

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

14 DECEMBER 2024

No. 91

Monthly News & Announcements

Prayers & Services

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Michael, Anna, Archimandrite Serapheim, Alex and Royden (Rodionos)*, and the sick *Kallirhoe, Catherine, Eireni, Anna, John, Margarita, Ioannis, Monica, Mihaela, Elizabeth, Dawn & Valentina*.
 - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
 - ❖ Bilingual texts and music for [all services by date](#)
 - ❖ Archdiocesan Sunday [Bulletins](#) and [Services](#) from Holy Wisdom Cathedral
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Events & Announcements

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

This Advent our charity collection on Sundays will be for **Friends of the Holy Land**, a charity based both in the U.K. and in the Palestinian territories, which works to help Palestinian Christians, and, through them, the wider community. For details of their work consult their [website](#).

Fr Andreas Andreopoulos is organising a pilgrimage to Egypt, **15–22 February 2025**. It will include two nights at the Monastery of St Catherine, one night at the Coptic Monastery of St Makarios in the Nitrian desert, and time in Cairo and Alexandria. The cost, including transport, accommodation, morning and evening meals, taxes, etc. will be £1270. For a full itinerary please contact Fr Ian or Fr Andreas. Register your interest via priest@propheteliasreading.com.

Services for the Festal Period

Tuesday 24 December, 9am Royal Hours for the Nativity of Christ

Wednesday 25 December, 9am Matins & 10am Christmas Liturgy

Wednesday 1 January, 9am Matins, 10am Liturgy & 12.45pm Doxology

Monday 6 January, 6pm Theophany Liturgy & 7.30pm Blessing of the Waters

Dear Friends,

As some of you will know my wife was from Iceland, and in that country they have an addition to the common Christmas greeting. As well as wishing a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year they add, 'and thank you for the last one.' This year I especially want to thank the community for all the support that they have given to me, particularly over the last few months. I have been truly blessed by both the material and the spiritual support that you have offered, and I pray that in turn you will find your lives blessed.

Every day in church as evening approaches we say the *Fos Ilaron* – a Vespers hymn to Christ the joyful light of the world. And now, as the Northern hemisphere reaches its darkest point, we prepare ourselves for remembering the moment at which that light intersected with our history. The birth of Christ the saviour brings the joyful light into the world, the light which dispels the darkness, and which the darkness can never overcome. And 'God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.' (2 Corinthians 4:6). The light comes not only into the world, but directly into each of us as well, so that the one who said, 'I am the light of the world' (John 8:12) can also say to us 'You are the light of the world' (Matthew 5:14). At Christmas we not only receive the light, we are called to be witnesses to and bearers of that light to the dark places we find around us. This Christmas may God grant us all a clearer vision of his light, and through us may that light shine further into his world, not only in the dark days of December but throughout the year ahead.

With my love to you all,
Fr Ian



Registered Charity no. 1011772

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

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