

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

5 DECEMBER 2020

No. 5

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

Upcoming Week

- ❖ Sunday 10.30 Liturgy ([sign-up](#) presently required)
 - ❖ Sunday [Reader's Service](#) for home use
 - ❖ 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
-

Events & Announcements

7 December, a virtual tour of St Spyridon (Corfu, Greece) will be hosted by Father Themistoklis Mourtzanos at 7pm. Please see the OFSJB [website](#) to register and receive Zoom details.

Christmas services, please see Fr Ian's letter below for details.

There is a box in the narthex where you can leave items for the [Gatehouse](#), an organisation that cares for homeless people in the Oxford community. They request NEW socks, underwear, gloves and hats, as well as good quality sleeping bags. Chocolate bars and [donations](#) of any size are also welcome.

From Fr Ian

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to announce that, with the blessing of Archbishop Nikitas, we will be able to serve four Liturgies around the Christmas period. Two of these will be on Christmas Eve, one in the morning and one in the evening, then one on Christmas Day (in the morning) and finally one on the Sunday following Christmas, which this year is also the third day of the Feast. Sadly, we will still have to restrict our numbers at each service and so you will need to sign up [via Eventbrite](#) in order to attend. I ask all of you please to show consideration to others, firstly by signing up for only one of these Liturgies, to enable as many people as possible to attend a Liturgy for the Feast, and secondly by talking with those you know who may not have access to the internet or be confident in using it, and helping them, too, to join in the celebrations.

Not to have been able to attend church has been difficult for all of us, and even though the lockdown has been partially eased we are still not “back to normal”. But this strange situation can be an opportunity as well as a challenge for us. One of the stories that Orthodox hierarchs and faithful repeatedly referred to during the first lockdown was that of St Mary of Egypt – a great ascetic saint of the Church who received Holy Communion only twice in her life, and only once at a Liturgy. Yet she maintained her life in the presence of God so fully that she was gifted with insight, foresight and power over the natural world. Although we live in the city rather than the desert her example calls us to a life that is similarly centred on Christ. We, like her, do not live solitary lives, but live in the consciousness of our sharing with our fellow Christians in the Church which is the body of Christ. Every time we end our prayers we say, “Through the prayers of our holy fathers [and mothers] have mercy on us”. This was originally a monastic dismissal, referring not to those great saints and theologians whom we call the Fathers of the Church, but to the rest of the members of the monastic community, present or absent, living or departed. Even this simple prayer, attentively uttered, will remind us that we are always in community, supporting one another with our prayers, and being supported by the prayers of our brothers and sisters.

With my love to you all,

Fr Ian

Holy Trinity Parish Council

After last Sunday's AGM we are blessed again with our full complement of twelve Parish Council members, including five new ones! At the same time we would very much like to thank our departing members, and especially Bede Gerrard and Graham Speake who have faithfully served within the Parish over so many years. We'll be presenting current members in the next few bulletins so the full Community has a chance to see who is on the Council and to learn a bit about them despite current restrictions on meeting in person:



I am a Fellow of Green Templeton College, a member of the Oxford Law Faculty, a practising barrister, and write books about all sorts of things, including bioethics, natural history, and travel. I am married to Mary, and we have six children. —**Charles Foster**



My name is **Chris Kotanidis** and I'm delighted to be joining Parish Council this year. I was born and raised in Greece where I studied medicine, before moving to the UK in 2017. Currently, I'm reading for a DPhil in Cardiovascular Sciences at Green Templeton College, aspiring to become an academic cardiologist. In my spare time you'll find me creating digital art or trying to decode byzantine music.

We are grateful to all the parishioners who brought their membership up-to-date and established standing orders ahead of the AGM. As noted in the Treasurer's Report, the pandemic has of course had a substantial negative impact on in-person donations as well as causing our usual fundraising events to be cancelled. If you are in a position to support the parish through [PayPal donation](#) or by setting up a standing order ([email for details](#)) it would be timely! Please also consider filling in a [gift aid form](#) which allows our community to claim additional funds on your donation.



Registered Charity no. 1011772

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Please remember Holy Trinity Parish in your prayers!

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