

# PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

2 JANUARY 2021

No. 9

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

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### Upcoming Week

- ❖ Sunday [Liturgy - Variable Parts](#)
  - ❖ 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
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### Events & Announcements

Some reminders about services in the Church:

- There is a [new sign-up link](#) for Liturgies in January.
- Families must sign up each adult and each child who will attend the service.
- If you find that you are not able to attend, there is a link in the confirmation email from Eventbrite enabling you to **cancel your reservation**. This will allow one of our very limited places to go to another parishioner.
- Please send prayer lists to [Fr Ian](#) the evening before liturgy at the latest.

**TODAY 2 January**, Metropolitan Kallistos will join the online Community Vasilopita Party at 11.30am! Details are repeated below, and a link will be sent separately.

**4 January**, [online monastery tour](#) to St Seraphim of Sarov, and Diveyevo, Russia

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## From Fr Ian

Dear Friends,

As we know the Church's New Year, following the Roman/Byzantine tax year and the agricultural year, begins in September. For those who live in the academic world, or in places where that world is of particular significance (such as Oxford!), this may still have some resonance. But for most of us, following the pattern of the Roman civil year, the "real" New Year's Day is January 1<sup>st</sup>. And so it is not out of place for me to wish all of you a happy, prosperous, peaceful and, above all, healthy new year.

In the year that has gone we have been forcibly reminded of how fragile our life together, and even life itself, can be. We have learned to appreciate the importance of our social bonds in a new way, precisely through being deprived of many of their normal forms of expression. Mental, emotional, spiritual and physical contact with others has become something that we have come to value in new ways, and even those of us who, at the outset of the pandemic, thought ourselves self-sufficient have in many cases come to learn how much we depend on others.

There has also been a shift in many people's value systems. It is not that long ago that parents would threaten their children that if they didn't do well at school they would find themselves working in the local supermarket, as if that were a position to be scorned. Yet last summer we found ourselves on our doorsteps, applauding these same supermarket till operators and shelf stackers as "key workers", while those with what had seemed the "better" jobs found themselves on furlough. We enter 2021 with some signs of hope, but still in the grip of an international crisis.

As I write this we are still permitted to come together to worship in limited numbers (although for our Community the need to safeguard people from possible infection has meant that we have had to cancel a couple of Liturgies). But we do not know what the future holds, nor when we will be able to return to what we took for granted as "normal". Thinking of a New Year message I found myself returning to the words of Minnie Louise Haskins, famously quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."  
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

May this be true for us all in the year ahead.

With my love to you all,

Fr Ian

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## Vasilopita Zoom Party with Metropolitan Kallistos



This year we will all miss gathering in the House after liturgy to share many beautiful [vasilopitas](#) — rich breads or cakes made in honour of St Basil, and the centrepiece for many ‘new year’ gatherings and celebrations among Orthodox groups and families.

However, we are very blessed that **Metropolitan Kallistos will be joining us via Zoom to cut the community vasilopita on Saturday 2 January at 11.30am.** (Please RSVP [events1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:events1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk) if you haven't already and we'll send a link as the date approaches.) To make it more of a group event please feel free to bake a vasilopita or festive bread, or buy something similar like a panettone, or really anything that feels festive to you, and join us on the day. There is a simple [recipe here](#) if you need one, and we welcome [emails](#) with recipes or stories from different traditions for posting.

### ***For Children in the Community***

It has been particularly difficult to include young people during the pandemic when we are not able to meet and care for one another safely in person, so we especially hope that this event will add to their festivities, and allow them to see their friends from the One Canterbury Community at the Zoom party. **We therefore invite children in particular to participate in this tradition — helping with the baking, perhaps photographing their family's vasilopita, or contributing other arts & crafts projects** around the various feasts at this time of year. Any photos will be added to a shared folder if you email them to [community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk).



## 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:



My name is **Yiannis Apostolou**, and by profession, I am a chartered architect. I have been in Oxford since 2005 and joined the Greek Parish Council in 2014. In 2017, upon the Joint Councils decision, I undertook to organise the proposal and works for the interior rendering and decoration of our church. I look forward to working with the newly elected council, and I encourage parishioners to approach us with recommendations and ideas on how to improve our church and parish life!

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

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

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