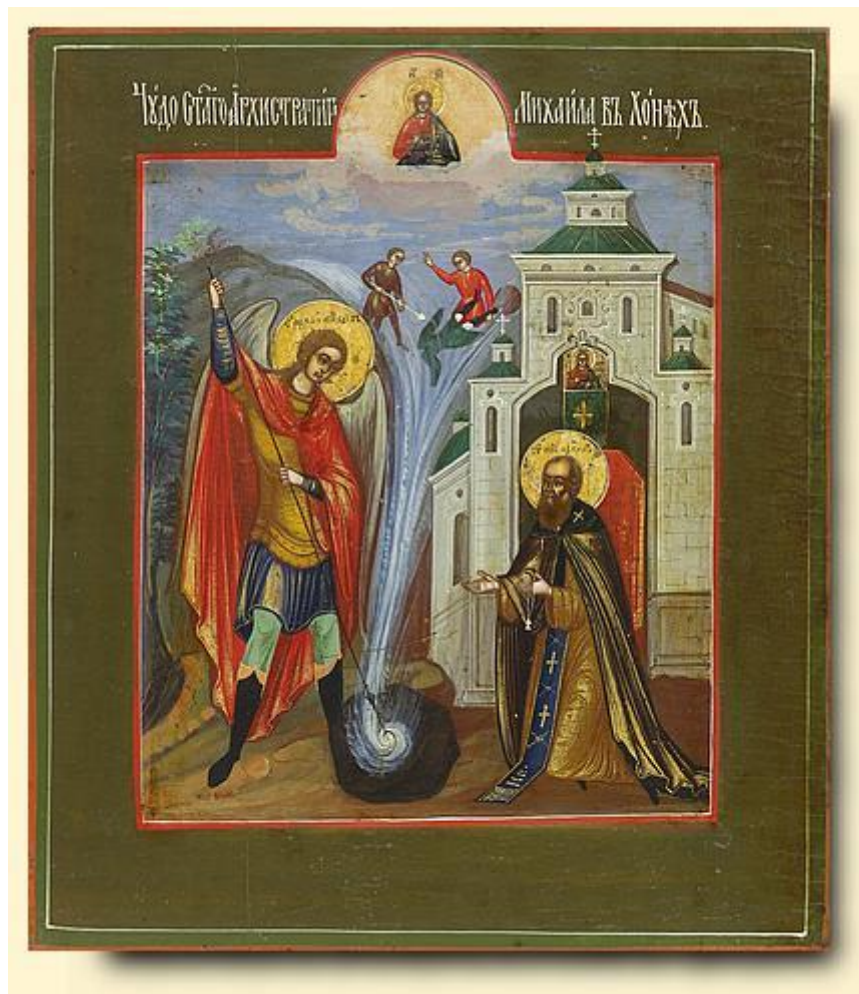




# *“Joy of All Who Sorrow”*

No. 94 September 2016

## The Miracle of St Michael at Chonae



At the time when the Holy Apostles travelled all over the world with their tidings of the Gospel, the Apostles Philip and Bartholomew visited a place called Colossae. Here, after destroying the pagan idols and converting the local pagans to Christianity, they began prophesying that the grace of God would shine forth on this spot, and that this place would be visited by the commander of the heavenly forces - the holy Archangel Michael - and great miracles would take place.

Soon afterwards, a miraculous spring of water appeared on this spot. This spring was visited not only by the faithful, but also by unbelievers. All who drank from this spring and bathed in it were healed of their ailments, and many, having received health, were baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity.

In the 4th century a certain Greek, whose daughter had been miraculously cured of muteness, gratefully built a wonderful church in honour of the Archangel Michael over the spring. Later the 10-year-old youth Archippus began living at this church, spending his days and nights in fasting, prayer and spiritual feats. At one point some iniquitous Greeks, envying the spiritual labourer, decided to fill up the spring with earth and kill Archippus. But the Lord saved His servant – the murderers' hands became numb, while a huge flame came out of the water and, rushing at the villains, pushed them far away. But they did not come to their senses even in the presence of such a miracle, and they still decided to flood the holy site. Arriving in a great multitude, they began to dig a ditch, from the church all the way to a nearby mountain where two rivers were joined. The blessed Archippus fell on his knees and tearfully prayed to God, entreating the help of the holy Archangel Michael.

