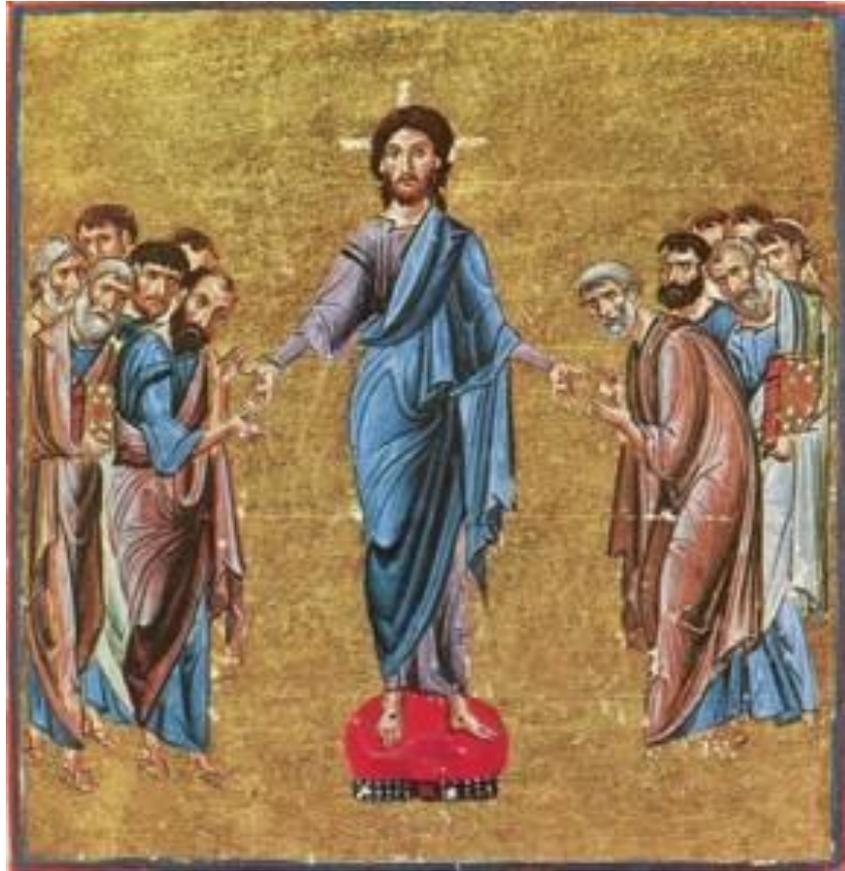




# *“Joy of All Who Sorrow”*

No. 114 May 2018



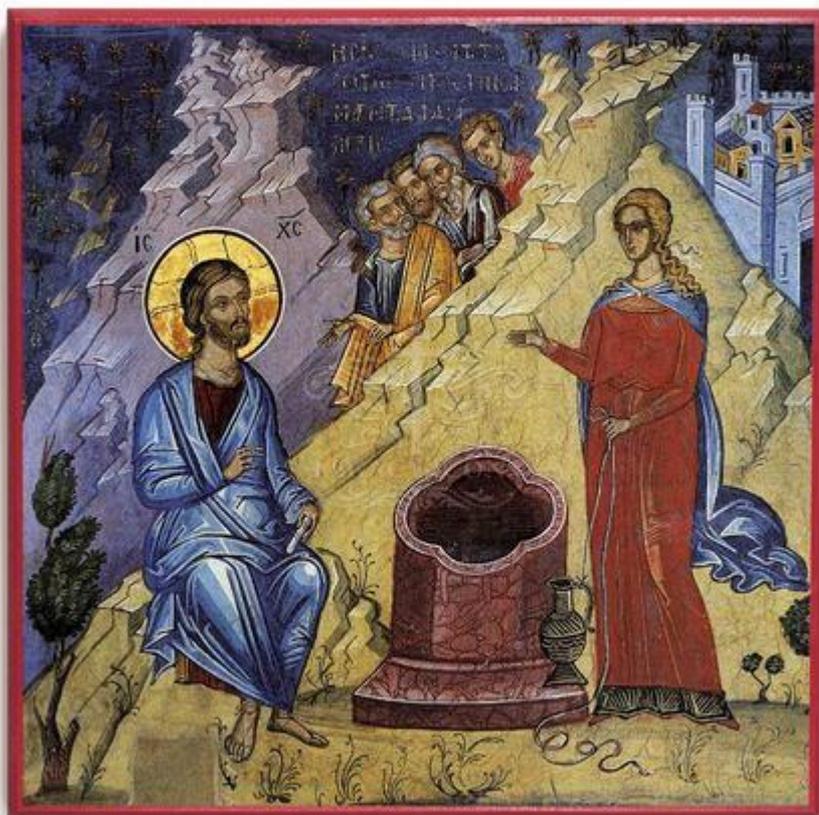
## **Sermon on Mid-Pentecost** **by Eugene (Father Seraphim) Rose**

