

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

30 OCTOBER 2021

No. 46

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

Upcoming Week

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed priest Andreas, Andreas, and the sick Rachel, Peter and Monica.
 - ❖ 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 31 October there will be a Doxology service following the liturgy, in honour of Greece's National Day ('Oxi' Day). There will be a parish celebration afterwards.

Please note that Daylight Savings Time ends early on Sunday morning!

Sunday 7 November, please join the Auxiliary Association meeting, details below.



At our 19 October farewell event, Fr Ian presented Community President Theo Bargiotas with an icon of St Frideswide made by Fr Dobromir. The inscription on the back reads: *This icon is a spiritual gift to thank Theo, Melina, Eva and Niko / For the many blessings they have brought to our community / The Greek Orthodox Parish of The Holy Trinity, Oxford.* Theo in turn offered words of affection and encouragement to the community, and invited any visitors to look him up!

From Fr Ian

Protopresbyter Andreas Hadjisavvis, priest at St John the Baptist, Wightman Road in London, fell asleep in the Lord on October 15th. Just after Easter this year, knowing that his death was close, he wrote an open letter to his congregation, movingly expressing his love for them, for his Church and for his heritage. May his words inspire us, and may the Lord give Fr Andreas rest with the saints. Love, Fr Ian

Christ has Risen! I am Father Andreas Hadjisavvis, Priest in the Holy Church of St. John the Baptist on Wightman Road. I am sure that it is now widely known that I am seriously ill with brain cancer. Unfortunately, I am facing the spectre of death. The doctors cannot help me, and they've given me about three months to live. I have been in England for about sixty years, and forty years as a priest. Along with other immigrants, we had the concern of our community not to assimilate and lose our distinctive identity. We all worked hard to keep our ancestors' language, customs and traditions, establishing Greek schools and societies. We endeavoured to maintain a close bond with our beloved homeland Cyprus and mother Greece. In particular, we set up Greek Orthodox churches to keep our ancestral faith alive.

I greatly appreciate the efforts made by the whole community, the political parties, the societies and the associations and our religious parishes for their outstanding contribution over the years. Many eponymous and anonymous community members made sacrifices and wholeheartedly offered whatever they could to safeguard our traditions and Greek Orthodox Christian identity. I am writing this open letter to the whole community to offer some thoughts from my own experiences and life in this welcoming country.

I would like to encourage everyone to stay strong and united as a community. There were, there are, and there will always be adversities, problems and differences. However, every single difficulty can be overcome with goodwill, patience and cooperation. I would like to ask everyone to cherish and respect one another, because unity is precious and leads to progress. With new technologies and the rapid acceleration of our daily lives, society and life are ever changing, especially for our youth. That is why I would ask everyone to stand by our young people with love, understanding and patience. Above all, let us retain our churches and our faith in God, as faith gives strength and meaning to our lives.

Let us always be positive in life. Ignore the negatives that cause discord, disharmony and division. Do not judge our fellow human beings. Do not rush to see the mistakes of others since, unfortunately, we all make mistakes and errors. Do not speak ill or look for faults in others and avoid disagreements which cause divisions. Let us always have the goodwill to understand each other and be prepared to compromise with the aim of achieving unity and working towards the common good. Have love and faith in Christ, since our life acquires meaning and essence only when we have faith and care for others.

I would like to apologise to the whole community for any mistakes and errors I have made or if I have inadvertently upset anyone. I also apologise if I have not paid due attention to anyone facing difficulties or problems in their lives. I thank and praise God because He gave me a wonderful wife and a loving family. I am also fortunate because I have met wonderful people throughout my life. I have received a lot of love from the community, to an extent that I did not expect. I wish to thank everyone for all their overwhelming kindness throughout my life. I also wish to express my wholehearted love and best wishes to the whole community. May the Risen Christ bless you all and give you the strength so that your life is full of God's blessings and joy.

St Andrew's Auxiliary Association Undertaking Parish Hospitality and Care

Each autumn, the Auxiliary Association of St Andrew holds an open meeting to plan for the year ahead, and to encourage new volunteers who would like to take part in our many parish events and activities. **This year we will meet after liturgy on Sunday 7 November, and we're looking forward to seeing each other again and to welcoming newcomers!**

The letter below includes information and encouragement for anyone who is thinking about joining in with this active community group:

Dear Friends,

Our Parish's Auxiliary Association of St Andrew was formally established almost 25 years ago. From the outset it was made very clear that we didn't want it to be viewed as the "women's" association (as is the case in many other parishes). Our Constitution specified that all Parish members could be full members of the Association, and we even included a provision for Associate Membership for those who were not members of the Holy Trinity Parish.

Over the years the Association's most visible function has been the organisation of Parish feasts and fundraisers, and I am very grateful to all the members who have given so much and supported us so well. But the Association has also worked in other areas which are less visible, arranging for the visitation of the sick, for example, and for the help of those in some kind of need or difficulty. One of its stated aims in the Constitution is "To cultivate the spirit of mutual friendship and brotherhood among its own members, among members of the younger generation and within the Orthodox community in Oxford as a whole."

In this difficult time we may want to ask ourselves how this can be done. One answer, surely, must be found in the original vision of membership. If you want to be a member of our Auxiliary Association then you are a member. The office holders are there to coordinate the work, not to carry it all out. So I would ask all to consider: How can I best help those I know in this spirit of mutual friendship? Are there people who need jobs doing? Are there people who need to be kept in touch with what is happening in our community? We may not be able at present to visit people indoors, but can we use a phone call or send a message in some other way to let them know that they are not forgotten?

What we can do, let us do; and what we cannot do ourselves, let us let others know so that they can help. St Paul reminds us that each of us is an organ in the Body of Christ, and it is only when all the organs work together that the body is truly healthy.

*May God bless us all,
Fr Ian*



Synaxis of the Archangels, 8 November

All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits — sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation — (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12).

In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaias 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honouring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name.

The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him -(Dan. 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. [[Source](#)]



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

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Rethinking the City

Ethnic Displacement and Memory Politics in South Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean

Wednesday, 27 October, 16.30 - 18.30

Ian Talbot (Southampton) on India's Partition and the City

Wednesday, 3 November, 16.30 - 18.30

Renée Hirschon (Oxford) in conversation with **Paris Chronakis** (RHUL)
on refugee resettlement and urban development in twentieth-century Greece

Wednesday, 10 November, 16.00 - 18.30

Research workshop on refugees and their cities
with **Alekos Lamprou** (Marburg), **Hareem Mirza** (RHUL), **Kalliopi Amygdalou**
(HFEFP, Athens), **Himadri Chatterjee** (University of Calcutta)

Friday, 19 November, 16.30 - 18.30

Art by **Shawon Akand** (Dhaka)

Roundtable discussion on Frontier Urbanism with **Shubhra Gururani** (York U,
Toronto) and **Rajarshi Dasgupta** (JNU, New Delhi)

Join us via [Eventbrite](#), or by contacting [Markus Daechsel](#) (RHUL)