Parish of the Holy Trinity

Community Bulletin

21 November 2026 No. 114

Monthly News & Announcements

Prayers & Services

- Please pray for the newly departed *Nicholas, Vasilios, Eirini (Renée) & Perikles,* and for the sick *Andrew & family, Konstantina, Anastasia, Anna, John, Margarita, Ioannis, Mihaela, Elizabeth & 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

Events & Announcements

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

The 40-day Advent fast anticipating the Feast of the Nativity has begun for those able to keep it. Note that fish, wine and olive oil are permitted (except on Wednesdays and Fridays) until 17 December. The fast also encompasses greater efforts in prayer, as well as in activities that serve others.

Last Sunday the Library was full of people making Advent calendars to honour the season, and Maria F may offer another session on **Sunday 29 November**. *Please contact her promptly (WhatsApp 07488599428) if you wish to take part.*

On **Sunday 29 November** the Auxiliary Association of St Andrew will celebrate our patron saint's feast with an *Artoclasia* (blessing of specially baked loaves) after the Liturgy. We will have a **bring-&-share meal** afterwards — please offer a fasting dish if you can (this may include oil, wine, and fish) and join in to celebrate the feast and **all our community volunteers**!

Looking ahead, we will also have a Saints and Gingerbread Workshop Day on **Sunday 13 December,** and possibly again on Sunday 20 December if enough families register their interest in this additional session. Please contact Maria F if you would like to participate, using WhatsApp 07488599428.

Please note that our gatherings with Fr Ian to read through the Gospel according to St Mark continue every other Saturday evening after vespers.

Memory Eternal!



Photo Credit: Jim Hyndman

Renée Hirschon-Philippakis, a long-standing member of the community, died peacefully on Sunday 25 October. Renée served for a number of years on the Holy Trinity Parish Council, including two years as President. Born in South Africa, her studies in Social Anthropology took her from Cape Town to Chicago and finally to Oxford where she completed a DPhil thesis on the Greek refugee community in Kokkinia (Piraeus) who originated from Asia Minor, her supervisor being John Campbell. The fieldwork for her thesis involved living among the refugees in Kokkinia, learning (as she later put it) the experience of 'refugeeness (*prosfygiá*)', the status of being a refugee. Her resulting book, *Heirs of the Greek Catastrophe* (1989), has proved to be a pioneering work in what has since become the field of refugee studies.

During her time as Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of the Aegean (situated on Mytilini, just across from the Turkish coast) she became more and more aware of the urgent need to bring Greek and Turkish scholars together in the study of the events surrounding the Treaty of Lausanne (1923) and the Exchange of Populations. Realising that this could best be achieved through building up personal relationships, she helped to organise a series of conferences culminating in 1998 in a four-day event in Oxford during the course of which Turkish and Greek musicians came together to play unrehearsed, illustrating in the most effective way how the two sides shared a common heritage. Renée's work on refugee communities so often took the form of bringing two conflicted narratives together into a better mutual understanding, in this way appropriately harmonizing her name, Renée/Eirene, with that of the *eirenopoioi* (peace-makers) of the Beatitudes. She is survived by Manolis (to whom the community owes the beautiful *polykandelon* in the church), and by Nicolas, Thomas and Yiannis.

—Professor Sebastian Brocke

(See links for further tributes from writer Bruce Clark, and Ekathimerini.)

Registered Charity no. 1011772

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Please remember Holy Trinity Parish in your prayers

Friends of Mount Athos



METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS MEMORIAL LECTURE

THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2027 6.00 PM
ST SOPHIA'S CATHEDRAL, Bayswater, London

An evening of faith, scholarship, fellowship and celebration in memory of Metropolitan Kallistos featuring:

Dr Rowan Williams, Former Archbishop of Canterbury



Orthodoxy, Courage, and Freedom: The Witness of Fr Nicolae Steinhardt

We are delighted to invite you to the Metropolitan Kallistos Memorial Lecture and the annual Friends of Mount Athos Vasilopita Celebration, which will take place on Thursday 21 January 2027 at St Sophia's Cathedral, Bayswater.

The second lecture in memory of Metropolitan Kallistos will be delivered at 6.00 pm by Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. He will be introduced by His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain and the title of his lecture will be Orthodoxy, Courage, and Freedom: The Witness of Fr Nicolae Steinhardt

Dr Williams will explore the life and thought of Fr Nicolae, the remarkable Romanian writer, intellectual and Orthodox Christian whose recently translated Journal of Joy recounts his spiritual journey during the years of Communist persecution in Romania. Imprisoned under the post-war regime, Steinhardt underwent baptism while in prison and emerged as one of the most distinctive Orthodox voices of the twentieth century.

His reflections on faith, freedom, culture and human dignity speak powerfully to the challenges of contemporary Europe. Without resorting to ethnic nationalism or exclusivism, Steinhardt presents a vision of Orthodoxy that is both deeply rooted in tradition and fully engaged with the wider world, a perspective that resonates closely with Metropolitan Kallistos's lifelong commitment to bringing Orthodoxy beyond cultural boundaries and into meaningful dialogue with modern society.

Following the lecture, members and guests are warmly invited to the Friends of Mount Athos Vasilopita Celebration in the crypt of St Sophia's Cathedral.

The cost of attendance, including the Vasilopita reception, is £30 per person - tickets may be purchased here.

We very much hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a memorable evening of reflection, fellowship and celebration.

FOLLOWED BY THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT ATHOS VASILOPITA CELEBRATION

A festive gathering in the Cathedral Crypt

£30 PER PERSON

Lecture & Reception Included

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Or use this link to book
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