



BASILDON ORTHODOX COMMUNITY BULLETIN

All Saints Church North Benfleet

No. 13 ~ Autumn 2016



SUNDAY - DIVINE LITURGY, preceded by ORTHROS.

WEDNESDAY - THIRD & SIXTH HOUR, and CATECHESIS.

LAST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH - ESPERINOS.

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A WORD OF St. ISAAC THE SYRIAN

What is a merciful heart? It is a heart on fire for the whole of creation, for men, for the birds, for animals, for demons, and for every created thing; and by the recollection and sight of them the eyes of a merciful man pour forth abundant tears. By the strong and vehement mercy that grips such a man's heart, and by such great compassion, the heart is humbled and one cannot bear to hear or to see any injury or slight sorrow in anything in creation. For this reason, such a man offers up tearful prayer continually even for irrational beasts, for the enemies of the truth, and for those who harm him, that they be protected and receive mercy. And in like manner such a man prays for the family of reptiles because of the great compassion that burns without measure in a heart that is in the likeness of God.

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NOTICES

- - 23rd October marks the sixth anniversary of our community. To celebrate the occasion we shall have a light lunch after Divine Liturgy. Please bring some food to share.
- - Archdiocesan calendars for 2017 are now available to buy. The theme, this year, is H.E. Metropolitan Silouan's visit to his parishes. We are pictured for April. Please contact Lucy for further details.
- - Decorative and structural repairs are on-going. We are hopeful that – God willing – the tower will be made water-tight before the onset of winter.

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A WORD OF St. PAISIOS OF MOUNT ATHOS

When someone takes seriously the struggle that must be carried out in this life, there is a divine flame in him. If this divine flame is missing, then he is useless. It is this that gives him joy, courage, philotimo. This is what the Lord said, "I came to cast fire upon the earth." When this divine fire exists, then the chanting and prayer we do for ourselves and others will have results. . . Whoever has no philotimo, no sacrifice, will have either worldly joy or worldly worries, but he cannot experience spiritual delight.

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St. KOSMAS & St. DAMIANOS, THE HOLY UNMERCENARIES

[Front cover: Holy Ikon on the saints, together with their mother, St. Theodote]
The Wonderworkers and Holy Unmercenaries (*Anargyri*), St. Kosmas and St. Damianos, are great Saints of the Church. May we honour them while emulating their faith, voluntary poverty and charity, and all-consuming love for Christ, in service to others.
Feast: 1st November.

ORTHOPRAXIS: A PURE AND HUMBLE HEART

The immediate objective of the Christian life should be the acquisition of purity of heart.

We are warned that a superficial, shallow, faith provides only a hostile environment, one in which the divine cannot germinate or take root; poor (corrupted) soil is unworthy of - and rejected by - God. A soil that is not tended, watered and fertile will produce nothing but weeds. The adoption of a reverential and humble attitude is foundational to the process of salvation. Salvation, the attainment of the Kingdom, is the activation of the God-given ability to assimilate the divine and uncreated energies (grace).

The sacramental *mysteria* of the Holy Church are not 'magic'. Grace is not simply sprinkled around like fairy-dust. For a *mysterion* to be *effective* the disposition of the soul and personal attitude of the recipient have a crucial part to play: the recipient must have a repentant and contrite heart. Only a pure heart is open to God- only someone who knows that they are sick visits the physician, and only one who trusts the physician takes his medicine.

