

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

23 DECEMBER 2021

No. 50

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

Upcoming Week

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Peter, Alexei, Yannis, Alan and Nikolai*, and the sick *Rachel, Peter and Monica*.
 - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
 - ❖ Bilingual texts and music for [all services by date](#)
 - ❖ Archdiocesan Sunday [Bulletin](#) and [Services](#) (Holy Wisdom Cathedral, London)
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Events & Announcements

There are still a few [Eventbrite places](#) left for liturgies over the Christmas weekend. **For up-to-date service information, check the [calendar](#) on our webpage.**

Please remember to dress warmly for services this winter!

Many people have now signed or sent messages for Metropolitan Kallistos' Community Christmas card! It will remain in church until Christmas Day, and we will also print and include any additional messages sent to the editor [via email](#) by **Christmas Eve**. We especially encourage children in the community to contribute drawings, coloured-in pictures and letters.

Kontakion, The Nativity of Christ

*Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being,
and the earth offers a cave to Him Whom no one can approach;
Angels with Shepherds give glory,
and Magi journey with a star;
for to us has been born a little Child:
God before the ages.*



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF THYATEIRA AND GREAT BRITAIN

Christmas Message of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain

As I sit and write a few words to you, beloved people of God, I speak to you as a father would speak to children at the waning of a frightening storm, but, at the same time, as a fellow human being, “fearfully and wonderfully made” in the image and likeness of our Creator. Together, we have crested many waves in this prolonged viral pandemic, and we hope that calm waters are within reach. While we mourn those who are no longer with us, and give thanksgiving for the resilience and courage displayed by humanity over the last two years, we now live in a changed world, more aware than ever of our fragility and vulnerability, of our interconnectedness and interdependency. We pray for peace, but also know that the fog of chaos looms on the horizon, whether it be the next microscopic plague that we will have to race to defend against, or the ongoing catastrophes brought about by humanity’s desecration of the natural environment, or the despondency and violence generated by radical economic inequality and the commodification of human life.

Such problems and challenges seem unique to our point on the timeline of history, and yet we can look back to many such instances of great doubt and fear. The prayer for redemption and salvation is secretly hidden in the depths of every human being, and two thousand years ago the Chosen People of Israel were articulating this supplication with their hearts and minds turned to God. They “sat in darkness and in the shadow of death”, waiting for the Messiah to be born, waiting for salvation. Israel called upon the Almighty to liberate them from the bondage of sin, and “when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law”, to fulfill His words and His promise that He had not forsaken us. The Word of God took on flesh to redeem and save the cosmos. Christ was born, so the light of Truth might dispel the darkness that held not only Israel in captivity, but all of humanity.

I write these words to you, beloved of God, to witness to you and with you that the birth of Christ was the birth of hope in our world. The promises of the past are fulfilled and truth has vanquished deception. The Nativity set our world on a new course, as the Sun of Righteousness brought light and salvation to all those Who embraced Him and His message. Together, we endure the problems of daily life and the contours of history, but in the warm and gentle embrace of Christ, we understand in a mystical way that death has been vanquished. This gives us strength and determination to walk with faith and hope on the joyful path of salvation that has been prepared for us. It is Christ that sustained us throughout this pandemic and as He guides us to better days and this particular challenge becomes a memory of the past, we must look to Him as the only Lover of Mankind and our only salvation for whatever may lie ahead.



Happy Christmas!
Καλά Χριστούγεννα!
С Рождеством!
Crăciun fericit!
عيد ميلاد مجيد
Gëzuar Krishtlindjet!
Boldog Karácsonyt!



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

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