click top left triple-bar menu, choose 'Sacraments & Services,' then 'Liturgy'), used with [Liturgy - Variable Parts](#)
 - ❖ Archdiocesan [Sunday bulletin](#)
 - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
 - ❖ Online [9.30 Sunday Matins & Liturgy](#) at Holy Wisdom Cathedral, London
 - ❖ Online [10.30 Sunday Liturgy](#) at St Nicholas Parish, Oxford
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Events & Announcements

Sunday 21 March marks [Sunday of Orthodoxy](#). (The following week is a strict fast.) Children may be intrigued by [this video](#) — an Ionian church has revived the practice of adding a holy dance to the icon procession, with children as the dancers.

Monday 22 March, Fr Ian will be one of the participants in the third Women's Orthodox Ministries [webinar](#), 'Human Sexuality' (7pm).

Thursday 25 March is the feast of Annunciation — we wish our sister Parish of the Annunciation a blessed feastday and many years! It is also Greek Independence Day, with 2021 marking an important anniversary (see related links below).

Are we renewed [by our Orthodox Faith], are we hallowed each and every day, are we setting ourselves aright, are we attaining the perfection which the saints have reached? Are we becoming perfect in love for God and our neighbours; do we cherish our Faith; do we regard the mercy of God as the greatest happiness in our life? —St John of Kronstadt, Homily for the first Sunday of Lent

From Fr Ian

Dear Friends,

As we progress into Lent many of us try to put aside some special time for concentrating on our spiritual life. I spoke last week of the traditional disciplines of prayer, fasting and charity, and these are an important part of our development. But we may also want to feed our souls with something which takes us further into the life of God and into our faith. A common practice is to find some suitable Lenten reading which can challenge us and lead us into a deeper awareness of God's love and his call to us. Here are some suggestions.

Our foundational text is, of course, the Bible, and if we are unfamiliar with it (as many Orthodox Christians are) Lent is a good time to do some Bible reading. The best place to start is with the Gospels, and, as I have said before, the best place to start the Gospels is at the Gospel of St Mark. This short and direct text brings us straight into the presence of the Lord after whom we are called to pattern our lives. This was the experience of Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, whose life and work was directly attributable to his encounter with Christ in the Gospel.

He distilled some of his experience into his books, and *Living Prayer* and *School for Prayer* are brief but powerful introductions to one of the Lenten disciplines. To learn to pray we must pray, and Metropolitan Anthony's guidebooks help us travel through that territory. Some people find it helpful to pray with the words of the church services. In Lent we especially use the words from the Lenten Triodion, and the services for the weekends and for Holy Week can be consulted [online](#). An alternative text which includes all the weekday services, too, can be found [here](#). Musical settings of some of the Lenten hymns can be found by following the "Text/Music" links in the services provided by [AGES Initiatives](#), and clicking on the musical symbol. (St Augustine of Hippo reminds us that to sing is to pray twice!)

Finally, a couple of challenging classics. Tito Colliander's *The Way of the Ascetics* was one of the first books that I read on my journey into the Orthodox Church, and it is one that I still return to regularly. He has compiled what is in effect an anthology of patristic instruction on how to live the spiritual life, which is as much for lay people as it is for monastics. Every chapter repays careful reading; every page has something to ponder. An online version of the text can be found [here](#). The same website has a sampler of the sayings of the [Desert Fathers](#). These are some of the originals from which Tito Colliander worked. Again they are not to be rushed through. To chew over one or two a day will give us plenty to think about in Lent.

I hope that if you are looking for some helpful reading in Lent you will find some of these suggestions useful.

With my love to you all,

Fr Ian

25 March Events (1821 – 2021)

2021 is the 200th year since the start of the Greek War of Independence:

- The Archdiocese is offering a talk [in Greek](#) on 'Religious Figures of the Greek Revolution' (25 mins).
- The [21in21 website](#) offers an extensive programme of events '...celebrating the 2021 bicentenary of the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence in 21 Greek-British encounters.'
- Finally you may wish to join a [virtual panel discussion](#) with Professor Stathis Kalyvas and Professor Aristides Hatzis on the Greek Revolution of 1821, at 6pm on Friday 2 April.



Sunday of Orthodoxy: Reverencing the holy icons is proof that we confess that God became a describable person, that the Word of God was truly incarnated and became a person, but also that people truly become children of God and vessels of the Holy Spirit, temples of God and members of Christ. We reverence the holy icons of the Saints and their holy relics because God dwelt in them. So we celebrate the restitution of the holy icons and have the blessed custom of carrying them in procession, of honouring and embracing the icons of Christ and Our Lady and the Saints of the Church. —Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol ([Source](#))



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**Please remember
Holy Trinity Parish
in your prayers!**

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