

# PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

22 OCTOBER 2022

No. 65

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### *Monthly News & Announcements*

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#### **Prayers & Services**

*See the parish [website](#) for all upcoming services*

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Pavlos, Lena, Ann and Bishop Ilia*, and the sick *Richard 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**

*Please see our parish [website](#) for a full community calendar*

**21–25 October**, visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrating the Centennial of the Archdiocese of Thyateira (poster below).

**Wednesday 26 October**, 18.00 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St Demetrios.

**Saturday 29 October**, a Doxology for the Greek National Day ('Oxi Day') will be celebrated after the usual 17.30 vespers, at approximately 18.15.

**Sunday 30 October**, clocks will have gone back one hour during the night.

**Weekend of 4-6 November**, [Orthodox Arts Festival](#) in Bath organised by the Orthodox Parish of St John of Kronstadt, free to all.

**Weekend of 4-6 November**, Friends of Mt Athos [10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) in Cambridge.

**Tuesday 8 November**, 18.00 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Archangel Michael and the Bodiless Hosts of Heaven.

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## Holy Trinity Food Fair



**A huge thank you to organisers  
Roula T (and her family!) & Ioanna P  
We are grateful as always to everyone  
who cooked, purchased food,  
and helped on the day.**

**Our event raised over £2300!**



Registered Charity no. 1011772

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

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Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain  
Patriarchal Visit for the Centenary Celebrations

# His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in London 21st-25th October 2022



## Public Events

### Friday, 21st October

**All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, Camden (NW1 0JA)**  
11am The Doxology Service of Thanksgiving and Welcome

**Saint Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church,  
Battersea (SW11 5QR)**  
6pm Patriarchal Great Vespers Service  
Olive Branch Aid Foodbank

### Saturday, 22nd October

**The Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery  
of St John the Baptist in Essex**  
9.30am Patriarchal and Hierarchical Concelebration of the  
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom  
Ordination of Monk Sophronios

**St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Edmonton (N9 0LP)**  
6.30pm Patriarchal Great Vespers Service

### The Penridge Suite (N11 1NL)

7.30pm Enlightened Evening Dinner for Young Adults  
(Ticket Only)  
Ages: 21-40

### Sunday, 23rd October

**The Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
of the Divine Wisdom in Bayswater (W2 4LQ)**  
9am Patriarchal and Hierarchical Concelebration of the  
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

### The Royal Lancaster Hotel (W2 2TY)

7pm for 7.30pm start The Centennial Grand Banquet  
(Ticket Only)

### Monday, 24th October

**Twelve Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in  
Hertfordshire (AL9 6NG)**  
11am Patriarchal Visit and Blessing



## **Archdiocesan October Bulletins** **[Translations by Rosemary B-M]**

Our reading for today [16 October] is the superb parable of the Sowing of the Seed, appropriate for these autumn days when farmers are carefully preparing their fields for the sowing of wheat, so as to harvest the summer crop which is the chief ingredient of bread. Bread, called ἄρτος in the Greek of the Gospel, has constituted the basic food of mankind since the dawn of Time. At the same time as wheat is sown, two other basic foods are gathered: grapes, for wine-making; and olives, to be pressed for oil. These three blessed and fundamental products for human nourishment, wheat, wine and olive oil, require great care so as to become fit, as the Psalm has it (104:15), to 'gladden and sustain the hearts of Man'.

Our Lord, in today's parable, by adopting the well-known image of the agricultural labour of seed-sowing, is comparing himself with the farmer-sower who casts a quantity of seed upon the earth. He compares the wheat-seed with his words and teachings, that is his whole Work towards the salvation of mankind. The word is Holy Writ itself; it constitutes the preaching of the Apostles; it comprises also the teachings of the holy Fathers who at various periods have interpreted the word of God and laid a solid foundation for faith in the true Triune God. The community work performed by the Church is also a form of seed-sowing, as are her mysteries, and the virtuous and exemplary lives of her Saints.

