



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 107 October 2017



Holy Martyr Longinus

The Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under the command of the Governor, Pontius Pilate. When our Saviour Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under the command of Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. Longinus and his soldiers were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion’s soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, “Truly this was the Son of God” (Mt. 27:54).

According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Saviour with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound.

After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Saviour, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. These soldiers were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus

and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection.

Having come to believe in the Saviour, the soldiers received Baptism from the Apostles and decided to leave military service. Saint Longinus left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia), and his two comrades followed him.

The fiery words of those who had actually participated in the great events in Judea swayed the hearts and minds of the Cappadocians; Christianity began quickly to spread throughout the city and the surrounding villages. When they learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to send a company of soldiers to Cappadocia to kill Longinus and his comrades. When the soldiers arrived at Longinus's village, the former centurion himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal, the soldiers revealed the purpose of their visit, not knowing that the master of the house was the very man whom they were seeking. Then Longinus and his friends identified themselves and told the startled soldiers to carry out their duty.

The soldiers wanted to let the saints go and advised them to flee, but they refused to do this, showing their firm intention to suffer for Christ. The holy martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies were buried at the place where they were martyred. The head of Saint Longinus, however, was sent to Pilate.

Pilate gave orders to cast the martyr's head on a trash-heap outside the city walls. After a while a certain blind widow from Cappadocia arrived in Jerusalem with her son to pray at the holy places, and to ask that her sight be restored. After becoming blind, she had sought the help of physicians to cure her, but all their efforts were in vain.

The woman's son became ill shortly after reaching Jerusalem, and he died a few days later. The widow grieved for the loss of her son, who had served as her guide.

Saint Longinus appeared to her in a dream and comforted her. He told her that she would see her son in heavenly glory, and also receive her sight. He told her to go outside the city walls and there she would find his head in a great pile of refuse. Guides led the blind woman to the rubbish heap, and she began to dig with her hands. As soon as she touched the martyr's head, the woman received her sight, and she glorified God and Saint Longinus.

Taking up the head, she brought it to the place she was staying and washed it. The next night, Saint Longinus appeared to her again, this time with her son. They were surrounded by a bright light, and Saint Longinus said, "Woman, behold the son for whom you grieve. See what glory and honour are his now, and be consoled. God has numbered him with those in His Heavenly Kingdom. Now take my head and your son's body, and bury them in the same casket. Do not weep for your son, for he will rejoice forever in great glory and happiness."

The woman carried out the saint's instructions and returned to her home in Cappadocia. There she buried her son and the head of Saint Longinus. Once, she had been overcome by grief for her son, but her weeping was transformed into joy when she saw him with Saint Longinus. She had sought healing for her eyes, and also received healing of her soul.

Notes & Jottings

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Remember, remember the 5th of November! This year we have a special reason to remember this day because it marks the centenary of the election of Patriarch Tikhon and, therefore, the restoration of the Patriarchate. Fortunately, **5 November**, this year, is a Sunday. Patriarch St Tikhon, had served in North America as arch-pastor of the scattered Orthodox communities there from 1898 – 1907. We are all familiar with the Hapgood Service Book. This book, which is still in print, is a compilation of the main services of the Orthodox Church translated into English by Isabel Hapgood but Isabel Hapgood's efforts were blessed by the future patriarch. She acknowledges this towards the end of her Preface by saying, 'His Grace, the Most Reverend Tikhon, Archbishop of North America and the Aleutian Islands, has, by his deep interest and practical aid, been of inestimable service, and I thank him most warmly'. On **Monday 6 November**, we celebrate the Patronal Feast of the church, the Moscow Ikon of the Mother of God, *Joy of All Who Sorrow*. The Liturgy will be at 10.30am followed by a festal procession and meal. The birthday of the foundress, Mary Bond, was 4 November and she reposed on 15 November 2010. This year, the seventh anniversary, there will be requiem services as usual for Founder's Day. The Liturgy will be celebrated in church on **Wednesday (15 Nov)** at 10.30 am, followed by the memorial meal in the college dining room. Unhappily these commemorations are all in a bunch, but this is something over which we have no control.

BAPTISM

On Saturday 30 September, Theodore Bardsley, the infant grandson of Fr Antony and Matushka Helen Bardsley was baptised in our church. May his heavenly patron, St Theodore Stratelates, ever intercede for him.

DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

Whilst in Russia this summer, Irina Dembri and Alla Steel acquired a large ikon of the Saints of Pskov, which they have donated to our church. Also, three ikons with rizas (Christ, the Mother of God and St Nicholas of Myra) have been donated to the church by Jonathan Olanczuk. May God bless you all for your generosity.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

An updated and expanded list for the On-Line Book Fair is in preparation. We are adding additional titles all the time. Please peruse the list. Everything you purchase contributes towards the fund to develop the college Common Room for social activities. Details for ordering are in the introduction to the list which will be circulated within the next few days

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX SINGING WORKSHOP

Mother Melangell asks us to advertise a Russian Orthodox Singing Workshop that will be taking place in Walsingham between 20 – 22 October with Annemarie de Visser. For more information contact Mother at: xaipw38a@gmail.com.

NAMEDAYS

To all who are celebrating a name at this time, we send congratulations and wish you:

MANY YEARS!

- 3 Oct – **St Oleg, prince of Briansk** – Oleg Myslov
- 5 Oct – **St Peter of Constantinople, the tax collector** – Archpriest Peter Baulk
- 8 Oct – **St Sergei of Radonezh, abbot** – Igumen Sergei (Armstone)
- 9 Oct – **Repose of St John the Evangelist** – Priest John Palmer, John Harwood



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

OCTOBER 2017

Saturday 30 September

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 1 October

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross)

Saturday 7 October

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 8 October

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (St Sergius of Radonezh)

Saturday 14 October

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 15 October

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Hieromartyr Cyprian & Martyr Justina)

Saturday 21 October

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 22 October

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Holy Fathers of 7th Oecumenical Council)

Saturday 28 October

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 29 October

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Martyr Longinus)

ALL WELCOME!



PATRONAL FEAST

Collegiate Church of the Ikon of the Mother of God:

JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER

**10.10am Hours & Festal Divine Liturgy
followed by Procession & Festal Meal**

*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