



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 121 December 2018



**Do not fear God because of the greatness of His majesty, but
fear Him because of the greatness of His Love.**

St Isaac the Syrian

*Collegiate Church of the Ikon of the Mother of God: Joy of All Who Sorrow
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**To the Reverend Priest Antony,
The Reverend Deacons Andrew and Mark,
and the Faithful Parishioners of
The Church of the Holy Virgin 'Joy of All Who Sorrow', Mettingham**

Dear in Christ, Father Antony, Brethren and Sisters!

With joy I greet you on the occasion of your Altar Feast of the Mother of God, '*Joy of All Who Sorrow.*' Amidst the struggles and temptations of the modern world, it is a gift from above that in the midst of the English countryside there exists a holy temple bearing this name and this reminder to those nearby, as well as those who come from afar. The Mother of God is ever a source of joy, taking our suffering and weaknesses into her maternal heart and leading us, through them, to the joy found in union with her Son. I am grateful to the Mother of God for the blessings she has poured out upon your community over the past year. We have been able to celebrate and pray together; a new Deacon has been ordained from your own number, to be a support and help in the Divine Services in the beautiful church; the College has flourished and works have been undertaken to make it a haven of spiritual life, formation and growth into the future. On this day, I especially offer up my prayers for all of you: your families, your children, and all whom you hold close in your hearts. May God Himself, ever tender in His mercy bless you all, on this day. May He grant rest to those who have gone before, who now rest with Him and continue their prayers for you. And may He grant you many, blessed years!

With my love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading '+ Irenei'.

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

NOTES & JOTTINGS

PATRONAL FEAST

On Tuesday 6th November, a crisp and bright Autumn day, we celebrated our patronal festival of the Ikon of the Mother of God, 'Joy of All Who Sorrow'. After Communion, there was a festal procession around the Church with the ikon whilst the troparion and kontakion were sung repeatedly by the choir and people, followed by a prayer for all members of the parish, as well as its friends, benefactors and hierarchy. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Priest Antony read a special epistle from Bishop Irenei which we have published above. A festal lunch was held before the ikon of the Feast in the college dining room in front of a roaring fire.



FOUNDER'S DAY 2018



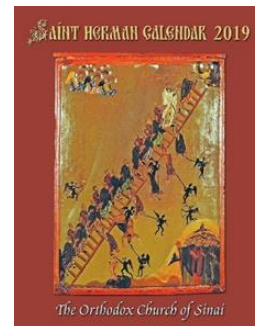
We were pleased to welcome our chancellor, Archpriest Paul Elliott, Hieromonk Mark (Underwood) and parishioners from Cardiff, as well as Fr Liviu Barbu and Matushka Ana-Maria of the Romanian Community and Reader Paul Fowler from St Alban's Parish in Luton for Founder's Day on Thursday 15 November. After the Requiem Liturgy a litia was served at the grave followed by a Memorial meal in the college dining room.

LIBRARY

The books for the college library are being gradually catalogued by John and Alla Steel. We greatly appreciate all the time and effort they are putting into this seemingly endless task. The painting of the new shelving, and the redecoration of the entire library, to banish the current depressingly dark paint, is on hold until the Christmas Bank Holiday when there will be a few days free of chandling and other business commitments.

CALENDARS & CARDS

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**. Also, Christmas cards are available at 20p each. These are in colour and complete with envelopes. The subjects are all the same as last year except for the addition of a card depicting the ikon of the Nativity of Christ from the studio of St Seraphim's Brotherhood. An illustrated leaflet is available.



A) *Ikon of the Nativity*



B) *First Snow*



C) *Our Lady of Mettingham*



D) *Christ is Born!*



E) *Star of Bethlehem*



F) *Watercolour of the Church*



G) *December Morning*



H) *Church in the Snow*



I) *Glykofilousa*

NAMEDAYS

We send our congratulations to all who are celebrating a nameday at this time and wish them
Many Years!

7 December – **Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria** – Catherine Meyer

10 December – **Great Martyr James the Persian** – James Bones

19 December – **St Nicholas of Myra** - Nicholas Meade, Nicholas Morgan

28 December – **St Anthea of Illyria** – Anthea Barry

28 December – **St Stephen of Sourozh** – Archpriest Stephen Platt



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

DECEMBER 2018

Saturday 1 December

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 2 December

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Prophet Obadiah)

Monday 3 December

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Tuesday 4 December (Entry of the Mother of God)

10.10am ~ Hours and Festal Liturgy

Saturday 8 December

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 9 December

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (St Innocent of Irkutsk)

Saturday 15 December

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 16 December (St. Birinus, bishop of Dorchester)

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy

Saturday 22 December

7.30pm ~ Vigil

**Sunday 23 December (Martyrs Menas the Melodius, Hermogenes, and Eugephus
of Alexandria)**

10.10am – Hours & Divine Liturgy

Saturday 29 December

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 30 December (Holy Forefathers)

10.10am - Hours & Divine Liturgy