



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 122 January 2019



*To be Orthodox means to have the God-Man, Christ,
constantly in your soul, to live in Him, think in Him,
feel in Him, act in Him.*

St Justin (Popovic) (+ 1979)

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The Bishop of Richmond and Western Europe
Diocese of Great Britain & Ireland
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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**To the Venerable Clergy, God-Loving Monastics and Pious Faithful
of Great Britain, Ireland and Western Europe**

Dear in Christ, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters!

Christ is born! Glorify Him! With profound joy and deepest humility we find that the Heavenly Father has once again permitted us to arrive at the birth of His Son. From the darkness of ignorance, we have been called to bear witness to the coming of the Light; and beholding the glory of this longed-for incarnation, we cry out together with our great Archpastor: *'I behold a new and wondrous mystery ... the Ancient of Days has become an infant; He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger; and He Who cannot be touched .. now lies embraced in the hands of men'* (St John Chrysostom, Homily on the Nativity).

The depth of this Mystery — that the eternal Son of the Father should take flesh and enter into the world He had fashioned — must never cease to fill us with the saint's sense of wonder. Christ does not enter into human life merely as a sign or consolation, but in order to transform and sanctify that life: my life, and yours. As St John goes on to say, *'Taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so, He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit, that He may save me.'*

The Nativity of our Saviour is the reality that grounds our profound hope as Christian people. Our God does not view His world from afar off, looking down upon creation from a distance; rather, He enters into our world — a world we mar too often with anger, judgement, fear and rebellion — and takes the creation we have scarred as His own, healing it by uniting it to Himself. It is into this world, in all its frailty and fallenness, that the Lord comes. From all eternity He dwells in the heavens, beyond the grasp of all created things; and yet, out of love, He makes Himself accessible to creation, humbly accepting its most meagre lot. *'He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven could not contain, a manger would this day receive.'*

I pray that on this day of His birth in the flesh, His incomprehensible love for us will give birth in each of you to a deeper love for Him. There is so much sorrow in the world: but today we meet its source of joy — and into the mangers of our own hearts, humble and dark and unworthy, Christ comes anew, bearing His Father's love. To Him, then, Who in the confusion of our lives has wrought a clear path into His Kingdom, let us dedicate our lives, our hearts, and all the glory with which we sing: *Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

**Bishop of Richmond and Western Europe
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

NOTES & JOTTINGS

CHRISTMAS & THEOPHANY CELEBRATIONS

The Vigil for the Feast of the Nativity will be at 7.30pm on Sunday 7 January. The Hours and Festal Liturgy will then be celebrated at 10.10am. Please arrive as early as possible for Confession. Afterwards, all are invited to share in a buffet lunch in the College complete with carols and festal cheer. After the traditional 12 days of the feast, the Vigil for Theophany will be served on Friday 18 January at 7.30pm with the Hours and Festal Liturgy served at 10.10am on Saturday 19 January with the Great Blessing of Water. Fr Antony, assisted by Fr Dcn Mark, will then be available to come and bless your homes, please speak to either of them if you would like this.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2019

Now is the time to put these dates in the diary and plan in advance to talk to schools or employers about taking time off in order to attend the divine services.

Sunday 10 March – Forgiveness Sunday (beginning of Great Lent)

Sunday 21 April – Palm Sunday

Sunday 28 April – Great and Holy Pascha

Saturday 11 May - Diocesan Pilgrimage to St Albans

Thursday 6 June – Holy Ascension

Sunday 16 June – Pentecost

***Saturday 22 June (tbc)* – Pilgrimage to St Botolph's Church Iken**

Monday 19 August – The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Wednesday 28 August– The Dormition of our Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Wednesday 6 November – Patronal Feast of the Ikon of *Joy of All Who Sorrow*

Friday 15 November – Founder's Day

CALENDARS

Don't forget to order your **St Herman Calendar for 2019**. This is a lectionary in book form giving you the saints who are commemorated each day plus the Bible readings for the church services. **£9.25 per copy**. We also have some copies of the **ROCOR Fund for Assistance 2019 Wall Calendar**. This year's calendar celebrates 60th Anniversary for the Fund for Assistance and is in a large A3 format. **£5 per copy**.

NAMEDAYS

We send our congratulations to everyone who is celebrating a nameday at this time & wish them:

MANY YEARS!

2 January – **Repose of St John of Kronstadt** – John Steel

9 January – **St Stephen the Protomartyr** – Stephen Masterson, Stephen Ward

13 January – **St Joseph the Betrothed** – Joseph Meyer

15 January – **St Seraphim of Sarov** – Seraphim Collins,
Serafima Hopper, Seraphina Dembri

30 January – **St Anthony the Great** - Priest Antony Bardsley



COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

JANUARY 2019

Saturday 5 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 6 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Holy Fathers)

7.30pm ~ Vigil

✠ Monday 7 January ✠

10.10am ~ Hours and Festal Liturgy (Feast of the Nativity)

Saturday 12 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 13 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Apodosis of Nativity / Sunday after Nativity)

Friday 18 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

✠ Saturday 19 January ✠

**10.30am ~ Hours, Festal Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water
(Feast of Theophany)**

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 20 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Synaxis of St John the Baptist / St Brannock of Braunton)

Saturday 26 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 27 January

10.10am – Hours & Divine Liturgy (Apodosis of Theophany)