For too many of us, perhaps, the weeks following the radiant Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ are a time of relaxation and even of indulgence; the rigours of the Fast being ended, the body revels while the spirit grows weak. But if this is unfortunately so, it is our own fault and not the fault of the Holy Church; for she never ceases to draw our minds upward and instruct us as to what thoughts and actions are appropriate for Orthodox Christians in this holy season. Each Sunday after Easter has a special name drawn from the appointed Gospel reading; between Easter and the Ascension there are the Sundays of St. Thomas, of the Myrrh bearers, of the Paralytic, of the Samaritan Woman, of the Blind Man. Another special feast, to which too little attention is usually paid, occurs on the Wednesday of the fourth week after Easter and is called ‘Mid-Pentecost.’ This feast commemorates the event in the life of the Saviour when, in the middle of the Old Testament Feast of Tabernacles, He taught in the Temple concerning His being sent from God and concerning the living water of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which all those who thirst may receive from Him (St. John 7:14-39).

As celebrated by Orthodox Christians, this feast occurs exactly midway between Easter and Pentecost and serves as a link between them. It continues the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection, emphasizing His Divine nature and glory; for it was proper to no one but to God to conquer death. At the same time it reminds us of the approaching Descent of the Holy Spirit and prepares us for it, teaching us to find in Christ our God the Source of life and grace, He Who sends the Holy Spirit (St. John 16:7), and to become ourselves not merely recipients, but even givers of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: "He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (St. John 7:38).

Faith has grown weak in our day, and few live up to this teaching: but even for the weakest there is at least one lesson to be learned from the teaching of this feast of Mid-Pentecost: thirst. Even while feasting on the good things of this earth that are permitted to us in this joyful season, we should yet thirst for what lies above the earth, for the Holy Spirit Whose coming we await even while we enjoy the presence among us of the Risen Lord. Thus we sing in the Troparion of the feast:

Having come to the middle of the feast,  
refresh my thirsty soul with the streams of piety;  
for Thou, O Saviour, didst say to all:  
Let him who thirsts come to Me and drink.  
O Christ our God, Source of Life, glory to Thee.



'Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.'

## Protopresbyter Valery Lukianov's congratulatory sermon on the occasion of Met. Hilarion's 10th anniversary as First Hierarch of ROCOR.



Today is a special moment, which marks ten years of Metropolitan Hilarion's primacy over the Church Abroad. We do not bring this up simply because it is proper to do so, but because the Metropolitan is someone that the Lord God has given us in His mercy. Vladyka Hilarion belongs to a set of people with very exceptional gifts: he feels no resentment, makes no demands, and boasts of nothing. His kindness does not allow him to utter an unpleasant word to anyone.

There was a large conference in Jordanville, many people came, and there was no room left. We arrived late from New York. I asked Vladyka where I could spend the night, and he replied, "Do not worry; you can stay the night in my cell." We came up to his cell, which had a small cot in it; I spent the night on that cot. Even other bishops did not have that luxury. The next morning, I found out that Vladyka Hilarion had spent the night in the print-shop, on the floor. What a First Hierarch! What a leader!

