

# PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

19 DECEMBER 2020

No. 7

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

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### Upcoming Week

- ❖ Sunday 10.30 Liturgy ([sign-up](#) presently required, **DRESS WARMLY**)
  - ❖ 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
  - ❖ Online [Tour](#), 21 December —The Nativity of Christ & Bethlehem, Holy Land
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### Events & Announcements

**Metropolitan Kallistos** underwent a successful procedure to implant a heart pacemaker and is already showing signs of greater vitality and better colour. We hope his health will continue to improve. He continues to rest and recuperate, and wants to express his thanks for the prayers of all and to give his blessing.

**2 January**, Metropolitan Kallistos will join the online Community Vasilopita Party at 11.30am! Details will follow — please sign up by emailing the [Auxiliary Association](#).

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.

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## From Fr Ian

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is the one on which we read the opening of St Matthew's Gospel — the passage which gives us a genealogy of Christ. For many this is the most boring Gospel of the year, especially when it is read in an older English with the word "begat" occurring so often. I remember as a Deacon being instructed to read the section with all the names quite quickly, and then slow down when I got to the story, "the interesting bit". I now believe this to be a mistaken approach. Matthew's genealogy is carefully designed to tell us that Jesus was Jewish, that he was the promised king descended from David and that his coming brought to completion God's saving work for the whole of humankind; and that this was all accomplished through the birth of a real human baby.

At Christmas we see how far God is prepared to go to bring us back to him. The baby Jesus, who, like all human babies, has to grow both physically and mentally (see Luke 2:52), reveals a God who is willing to become utterly vulnerable "for us all and for our salvation". But it is not just at Christmas, or even at Christmas and Easter, that we see the vulnerability of God. Not too long after we have finished the Christmas celebrations in February, we will be reading the Gospel of the last judgement from Matthew 25, in which we hear the risen and glorified Christ telling us that it is him we meet in the poor, the sick, the imprisoned – in short in all the vulnerable people we see around us.

This Advent we have not been able to take up our usual charity collection as a community, and two periods (at least) of lockdown have left many of us more aware of our own vulnerability and fragility. But this gives us two challenges. First, to continue to see Christ in the vulnerable people we know and meet, and second, to recognise that in our own vulnerability we, too, are sharing in the life of Jesus who takes our illnesses and carries our diseases (Matthew 8:17). In our weakness, which is his weakness, we are called both to serve others and to let ourselves be served. Let us live this truth at the heart of our celebration.

With my love to you all, and best wishes for a joyful and blessed feast of Christmas,  
Fr Ian

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In keeping with remembering the vulnerable during Advent, Fr Ian recently received a letter sent to all the North Oxford and Wolvercote churches by NOAAH (North Oxford Action Against Homelessness). He asks parishioners to consider sending them a [charitable donation](#) as part of our Advent preparations. Homelessness and aid dependency are likely to rise after the pandemic, so they are anticipating a greater demand on funds in the coming year, and are appealing to local churches for additional support. NOAAH has helped rough sleepers into accommodation and it has also assisted those who are struggling to remain in housing in a number of different ways — by making grants to help with unpaid bills, by supplying essential household items for people recently housed, and by paying for vans to move household goods. This organisation has no staff and no costs which means all the money raised goes directly to people in need.

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## Community Notice



Robert Kitromilides, son of Petros and Sheila, passed away at Barnet Hospital, London on 14 November, aged 49. His funeral took place on Friday 4 December in London. He was a beloved son, loving husband to Catherine, caring father to Peter and Phoebe, and wonderful brother to Alex and Anna. Robert will be forever missed by all of his family and friends.

May his memory be eternal. Donations if desired to <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org>.

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## Holy Trinity Parish Council

We'll continue presenting current members in the next few bulletins so everyone has a chance to see who is on the Council and to learn a bit about them:



I come from Thessaloniki, Greece, and have lived in Oxford with my family for the past 13 years. I am a doctor working in the NHS and I have been privileged to serve as member of the Parish Council of our community for 12 years, and as the Chairman for the past six. In normal times you will also find me joining in at the cantor's stand or playing piano at the annual Parish Benefit Concert. —**Theo Bargiotas**

We are grateful to all the parishioners who recently have brought their membership up-to-date and established standing orders. The pandemic has of course had a large impact on in-person donations and caused our usual fundraising events to be cancelled, so if you are in a position to support the parish financially [donations via PayPal](#) or a standing order would be timely ([email for details](#))! Please also consider [gift aid](#) which allows our community to claim additional funds on your donation.



Registered Charity no. 1011772

## Please remember Holy Trinity Parish in your prayers!

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