The Lord goes on to draw parallels between the seed-sown earth and the hearts of mankind. Some who receive the word of God believe in the Saviour, the God-Man Christ, and radiate spiritual enlightenment to their family and community. They may also become spiritual 'salt of the earth', protecting their community from falling into sin. Their hearts are in constant contact with God's mysteries and His spiritual Word. Conversely, some people's hearts remain indifferent to the revelation of God and his saving work, being too wrapped up in material worries, from daily domestic tasks to professional preoccupations. They have no interest in spirituality, never raise their eyes to Heaven, do not pray, and expect no help from above. Such hearts are ready-prepared ground for our eternal enemy Lucifer and his followers to sow their seeds and weeds of destruction, such as immoral, quarrelsome or criminal conduct, designed to drive us far from God and our own salvation. [...] We must always remember that we are more than mere flesh; we hold within us the very breath of God; we are a Temple of the Holy Spirit, individuals with a spiritual dimension. We have true value as human beings when we fill our lives with the blessings of faith, imitating the lives of the Saints by pursuing virtue and morality in our own. [...]

(Extract translated from [Word of Our Lord, 16 October 2022](#))

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## **The Hundred Years' Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain**

'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you' (Luke 8: 39). The year 2022 is a blessed one for our Greek Orthodox Church in Britain and Ireland. We are celebrating the Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of our holy Archdiocese. The celebrations will culminate in the historic visit of His All-Holiness our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, between October 21 and 25.

One hundred years ago, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the great mother church of Christ, was mourning the uprooting of its flock from Asia Minor.<sup>1</sup> The Patriarchate, guided by the wisdom of Christ and protected by our All-Holy Lady, endeavoured in every possible way to safeguard its uprooted children. It set about improving the running of the Diaspora, so that those parishes under its jurisdiction in England, Europe and elsewhere in the world would have worthy shepherds and a better organised ecclesiastical administration. In 1922 the Ecumenical Patriarch Meletios named the then exarchate of Western Europe, based in London, 'Metropolis of Thyateira', and appointed the learned bishop Germanos Strenopoulos as its first Metropolitan (1922-1951). In 1954 the Metropolis was renamed 'Archdiocese of Thyateira', with Athenagoras Kavvadas as its Archbishop (1951-1963). The Archdiocese entrusted the continuation of its work to a series of praiseworthy senior priests: Athenagoras Kokkinakis (1963-79), Methodios Phougias (1979-88), Gregorios Theochares (1988-2019), and today our venerable Archbishop Nikitas.

According to the formal title of the newly constituted Metropolis, its bishop bears the name of Thyateira, in memory of the historical diocese of that name. Thyateira was one of the seven churches of Asia Minor mentioned in Revelation (2: 18-29). St Lydia of Philippi (her feast is 20 May), the first European Christian (Acts 16: 14), came from Thyateira. In the cruel persecutions of the Emperor Decius (250 AD), the saints Karpos, bishop of Thyateira, Papylos the unwaged doctor and deacon, Agathonice his sister, and Agathodoros their servant, freely confessed Christ and were martyred by decapitation. The feast of these saints is 13 October.

The Lord, responding to prayer, blessed the work of the enlightened bishops who served our Archdiocese. The little flock organised itself, found protectors, and grew in vigour and strength. It embraced the new wave of refugees uprooted by the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the regimes of the Balkans and Eastern Europe, and the economic crisis. Many churches were built. Several communities, charitable fraternities, youth groups, Greek schools and Sunday schools, were organised. The Holy Patriarchal Stavropegic<sup>2</sup> Monastery of the St John the Baptist in Maldon, Essex, supported and continues to support the work of the Archdiocese of Thyateira. This blessed bearing of fruit reached its culmination in the recent sanctification of the holy Sophrony the Athonite, the first abbot and founder of the Monastery in 1959.

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<sup>1</sup> A reference to the exchange of Turkish and Greek populations known as the Asia Minor Catastrophe.

<sup>2</sup> 'Stavropegic' refers to the planting (from ancient Greek πῆγνυμι, 'fix in the ground') of a cross (σταυρός) sent by a bishop to be built into the foundations of a new monastery, in token of its dependence on his authority.

Today (23 October) we celebrate our centenary. We honour the faithful bishops who served our Archdiocese and in prayer we thank the devout clergy and people of God, who in turn throughout all those years worked hard so that today we could enjoy the fruits of their labours. We are inspired by their offering, their sacrifices and their struggles. We should take this opportunity to map out our future direction. Let us attend to the needs of our Ecumenical Patriarchate and support and promote its work. Let us preserve and build on all that we have inherited. Let us make approaches to attract our young people, and to protect our flock from the disastrous teachings of this modern era. (...)

Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne Photius Bithas

(Extract translated from [The Word of Our Lord, October 23 2022](#))

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