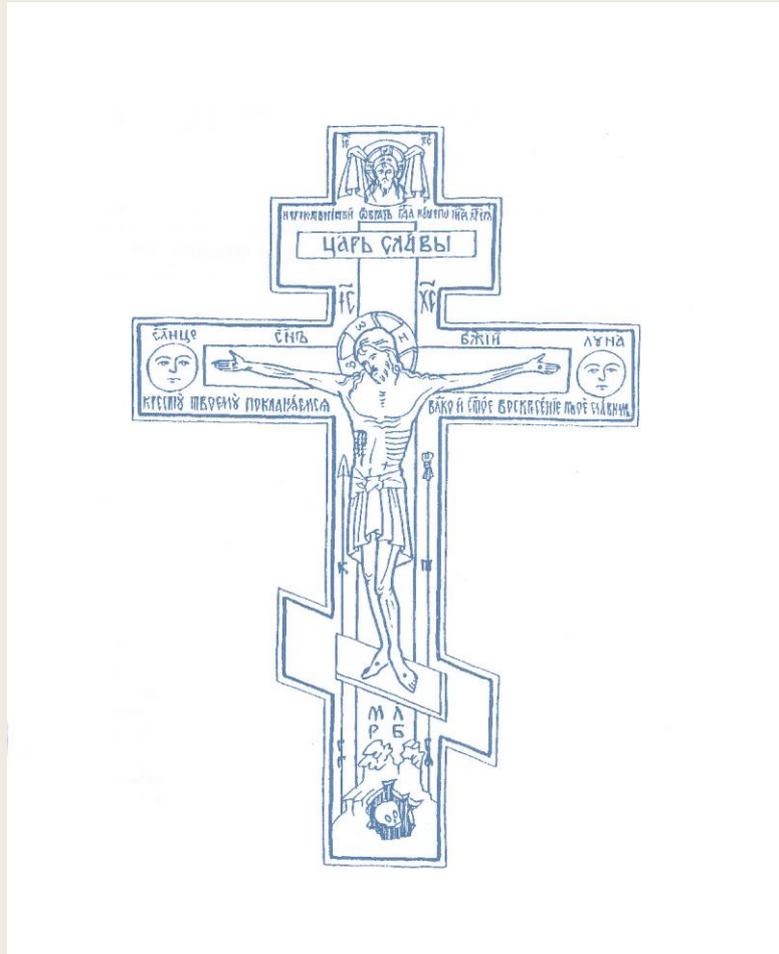
Grace is never 'forced' upon the person by God, one must desire it with one's whole being. Neither is grace received simply because we *will it*. The operation of Grace is a *synergeia*: a cooperative action of the love shared by God and man. In all things that we do and say we must have remembrance of God and be conscious of our dependence on Him for all things- when we awaken we must praise God; before we begin every task we must ask God's assistance; before a journey we should ask God's protection; in times of distress we should call upon God for help; when things go well or badly we must praise and thank Him for His beneficence. When making our Confession or partaking of the Holy Mysteries we should beseech God for his mercy, praise Him for His Glory, and be conscious of our own utter unworthiness and broken-ness before Him.

When we make our confession our sins are cleansed by our tears - a *second Baptism*; our contrition is necessary for absolution to have validity and be thoroughly effective. A confession without pain of heart does not reconcile us to God or to man. Likewise, at Holy Communion, proper preparations are necessary for us to be granted the fullest physical and spiritual benefits of partaking of the Holy and Precious Body and Blood of Christ God. The virtue of the divine *koinonia* is conditional upon the disposition of him who approaches the economy. Holy Communion, as with all the sacramental *mysteria* of the Holy Church, is something that we should only ever approach with fear of God and in faith and love.

The primary action of the Christian life should be repentance of sin and the humbling of ourselves before God and before man. On this rests the successful attainment of the ultimate goal of the Christian life: *theosis* - union with God.

~ Fr. Jakob

THE HOLY CROSS



Key to the ikon:

НЕУКОТВОРЕННЫЙ ОБРАЗЪ ГОСПОДА НАШЕГО ИИСУСА ХРИСТА

The Icon of our Lord Jesus Christ not made by hand.

ЦАРЬ СЛАВЫ The King of Glory СНЬ БЖИИ The Son of God

СОЛНЦЕ the Sun; ЛУНА the Moon

КРЕСТУ ТВОЕМУ ПОКЛАНАЕМСЯ ВЛАДЫКО И СВАТООЕ ВОСКРЕСЕНІЕ ТВОЕ СЛАВИМЪ

We venerate Thy Cross, O Master, and we glorify Thy holy Resurrection.

КОПИЕ the Spear; ТРОСТЬ the Sponge

МѢСТО ЛОБНОЕ РАЙ БЫЕШЬ The place of the skull was Paradise

ГОРА ГОЛГОФА Mount Golgotha

ГОЛОВА АДАМА the head of Adam

ARCHDIOCESAN CONFERENCE 2017

The theme of the 2017 conference is 'The Ordering of Divine Worship'. The conference will be a blessed opportunity to strengthen our worship of God and our love for our Bishop and the clergy. The conference will take place at Swanwick (Derbyshire) on 29th-31st May 2017. All are welcome to attend. Application forms and programme are now available. If you should like to attend, do please contact Fr. Jakob asap.

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IN GRATITUDE

The parish is grateful to God for the many blessings He bestows upon our small and poor community. We are especially grateful for the generosity and patronage of the Lyon family; for Fr. Vasilis and Presbytera Maria, who have joined us; for our Readers, servers, chanters, and all those who clean and help and support All Saints. Glory to God for His mercy!

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WORDS OF LIFE

And God said, Let light come into being, and light came into being. And God saw the light that it was good. ~ Genesis 1:3-4.

As it is not possible to walk without feet or fly without wings so it is not possible to attain the Kingdom of Heaven without the fulfilment of the Commandments.'

~ St. Theofan the Recluse.

We must have our gaze fixed firmly on Heaven. Then nothing here can shake us.

~ Elder Amphilochios Makris.

Orthodoxy is what Christ taught, the Apostles preached, and the Fathers kept.

~ St. Athanasios.

He who sufficiently knows and judges himself has no time to judge others.

~ St. Philaret of Moscow.

Not every quiet man is humble, but every humble man is quiet.

~ St. Isaac the Syrian.

All things emerged through him; and without him there emerged not even one thing that has emerged. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ~ John 1:3-4.

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+ GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS +