

**LETTER of GRATITUDE from FATHER JAKOB upon ORDINATION to the HOLY  
PRIESTHOOD, 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015**

! المسيح قام **Hristos a înviat !** Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!  
Христóсь воскрес! CHRIST IS RISEN !

Your Eminence, my brother clergy, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today was an amazing day. Certainly the most significant day of my life.

*In the forlorn hope of the following not sounding too much like an Oscars acceptance speech. . .*

I would like to express a small word of gratitude on behalf of the Community of All Saints. Firstly: Sayedna, thank you for bringing your episcopal blessing upon your unworthy servant and therefore upon our small community.

I thank Achpriest Gregory, Fr. Phillip, the Axios Comittee, and all the clergy who graciously attended the ordinations. I thank Fr. Alexander Tefft, Fr. Alexander Haig and Fr. Patrick Ramsey for all their support, tutelage, many kindnesses and immense patience.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to Fr. Samir and the people of the Holy Cathedral of St George, for their hospitality.

I also thank my darling wife and treasured daughter, my beloved godmother, and the people of All Saints', St Helen's and St Botolph's: your love and prayers have sustained me during these past few years.

I am particularly grateful for the most undeserved kindness and generosity of Maria & Ioan Luca, and family in Romania, and the newly-ordained Sub-Deacon Ioannis Brydges and family, for the wonderful gift of priestly vestments, epigonation and pectoral cross.

I thank my beloved godchildren, particularly Helen, for the most lovely cake. All those many people who sent me kind messages, presented me with gifts and cards (Fr. Alexander & Kh. Hilary, Paul Lansley, *et al.*): I thank you all.

My wife, Presbyteria Susanna, would also like to thank all those who presented her with gifts; in particular Margaret, for the beautiful roses.

We thank you all. But above all I thank almighty God for allowing a sinner such as I to bear this priestly responsibility.

As the Epistle to the Hebrews tells us priesthood is not of the old covenant, rather it is something of a higher form, established by the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is both an honour and a burden. I am conscious that I have so little to offer, but I am encouraged by the ordination prayers which speak of making up that which is lacking.

I humbly ask your prayers. Thank you.

In the risen Lord,

the sinner and newly ordained priest, Jakob

Apostle Simon Zealotes, 2015.