And thus, today, honouring Vladyka Hilarion on the decennial of his primacy, we must all understand the kind of man God has sent us, and rejoice. You know, many of us do not know this: when elections of high-ranking officials take place, there can be infighting, all manner of repugnant political moves made behind the scenes, you have read or heard of this. But when the time came to elect Vladyka Hilarion, there were no opponents! And thus Vladyka became First Hierarch, peacefully. This did not change his character or his attitude even for a moment. He is simple, kind, loving, gentle. So simple is this man, that when he was appointed to New York, a group of babushkas coalesced around him, in need of various things. Vladyka would gather these things together and go through New York City, distributing them to these old women in need. Quietly, calmly, unassumingly.

I have had many dozens of official interactions with Vladyka. I do not remember a single time when he would argue with me, but would calmly counsel the best course of action. And so, with my whole heart, like many of you, I respect and love our First Hierarch. Today, all of the archpastors and guests are coming together [in Synod]; they will greet him, offer eloquent words, but the wisest one of them would say, "Brothers and sisters, we have achieved much in our lives, strove for much; sometimes we succeeded easily, other times with difficulty. But Vladyka Hilarion, out of all of us, has a marvellous quality: he is simple, he is capable of being a simple person." This we treasure, as we recall his life today. He has done so much good: quietly, unassumingly, beautifully, silently, kind-heartedly, that we will never forget this.

May the Lord God grant him strength and health to continue to labour as long as possible in the Lord's Vineyard. May we, Orthodox people, look at such leaders, and try at least to some extent to copy their lives. And only then we will we obtain true simplicity, without which we cannot live.

# Notes & Jottings

## March For Life

With the blessing of Bishop Irenei, clergy and faithful from across the diocese are invited to participate in the **March 4 Life** which will be held on **Saturday 5 May at 1.30pm**, marching from the De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, (near Covent Garden), to Parliament Square. The March 4 Life is the largest Pro-Life event in the UK to witness to the sanctity of life from conception to old age. Participants are invited to begin the day in prayer with the Divine Liturgy which will be served at our Cathedral at Harvard Road in Chiswick, London at 9am. At the end of the Liturgy participants are then invited to travel on the underground to the Cathedral of the Sourozh diocese at Ennismore Gardens for a short moleben at approx.. 11.45am before travelling on together to the De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms for the march at 1.30pm. After listening to some of the speeches in the afternoon, we will then travel back together for the Vigil Service to St George the Great-Martyr at the Cathedral. Last year a small group from our community attended the **March 4 Life** in Birmingham. We hope that this year there will be a larger witness from across the diocese and beyond.

## Ordination

During Bishop Irenei's forthcoming visit, on Ascension Day, Thursday 16 May, Subdeacon Mark Tattum-Smith will be ordained to the diaconate at the Harvard Road Cathedral.

## NAMEDAYS

- 4 May – **St Philippa, mother of St Theodore of Perge** – Matushka Phlipa Steer
- 6 May – **Great Martyr George, Patron of England** – George Tattum-Smith
- 8 May – **Apostle and Evangelist Mark** – Subdeacon Mark Tattum-Smith
- 15 May – **St Boris & St Gleb, Martyrs** – Boris Jermy, Gleb Jermy
- 18 May – **New Martyr Efrem of Nea Makri** – Efrem Carrasco
- 21 May – **Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian** – John Andrews
- 26 May – **St Alexander of Rome, Martyr** – Alexander Weston

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

**MANY YEARS!**



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

**MAY 2018**

**Saturday 5 May**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 6 May**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Samaritan Woman, St George)**

**Saturday 12 May**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 13 May**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Blind Man)**

**Saturday 19 May**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 20 May**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council)**

**Saturday 26 May**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 27 May**

**Hours and Divine Liturgy (Pentecost)**

**10.10am ~ *Kneeling Vespers - Approx. 2pm***



*True wisdom is not to judge everyone, but to love everyone.*

*Simeon of Mount Athos*

*Collegiate Church of the Ikon of the Mother of God: Joy of All Who Sorrow*

*The White House, Low Road, Mettingham, Suffolk, NR35 1TP*

*Tel: (01986) 895176*

*[www.mettingham.org.uk](http://www.mettingham.org.uk)*