



BASILDON ORTHODOX COMMUNITY

BULLETIN

----- Issue 3: *Great Lent 2012* -----

Dear friends in Christ,

We are now half way through the Great Fast; halfway towards Holy Pascha, the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Last Sunday the Church commemorated the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross. It is no coincidence that the Cross is planted here at the halfway-point of the Fast. During the first three weeks of Lent we have each of us concentrated on personal repentance, askesis and transformation. The Cross is our encouragement in our struggles. The Orthodox Church views the death and resurrection of Christ as a single event. There is not made - as so often in the West - a distinction between the one and the other. The Crucifixion is the beginning of the "Resurrectional event": we must die with Christ if we are to rise again. As Archimandrite Zacharias, a Spiritual Father of our local Monastery, says, 'the way of Christ is the way of going *down*'; and, it is written in the Synaxarion at Mattins: 'Through the forty-day fast, we too are in a way crucified, dying to the passions.' 'A strange site is Christ crucified,' writes Saint John Chrysostom; for it is in His most terrible death that Christ is beheld as the triumphant *King of Glory* [Ps. 23:7-10 (LXX); Prov. 25:2]. The Holy Cross is a symbol of joy and triumph. When viewed from the empty tomb the cross is an emblem of victory. Transformation, transfiguration, are themes essential to the Christian life: Christ 'makes all things new' [Rev. 21:5; Wisdom 7:27].

In *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, Vladimir Lossky writes that --

The goal of Orthodox spirituality, the blessedness of the Kingdom..., is above all a participation in the divine life of the Trinity; the deified

state of the co-heirs of the divine nature, gods created by the uncreated God, possessing by grace all that the Holy Trinity possesses by nature.

The Lenten Fast helps prepare us for this participation.

In Christ,

Paul

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Archbishop's Visit: Liturgy and Ordinations

Many of you will already be aware that His Eminence Metropolitan John is visiting Colchester during Bright Week.

On **Wednesday 18th APRIL** His Eminence will serve the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and will ordain as Reader Alex Haig and Paul Brighton-Cross.

Following the Liturgy, a buffet-style parish lunch will be served.

It is a school/work-day. But, if you are able, please do attend, and share with us this important moment in the life of our new community.

The Liturgy starts at 10:00am.

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NEW-HOME NEWS

The local Diocesan committee of the Church of England meets on **Wednesday 28th MARCH**. On their agenda will be our application for Orthodox-use of All Saints. We ask you to please hold this in your prayers, that God's will be done and that the Anglican authorities are guided by the Holy Spirit.

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YOUR COMMITTEE

In January 2012, the new Committee was formed. It is made up as follows--

Paul Brighton-Cross (Chair)

George Harrison (Treasurer)

Anna Greenwood (Child Protection)

Nectarios Harrison (Publicity)

Susanna Brighton-Cross (Secretary)

Should you have any issues you wish to raise please contact the Committee Secretary.

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BARKING PILGRIMAGE: SATURDAY 12th MAY.

The third annual Orthodox Pilgrimage to the Saints of Barking.

Barking is a place sanctified by Orthodox monasticism and martyrdom.

Please join us. Contact Paul for further details.

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From a Homily on the Annunciation to the Holy Mother of God, by Saint John of Kronstadt ~

Behold: how the image of the Ever-Virgin Mother of God gleams! Yet, She is also human.... What exalted Her to such incomparable heights? What made Her so glorious and so great -- loftier than the Cherubim and more glorious than the Seraphim?

It was the three supreme virtues: humility, purity and a fiery love for God -- a love that is alien to earthly, to external, love.

She Herself confesses that the Lord has looked upon the humility of His hand-maiden [Luke 1, 48].

Do thou also, O Christian, begin to love, and implant deep within thine heart that humility which is divinely-pleasing; acquire also, though exerted labours lasting thine entire life, a purity of heart -- do this by [means of] fasting, prayer, meditation upon God, tears, and especially by a frequent and worthy communion of the holy Mysteries of Christ.

Begin, also, to love God, thy Creator and thy Saviour, with all thine heart, and prefer nothing that is in the world to His holy love.

Meditate ever upon Him and upon His wondrous works; live Him and breathe Him; nourish thy soul with Him,; attire thyself in Him; purify thyself, enlighten

thyself, sanctify thyself, establish thyself, adorn thyself, praise thyself, console thyself, through Him. By means of Him, vanquish the temptations and impositions of foes, visible and invisible.

~ The Feast of the Annunciation is on 25th MARCH

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MANY THANKS!

We express our gratitude to the following--

Theodora & George : for a lovely pair of candlesticks.

George : for hospitality and much hard work in preparing and maintaining our chapel.

Anna & George : for baking the Prospora.

Ann & Clive : for a wheelchair.

Lucy & George : for refreshments.

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SAINT MELETIOS OF MOUNT GALESION ~ ON PRAYER

Prayer is like a lamp lighting a dwelling,

Driving away every creeping thing of the night;

Thus illuminating the house of the soul, it drives out

All the darkness of the passions and all their stench.

If you long for prayer, then hate anger and rage,

For the prayers of those who nurse grudges is seed on stone.

If you want to pray do not make trouble for anyone,

Never cause a soul distress or be aggrieved at your neighbour.

~ from the Alphabetalphabetos.

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HOLY BAPTISM

The Baptism into Holy Orthodoxy of Emily Maria Maiaron takes place on
Saturday 28th APRIL, at 4:00pm.

Friends and family will be there.

Please come and support her loving parents and welcome to the Holy Church your new sister in Christ!

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Poor human reason, when it trusts in itself, substitutes the strangest absurdities for the highest divine concepts

~ St John Chrysostom

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OUR COMMUNITY

Founded in 2010, we are a growing community of Orthodox Christians. Our mission is to glorify our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through our words and actions, according to the Holy Traditions and Sacred Teachings of our Orthodox Christian Faith. As of MARCH 2012 we have twice-monthly services. Our chapel is dedicated to St Agnes, Virgin-Martyr, of Rome - visitors are welcome, please contact us for details.

We are under the pastoral care of the UK Deanery of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East. We welcome people from all backgrounds and invite you to join us! All services are in English.

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+ **Glory to God for all things** +