

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

19 NOVEMBER 2022

No. 66

Monthly News & Announcements

Prayers & Services

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

- ❖ Please pray for the sick *Paul, 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)

Events & Announcements

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

The Nativity Fast began on 15 November and continues until the Feastday of Christmas. Fasting may first call to mind the dietary changes recommended by the Church for members of the faithful who are in good health. However, our recurring cue of hunger for food reminds us to quietly examine our other appetites as well, and with God's help, aim to better control any spiritually destructive behaviours. In the hopeful, thoughtful period of the fast we are additionally invited to be more charitable, taking care not to judge or inconvenience others who do not appear to be fasting, and giving freely to anyone needing help or encouragement.

Sunday 20 November, a three-month memorial service (*μνημόσυνο*) for Metropolitan Kallistos will be held immediately after the liturgy. We will also commemorate Archbishop Gregorios who died on this date three years ago.

Monday 21 November, 6pm festal Liturgy for the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple. (See next page for more on this celebration.)

Looking a little further ahead we will hold services in honour of St Andrew on **Wednesday 30 November** (6pm Liturgy), and of St Nicholas the Wonderworker on **Tuesday 6 December** (8am Matins, 9am Liturgy).

Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple



The [Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple](#) (*Ἡ εἰσοδος της Θεοτόκου στον Ναό*) is celebrated each year on 21 November. It has been marked in the Christian East since about the sixth century, reaching the West in the fourteenth. The events commemorated are first described in a second-century text known as the *Protoevangelion of James*, and subtitled 'The Birth of Mary the Holy Mother of God, and Very Glorious Mother of Jesus Christ.' (The term protoevangelion or 'precursor to the Gospels' is used for writings that witness to early Christian experience but are not among the canonical New Testament texts.)

The elderly saints Joachim and Anna are miraculously blessed with a daughter Mary, and promise God that the child will be dedicated to Him. While she is still young they bring Mary to the Temple in Jerusalem — in the icon she reaches for the High Priest Zacharias (father of St John the Baptist) indicating her eagerness to remain. She stays to pray and serve with the other Temple virgins until she is of marriageable age, and this feast is therefore viewed as a 'prelude' to her becoming the Mother of God and all the events of the Lord's Nativity.

Today, the most pure temple of the Saviour, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Archdiocesan 100th Anniversary Banquet



The Oxford table was fully booked at last month's banquet which was attended by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Fr Ian led ten Holy Trinity community members and friends including councillors Skev A, Philip A and George K, Auxiliary Association president Chara T, and cantor Alexander L. Thank you to all who were able to represent the parish at this important celebration!



Registered Charity no. 1011772

Greek Orthodox Parish of the Holy Trinity,
1 Canterbury Road, OXFORD, OX2 6LU
Website: www.holytrinityoxford.org.uk
Fr Ian: frian@holytrinityoxford.org.uk

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

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How to Inherit the Kingdom of Heaven

The Holy Gospels refer to many occasions where men and women sought from the God-man Christ some sort of favour, a treatment for incurable diseases, or counsel on spiritual topics. Our Lord spoke openly about eternal life and the Kingdom of Heaven, indeed it was with that theme that he launched his public appearances and teaching ministry: 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand' (Matt. 4: 17); and similarly in the parable of the coming Judgement, 'Come forth, blessed ones of the Father, to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven' (Matt. 25: 34). He also compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a 'precious pearl' (Matt. 13: 45) which is worth the endeavour of every man throughout his life to try to acquire.

Hence, a certain wealthy official thought that the only person qualified to give him correct advice on that subject was the Lord. Accordingly, he approached Him and asked, 'Teacher, tell me, what must I do to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven?' (Luke 18: 18) Jesus said to him, 'You know the commandments, the instructions of the Law of Moses; observe them and you will achieve your goal.' The young man boldly replied that he had observed all the commandments of the Law from childhood: 'But what have I left out?' Then the Lord replied 'Since you say you have observed these commandments since you were a small child, you only need to take one more step towards perfection. Sell your possessions, give the money to the poor, and follow me. Then you will be sure of dwelling with the angels in Heaven.' When the young man heard this suggestion, he was crestfallen, because the Lord's message seemed to him too hard. He went away heavy-hearted, because he was not willing to be parted from his wealth and the privileges of office. The Lord's exhortation to sell his possessions had plunged him into the biggest dilemma of his life: choosing between ephemeral or everlasting goods, materialism or spirituality, worldly wealth or eternal life. He preferred to hang on to his material goods, relegating eternal life to second place.

It is a fact that everyone, since the exile from Eden of our first-formed ancestors, has felt a holy desire to win back Paradise; but we encounter great obstacles in our path. In particular, modern society requires us to think chiefly of how to earn more and more money, putting to one side a virtuous life, our spiritual duties, and even the quest for the Kingdom of Heaven. As models for us to follow in our laborious striving to earn eternal life, the Church offers uncountable examples of Saints, such as those whose feasts will be celebrated in coming days, St Catherine (25 Nov.), St Stylianos (26 Nov.) and the Apostle Andrew (30 Nov.). St Catherine, who lived at the time of the great persecutions in Alexandria (294 AD), was of wealthy aristocratic descent, educated, and eagerly sought in marriage by high-ranking suitors; yet she preferred the Kingdom of God and became the bride of Christ. From then on and from her monastery on hallowed Mount Sinai she has proclaimed to Christians and non-Christians the majesty of the true God. St Stylianos lived in the fifth century, came from a rich family, and from childhood devoted himself soul and body to the Church. When he came into possession of his parents' fortune, he obeyed the suggestion our Lord made to the rich man in the Gospel passage: 'If you want to acquire the Kingdom of Heaven, sell all you have -- and come and follow me.'" He shared out his fortune among the poor and left in the clothes he stood up in, to live as an ascetic in the desert. Holy God awarded him the miraculous power of curing sick children, even those in their mother's wombs. Also around this time we shall honour the memory of the Apostle Andrew the First-Called, i.e. the first of the disciples called by our Lord to preach to the world that "The Kingdom

of Heaven is at hand". He left everything, devoting himself to the service of God. Let us pray to them to light our path, so that we too may be found worthy of becoming co-dwellers in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen. *–Protopresbyter Georgios Zapheirakos*

[Transl. Rosemary B-M, from Archdiocesan Bulletin of [27 Nov 2022](#)]



Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple
Feastday **21 November**



St Catherine of Sinai
Feastday **25 November**



St Stylianos Protector of Children,
Feastday **26 November**