



# “Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 36 November 2011



## YEAR'S MIND

It seems impossible but Tuesday 15 November is the first anniversary of the repose of Mary, our foundress. Requiem services will be held on Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Please join us if you can to pray for the repose of Mary's soul. As we have recorded in previous issues of this bulletin, work is proceeding to transform the house to make it suitable for its ecclesiastical future. A task that may have to wait until next Spring is the installation of a permanent grave cross and the redesigning of the area around, and the approach to, the grave with paths and stone steps up to the level of the higher ground.

**MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER** - 7.30pm Vigil for the Departed

**TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER** - 9.30am Liturgy followed by prayers at the grave (weather permitting)

## †PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On **Sunday 6 November** we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival. The programme of services is as follows:

**SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER** -

6pm Intercessions before the Ikon

7.30pm Vigil

**SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER** -

10.30am Liturgy followed by a celebratory meal in the house.

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The church is dedicated to the Holy Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, and in particular, in honour of the *Joy of All Who Sorrow* Ikon. Here are some details about the history of this wonder-working ikon.



## THE IKON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD *“JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW”*

“Seeing that we have no boldness because of the multitude of our sins, do thou, O Virgin Theotokos, fervently entreat Him who was born of thee: for the prayer of a mother availeth much to the goodwill of the Lord”. (from the Sixth Hour)

In the Lity, in the Vigil Service for Christmas Day, we sing: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Maker of all”. And in another hymn, in a reference to the evil one, “but now he sees a woman become Mother of the Creator”. As Mother of God, Who is Creator of heaven and earth, the Holy Virgin is indeed the mother of us all. Thus she has a place of special honour in our devotions and in our hearts.



The origin of the ancient “Joy of All Who Sorrow” Ikon is unknown; at least it is undocumented. The first recorded miracle, related to this ikon, happened in 1688. At the time, the Russian Orthodox Church was ruled by Patriarch Joachim. His sister, the lady Euphemia, was sick and had suffered for a long time with an abdominal abscess, which was an open sore. It seems that it was so serious that Euphemia’s internal organs could be seen and there were very real fears for her life. Her ardent prayer to the Mother of God was answered in that she understood that she must have a moleben (service of intercession) sung before the “*Joy of All Who Sorrow*” Ikon that was kept in the Transfiguration Church in Ordynka. The priest was summoned. He brought the ikon, served the moleben, with the great blessing of water, and blessed the ailing women with the holy water. Euphemia’s life was spared and she recovered from her malady. Giving thanks to the Mother of God, Euphemia make public the news of her miraculous healing and so this ikon came to prominence. The Church established a commemorative festival, on 24 October (6 November ns), in honour of the miracle.

In the ikon, the Mother of God is shown in glory in the centre surrounded by supplicants, the sick, the suffering, the poor, the bereaved and people who are in need or sorrow. On either side of the Mother of God are angels who are directing the petitions to her. The petitions are represented by small scrolls. The original ikon (the Moscow one), which still survives and is a centre of pilgrimage for the faithful, shows the holy Virgin holding the Christ Child. A picture of this ancient ikon can be seen on our website.

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## SAINT CONDEDUS

Condedus, presbyter and recluse, connected with Fontenelle. Called also Condelus, Condedes, Candidus, but his genuine name was Condedus. He was a native of Great Britain, but migrated into Gaul in the time of Theodoricus, son of Clovis. After crossing the Channel, he took up his abode in the neighbourhood of Fontana St Walarici (St Valeri-en-Caux, or more probably St Valeri-sur-Somme), where he led a solitary life. Then hearing of the fame of St Lambert and the brothers of the monastery of Fontanelle, he visited them, He then sailed to an island called Belcinaca, in the Seine, and took up his abode there. It was in the forest of Arles, called in the vernacular La forest de Bretonne, because Condedus, a Briton, inhabited it. There he was visited by King Theoderic, who used to hunt in the forest. Theoderic treated him with much honour, and made the island over to him. In that island Condedus built two churches, those of the Virgin Mary and SS. Peter and Paul, in the latter of which there was probably an oratory dedicated to St Walaricus. Condedus was buried in the church of SS. Peter and Paul, but his body was afterwards transferred to the monastery of Fontenelle, and placed in the church of St Peter, where it was put in the same place with the body of St Errembert (AD 1027).

*A Dictionary of Christian Biography, Literature, Sects and Doctrines A to D Part Two - William Smith, Henry Wace*

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## THE RELICS OF ST JOHN THE WONDERWORKER

On Tuesday 25 October 2011 in accordance with a decision by the Diocesan Council of Western America, clergymen of the diocese performed the rite of re-vesting of the incorrupt relics of St John of Shanghai and San Francisco. This special rite was headed by His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America along with His Grace Vicar Bishop Theodosius of Seattle in San Francisco's Cathedral of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow."

Having made confession in advance and asking forgiveness of each other, the archpastors and priests performed a moleben to St John at 9 pm, after which they proceeded to perform the rite of changing the vestments. Every priest of the Western American Diocese was able to participate in this rite. The attending protodeacons then intoned the corresponding prayers after the re-vesting of the holy man's relics.

## CHURCH NOTES AND JOTTINGS

### CALENDARS

We have received a delivery of copies of St Herman Calendar for 2012 and they are on sale for £6.50 each. The calendar is in book form giving details of the numerous saints commemorated daily, together with the bible readings for the church services for each day. This year the theme of the editorial is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the repose of Hieromonk Seraphim (Rose) of St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina in California.

### GIFT OF BOOKS

Our friend Bernard Sharp has donated four books to the college library including a copy of the 1881 edition of *The Liturgy and Ritual of the Celtic Church* by F. E. Warren. We are very grateful for this gift. Indeed we welcome all donations to the library.

### PILGRIMAGE TO SAINT BOTOLPH AT IKEN

We do now have confirmation that we can have the use of the ancient church at Iken, in Suffolk, on Saturday 30 June next year, for a pilgrimage to honour St Botolph whose monastery was at Iken in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. There will be a service in the church at 12 noon and then, weather permitting, we'll enjoy a picnic. When you get your 2012 diary, don't forget to pencil this in.



### NAMEDAYS

To all who will celebrate a nameday this month, we send congratulations and wish you Many Years.

1 November - St Laura of Cordova - Laura Jordan-Tozeland

3 November - St Hilarion the Great - His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion

27 November - St Philip the Apostle - Archpriest Philip Steer

*Date given according to the regular civil calendar for convenience.*

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Cheques for the church fund should be made payable to "*Joy of All Who Sorrow*" Church.

The account is in HSBC Bank, 3 New Market, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9HQ

Account No 71395912 Sort Code 40-09-24