

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

21 JANUARY 2023

No. 68

Monthly News & Announcements

Prayers & Services

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Chrisanthos, George, Antonios, Konstantinos and Gunnar*, and the sick *Paul, Richard and Monica*.
 - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
 - ❖ Bilingual texts and music for [all services by date](#)
 - ❖ Archdiocesan Sunday [Bulletins](#) and [Services](#) (Holy Wisdom Cathedral, London)
-

Events & Announcements

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

Saturday 21 January, 10.30am Liturgy for the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#).

Monday 30 January, 6pm Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs

Thursday 2 February, 6pm Liturgy for the Feast of the Presentation

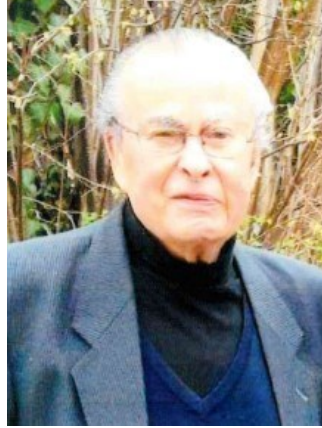
Friday 3 February, 10am Funeral for Antonios (Tony) Papamichael, followed by a 12pm burial service and memorial gathering in Bicester. Details of the arrangements for Tony's funeral can be found [on this website](#), where we are also invited to leave tributes or make a donation in his memory.

Holy Trinity's [Greek School of Oxford](#) is looking for one or two additional, qualified teachers — email headteacher@greekschoolofoxford.org for further information.

The Auxilliary Association is making its annual appeal for help preparing and freezing soup for [The Gatehouse](#) charity. They are based in central Oxford, and care for people who are homeless, vulnerably housed or on a low-income. **Email community@holyltrinityoxford.org.uk if you would like to participate.** Soup will need to be prepared by 14 February at the latest, and you will be sent some further details about preparation and delivery of the soup.

Memory Eternal

Antonios Papamichael ❖ 1928–2022



Tony was a major figure in the life of our Parish. For many years he served as the President of our Community, and when he retired the Parish Council voted to continue the relationship by giving him the title of Honorary President. He was also the principal chanter for our services, having learned his skills while still a child in Cyprus. Many of the older members of our Community will recall how much Tony's singing was bound up with the whole experience of worship at Canterbury Road. Although in recent years poor health and failing eyesight meant he could no longer attend church with any regularity he would always say to Fr Ian and anyone else who visited him, 'You don't know how much I miss not being there.' He will be greatly missed on our part, too, and our love and condolences go to Marios, Joanna and Athanasia and all their families.



Registered Charity no. 1011772

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

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Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs



*Cretan icon of the Three Hierarchs by Georgios Klontzas (1540-c. 1608).
Left to right St Basil, St John Chrysostom, St. Gregory the Theologian.*

St Gregory the Theologian [[Source](#)]

In a few days' time (25 Jan), the Church will celebrate the memory of our Father among the Saints Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople. This holy man, his friend and compatriot Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea, and St John Chrysostom, later Archbishop of Constantinople, together constitute the three great luminaries and teachers of the Christian world. Their teachings, their offered service, their high morals and virtues left permanent imprints upon the life of the Church and humanity as a whole.

St Gregory the Theologian was an exceptionally gifted teacher and profound connoisseur of the ancient Greek world, which he studied with scholarship and passion. His rich classical learning was combined with knowledge of Holy Writ and Church tradition. For that reason, his lifework is unique and unparalleled; he theologized with elegance, and philosophized with simplicity, clarity, and spiritual depth. Hence, the Church accorded him the honorific title of Theologian. The hymnographer encapsulates Gregory's wisdom and power of expression, the two elements which predominated throughout his eventful life, characteristically thus: 'The shepherd's flute of your theology triumphed over the trumpets of the rhetoricians; for upon you, as you delved into the depths of the Spirit, was conferred the grace of beautiful utterance.'^{*}

The whole life of St Gregory was a continuous effort, with faith and humble conviction, to research into the 'depths of the Spirit' and the theology of the persons of the Holy Trinity. For that reason his theological speeches became the basis of the teaching of the One Holy Universal and Apostolic Church about the Holy Spirit, as formulated in the Symbol of Faith (Creed) at the Second Ecumenical Council, over which Gregory presided. (...)

Gregory the Theologian merited distinction as a humble and sincere bishop of the East, emulating the 'Good Shepherd.' His brain was therefore graced by the Triune God with wisdom and eloquence, which he devoted entirely to the Church, which was at that period passing through difficult years and earth-shaking challenges. He also composed his own liturgy.

St Gregory came of a pious and priestly family descended from martyrs and confessors of the Church, factors which played a dominant role in his multi-talented but 'unsettled' life (his description). He is one of the few Church Fathers to have used poetry to express the

innermost feelings of his soul, his faith in the Triune God, his love for his family and forefathers, his friends, and for the entire Church, to which he dedicated everything. For that alone the Church owes honour to his sacred memory, his words and his holy life. It should be mentioned that few people know of St Gregory's poetry, because he composed not in the vernacular of his day, but in imitation of Homer and the ancient Greek poets and authors, whose language he admired. (...)

** Ο ποιμενικός αυλός της θεολογίας σου τας των ρητόρων ενίκησε σάλπιγγας: ως γαρ τα βάθη του Πνεύματος εκζητήσαντι, και τα κάλλη του φθέγματος προσετέθη σου.*

The Three Holy Hierarchs [\[Source\]](#)

The Orthodox Church will shortly celebrate with special honour the three great Fathers of our Church, St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, and St John Chrysostom.¹ These great Fathers were not only bishops and shepherds of the Church, but also men of Greek and Christian letters. The Church calls them 'luminaries of the Triple Sun of the Godhead.' They were the 'honey-flowing rivers of wisdom' who irrigated and nourished the Church with their godly learning, their faith, and their knowledge of the true God. The Three Hierarchs by their example, virtues, holiness, wisdom, love for humankind, faith and trust in the Trinitarian God, bequeathed to succeeding generations a great spiritual inheritance. By their prayers, self-sacrifice, courage, and plain speaking, proclaiming in both favourable and unfavourable times the truths of Christianity and the teachings of the Church, they reshaped human morals for the better. They commented in wondrous and constructive ways on Holy Writ, both the Old Testament and the New. Moreover, with their fertile Spirit-inspired learning, they taught their contemporaries the elements of divine wisdom, attainable through prayer but also through holy worship, important for the spiritual advancement of mankind and for peace of soul, as well as for cleansing of passions and sin, which tend to dominate human nature from youth onwards.

The holy liturgy of St Basil, as well as that of St John Chrysostom, with their deeply theological prayers and lofty concepts, have remained unrivalled up to the present day as everlasting memorials of wisdom, serving to illuminate every person who struggles to live a fully worthy life and to enhance the Creator's gift of making us 'in His image,' by becoming 'made in likeness' of God,² the supreme goal of humankind. (...) The teachings of the Great Fathers of the Church, their high moral standards, their godly wisdom, and their pastoral sensitivity, will always teach and guide us, and will direct the thinking and life of the One Holy Universal and Apostolic Church unto the ages of ages.

1. Basil the Great (330-379), feastday 1 Jan; Gregory (Naziansus) the Theologian (329-389), feastday 25 Jan; John Chrysostom (349-407), feastday 27 Jan. Their joint feast, the Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs, is celebrated 30 Jan.

2. See Genesis 1: 26-27.

[Translations of the Archdiocesan bulletin offered by Rosemary B-M]
