

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

19 AUGUST 2023

No. 75

Monthly News & Announcements

Prayers & Services

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Margaret, the Priest Rafael and Ioanna*, and the sick *Theodoros, Anna, Paul and Mark*.
- ❖ 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

In addition to this Sunday's one-year memorial service for Metropolitan Kallistos (details below), Fr Stephen will be serving a 12:30 graveside *pannikhida* at Wolvercote Cemetery on **Thursday 24 August**.

A reminder that refurbishment of the church storeroom will begin on **Tuesday 22 August** and there may be a certain amount of disruption.

The new schedule of services will be published shortly, but in the meanwhile please note that there will be 6pm Festal Liturgies in early **September on the 8th** (Nativity of the Mother of God) & **14th** (Exaltation of the Cross).

Behold the Virgin, the daughter of Adam and Mother of God: because of Adam she commits her body to the earth, but because of her Son she gives her body to the heavenly tabernacle above. Let the holy city be blessed! Let it enjoy blessing upon blessing forever! Let the angels go before the holy tent as it passes on; let them prepare her tomb carefully! Let the radiance of the Spirit beautify it! Let perfume be made ready, to anoint that wholly spotless, wholly fragrant body. Let a pure wave come and bathe it in blessings from the pure spring of blessing. "Let the earth rejoice" (Ps 96.11), as her body is laid to rest; let the air leap as her spirit ascends! Let the breezes blow, filled with grace as soft as dew! Let all creation celebrate the ascent of the Mother of God!

— St John of Damascus ([source](#))

Metropolitan Kallistos One-Year Memorial Tomorrow Sunday 20 August



***We will gather afterwards for coffee
In the House of Ss Gregory & Macrina***



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

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Christ's Transfiguration on the Mountain

Forty days before his Passion, the Lord took his 'preferred' disciples, Peter, James and John, and led them to a high mountain. There, before their dazzled eyes, He was transfigured. His concealed divine glory blazed out, so that His face shone as bright as the sun, and His clothing gleamed brilliant white. The Prophets Moses and Elijah came to stand beside Him, conversing about His Passion, until all present were enfolded in a shining cloud. Then the disciples heard the voice of the Father, assuring them that Christ was His beloved Son.

This superb Gospel passage [Matthew 17: 1-9]¹ ... has much to teach us. First, God Himself reveals to us that he is Triune, that is, one indivisible God, yet existing in three individual Persons. God the Father speaks assurances; the Son is transfigured, proving that he is both God and Man; and the Holy Spirit, in the shape of a shining cloud, illuminates the disciples by revealing to them 'as far as they could bear' the glory of the Son. Next, we are instructed as to the nature of the highest calling, not only for the disciples, but for us all: our own transfiguration, through Christ and in the Holy Spirit. On Mount Tabor it was not only Christ who underwent transfiguration, but also, in a manner of speaking, the three disciples, since by the grace of the Holy Spirit, their eyes were enlightened and enabled to perceive something of the radiance of the Deity. We, too, through our own experience, can be reassured as to the existence of God, and may come to shine along with Him within His uncreated glory. This is Paradise, and we can sample a foretaste of it even in this life. But for that to happen, we must make ourselves His disciples, by keeping His commandments to prove that we love Him, and by climbing in His company to a high mountain-top, that is, raising ourselves above our corrupting passions and sins.

Another great lesson we learn through the sublime event of Christ's divine Transfiguration is that such a wondrous change can only take place within the transfiguring atmosphere of prayer. Our Lord, setting us a supreme example, was transfigured while He was at prayer. And if we do not yet have the necessary purity to let us enter the shining cloud and behold the glory of the Only-Begotten Son (a privilege granted only to a few of exceptional purity of heart and great humility), the single fact that we enter the place of prayer effects a change in us, wafting us gradually closer to the cloud of Christ's grace, where light, peace, faith, and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Comforter, ever reign. This change, bestowed by prayer, we can pursue at every moment, wherever we happen to be; merely turning our mind to God, our great Benefactor, Lord and Father, is sufficient.

Let us, then, pursue our own encounter with Christ, whose glory is infinitely brighter than the sun, and through Him, enter into communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. All we need to do is patiently to seek His grace, and we will receive it. As the recently canonised St Joseph the Hesychast² says, there are no circumstances in which Christ will not respond to a request from us for His grace.

By His Grace Raphael, Bishop of Ilion

[Translation of the Archdiocesan bulletin offered by Rosemary B-M, [Source](#)]

¹ See also Mark 9: 2-10; Luke 9: 28-36; and 2 Peter 1: 17-18.

² See Wikipedia, s.v. Joseph the Hesychast, for his biography.