After ten days, the villains directed the water towards the holy church, and it rushed downward with a great thunderous noise. At this moment the blessed Archippus, still praying, heard a voice commanding him to leave the church. Going out, he saw the great Archangel Michael in the guise of a shining young man. Fearfully approaching the Archangel, Archippus saw a fiery pillar rising from the earth to the heavens. When the water came near, the Archangel raised his right hand, and making the Sign of the Cross on the surface of the water, said: "Stop right there!" And immediately the water stood like a stone wall. Then, turning to the church, the Archangel struck the ground, and drew the Sign of the Cross on it. Immediately a great thunderclap was heard, and the earth trembled and divided into two, forming a huge gorge. At the same time the Archangel Michael said the following words: "May all the adversary's forces be destroyed here, and may all who come here in faith be delivered from all evil!" Saying this, the Archangel commanded the water: "Flow into this gorge!" And immediately the water rushed noisily into the gorge and afterwards always flowed this way. The villains stood as though turned to stone. Then the blessed Archippus thanked God for such a wondrous miracle, and glorified the great defender, Archangel Michael, for his quick intercession. From that time on, this place was called Chonae, i.e. 'plunging', because the water there was plunged into the cleft in the earth.



# *Notes & Jottings*

## **ARCHBISHOP MARK'S RETIREMENT**

The following statement has been circulated by the Diocesan Chancellor, Archpriest Paul Elliott:

“His Eminence Archbishop Mark will shortly be retiring as ruling hierarch of the Diocese of Great Britain and Ireland. Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church outside of Russia (ROCOR) will take over administration of the diocese until new arrangements can be confirmed. The exact timing of this change will be announced shortly.”

## **PATRIARCH KIRILL'S VISIT TO BRITAIN**

His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill of Moscow and All Russia will visit Britain in October. On Sunday 16 October, the Patriarch will serve the Liturgy and consecrate the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God & All Saints, at Ennismore Gardens in London.

## **CHURCH RENOVATIONS**

The exterior of the church was looking very sad. The north side, particularly, was getting green with an accumulation of algae. This has all now been scrubbed off. The gutters and drainpipes have been cleaned. The flaking paint on the weatherboarding has been scrapped and re-painted where necessary. Work has also been carried out to the drum below the small cupula at the east end.

## **GRAVE CROSS & COLLEGE DAY**

The large wooden grave cross has been installed on Fr Elias' grave. This was blessed on College Day. After singing the Akathist to Our Lady of Mettingham in church, we went in procession to visit the graves. Usually this is a pause as the procession makes a circuit of the churchyard. This year, having prayed for the departed and blessed the crosses, we were obliged by heavy rain to return directly to the where Fr Liviu Barbu delivered his lecture on the subject of Repentance, which was followed with a question and answer session. College Day was concluded with a sumptuous afternoon tea served to our guests in the dining room.

## **LIBRARY**

The books we inherited from Fr Elias have now been sorted and integrated into the college library, which is becoming quite comprehensive. More shelves need to be built in the library to accommodate the ever growing number of books. The next major step is the establishment of a complete database but this will be a time-consuming task.

## **NAMEDAYS**

We send congratulations to everyone who is celebrating a nameday at this time and wish them

*MANY YEARS!*

- 1 Sept – **Holy Martyr Timothy of Palestine** – Timothy Levine
- 8 Sept – **Holy Martyrs Adrian & Natalia of Nicomedia** - Adrian Cosby,  
Natalia Weston
- 12 Sept – **St Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople** – Alexander Bascu
- 30 Sept – **Holy Martyr Sophia at Rome** – Sophia Weston





COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD  
*JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW*  
**SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Saturday 3 September**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 4 September**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Martyr Agathonicus and his companions)**

**Saturday 10 September**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 11 September**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (The Beheading of the Glorious Prophet,  
Forerunner, and Baptist John)**

**Saturday 17 September**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 18 September**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous  
Elizabeth, parents of St John the Forerunner)**

**Saturday 24 September**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 25 September**

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



Do not be confused because dark thoughts often trouble you, for dark thoughts, like autumn clouds, come one after another and darken everything. But then they pass, and the sky remains clear and pleasant.

Elder Anthony of Optina

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