

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

10 APRIL 2021

No. 23

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

Upcoming Week

- ❖ Please pray for newly departed Tsvetanka, Nicholas, and 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

Please sign up for Sunday liturgies in April [here](#), and Friday night *Chairetismoï* services [here](#). The Church has to be well ventilated in the current health crisis, so please remember to **dress warmly!**

Sunday 11 April marks the fourth Sunday of Lent, dedicated to [St John of the Ladder](#). (The following week is a strict fast.)

We have had some Archdiocesan guidance for Holy Week and Pascha services given current health regulations, and scheduling is well underway. We have asked the Archbishop for further advice in light of our usual community practices, and we expect that the service plan will be shared with everyone shortly.

Tuesday 13 April, Joint Parish Council meeting at 6.30pm. Also, the **Parish AGM** will be online and has been scheduled for **Sunday, 6 June 2021**.

Sunday 28 March, Elijah Blu Honey was baptised in our church. His godparent was his grandfather, Paul Burgess. Many years!

Greetings from Bede



We have profiled various parish volunteers in past bulletins, and it is lovely now to hear from Bede, a Reader who has served the community with concern and diligence for over 40 years. We have all missed seeing you regularly in Church!

It is now more than a year since I was at a service in the Church of the Holy Trinity and the Annunciation. I have been there to set up the seating plan, to affix notices for safe use of the church, to deliver PPE, to ensure that hand sanitisers worked, to deliver candles and palm crosses, to prepare for feast days, to collect money from the candle desk to count and bank it on occasions. So why have I not been to services? I have been avoiding any meetings with anyone outside my household, unless two metres away and all wearing face masks; and not for any length of time when people were speaking. My wife Jenny has a rare lung disease and she has been told that she is extremely vulnerable and must shield. In turn, if I go to places which may mean encountering a person who has Covid-19, I could take the virus back to her which could be fatal. So I stay at home and we have home deliveries from the chemist, the paper shop, food shops and also worship. Home delivery of worship may seem a strange thing, but we live in strange times. We say daily prayers together with readings from the Psalms and Scripture as well as commentaries by 'Fathers' ancient and modern.

I comply, as far as I am able, with the fasting directed by the Church, and on Sundays visit churches near and far to share in their worship by web streaming. I get rather irritated when the celebrant welcomes 'those who are watching online'. I am not just 'watching'. I am worshipping. (But even some of my friends say 'watching'.) I make the responses, say the Creed and Lord's Prayer with the congregation, and accept the blessing given by the celebrant. It is true that I may not receive the Body and Blood of Christ; but as those in the congregation receive Communion we know the presence of Christ in our lives as we say together Dimitry of Rostov's (1651-1709) prayer: *Come, O Christ my Light, and illumine my darkness. Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds. Come, Flame of divine love, kindle my heart with its flame, for you are my King and my Lord.*

By keeping a round of prayer and fasting my wife and I become 'the Church gathered in our flat.' Yes! I miss Canterbury Road, your fellowship and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, but until we cease shielding I have to resist the temptation to book a slot for Sunday worship and slip into Canterbury Road. I have a duty of care to my wife, and others, to ensure I cannot catch Covid-19. I am fortunate to be a key holder for the church and on my daily walks I can occasionally go into the church to pray before the central icon or to just be there. I can send a few people emails on their name day or to ask forgiveness at the start of Great Lent, but otherwise I have to remain isolated for the sake of the person most dear to me among all people. If prayer is known by sacrifice then I have not prayed as much as in the past year. We have both had our two vaccine injections. What happens next depends very much on the advice of physicians and the prevalence of the virus in our local community. I pray that I may soon be able to worship with you all again.

Bede Gerrard, Lent 2021

St John Climacus



Apolytikion With the streams of your tears you cultivated the barren desert, and with deep sighings from the heart you made your toils bring forth fruit a hundredfold, and you became a beacon, shining in all the world by your wonders, our venerable Father John; intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion As ever-blooming fruits, you offer the teachings of your God-given book, O wise John, most blessed, while sweetening the hearts of all them that heed it with vigilance; for it is a ladder from the earth unto Heaven that confers glory on the souls that ascend it and honour you faithfully.

Lenten Collection

The Lenten collection in our community this year is for [Shepherds' High School](#) in Beit Sahour, Palestine. (Members of our parish Auxiliary Association who went on the 2019 pilgrimage to the Holy Land were impressed by their contact with this organisation and brought forward the suggestion.) There will be a collection box on the candle desk at church if you are attending a service. If you aren't able to give in that way please contact our parish treasurer (below) for details of how to contribute.

Please Support Your Community!

Please remember that the pandemic has of course had a large impact on in-person donations and caused our usual fundraising events to be cancelled. If you are in a position to support the parish financially [donations via PayPal](#) or a standing order would be timely (email our treasurer Philip for details)! Please also consider [gift aid](#) which allows our community to claim additional funds on your donation.



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

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