



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 166 February, 2023



*“A drop of prayer is worth more than a
sea of anxiety.”*

(St Nikolai Velimirovic (+1956))

A Pastoral Word from Fr Mark

THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

It has been wonderful to bless some of the houses of parishioners these past few weeks as we continue the celebration of the Feast of Theophany. If you would like your home blessed, please do contact me as soon as possible so that we can arrange this together. There is still a little Theophany water left in the steel container on the North side of the church so, if you have not yet collected your Theophany water, please make sure that you do this as quickly as possible to avoid disappointment. Fr Dcn Andrew and I would like to explore getting a larger and more fit-for-purpose receptacle both for blessing the Holy Water as well as storing it to replace the large cooking pot that we have been using for many years. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

BLESSING TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Just a reminder that when I am serving the Divine Liturgy, it is imperative that I know exactly how many people intend to commune of the Holy Gifts. This then enables me to make sure that the right amount of particles of the Body of Christ are placed into the Chalice. Normal practice within the Russian Church Abroad is to have confession **regularly** which in the majority of cases means every week or thereabouts. This is based on the practical principle that the regular dusting away of our sins helps to keep our souls bright, so as to prevent an accumulation of sins and to nip sinful tendencies in the bud. If you or your children have prepared to receive Communion, but for whatever reason, you or they do not want/need confession, please ask for a blessing to receive Communion and don't just come forward to receive without seeking a blessing first. If you arrive after confessions have finished, and wish to receive, please ask one of the men or altar servers of your intention and your need to ask for a blessing. There should be no surprises or awkward conversations at the Chalice.

CANDLEMASS / FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

A little advance notice that we will be celebrating the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple on **Wednesday 15 February** at the normal times – 10.10am Hours and 10.30am the Divine Liturgy. Please make an effort to come if you are able to, and have a conversation with your employer to see if there is any possibility of you working flexibly in order to take the morning off. If you are unable to come to church that morning, however, I would expect you to instead make the effort to come to church the evening before for Vigil. This is where you will be able to hear all the festal hymnody which is where all the theology of the Feast is expressed.

HIEROMONK MARK IN WALSINGHAM

Hieromonk Mark (Underwood), Rector of our Sister Parish in Cardiff contacted me to say that he plans to be in Walsingham over Cheesefare week and will be serving the Divine Liturgy at the Orthodox Chapel in the Anglican Shrine, God willing, on Thursday 23 February. As soon as I get the exact details about the time, I will pass them on. It would be very good if a little group of us could go together.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please do feel free to contact me if you would like to arrange an opportunity to talk or discuss anything as well as to arrange molebens, houseblessings, car blessings, panikhidas and other services and Mysteries of the Church. I want to make myself fully available to you so please do get in touch via my personal email address: marktattumsmith@gmail.com or via mobile on 07592482732 (I am on Whatsapp and Telegram platforms as well as Facebook).

Notes & Jottings

CALENDARS

There are still a few lingering copies of the [2023: St Herman Calendar](#) – Lectionary, in book form, giving the scriptural readings for each day and the details for the daily commemoration of saints - £11 per copy. [Wall Calendars published by the Fund for Assistance](#) – A2 poster size - £8 per copy.

GIFT TO THE CHURCH

An ikon of Patriarch St Tikhon, acquired from the Donskoy Monastery by parishioner Irina Dembri, has been donated to our church. We are grateful to her for this generous gift.

REPAIRS

The exterior repairs and renovations have now been completed so that repainting the exterior can be undertaken as soon as the risk of frosts is over.

WEBSITE & NEW BOOK

The website has been completely revamped onto a new WordPress platform. Viewers to the site will note that a lot of the pictures of the stock are missing. Please be patient with us as we seek to upload new photographs. We will also announce new sections of the site in the next bulletin. SGOIS now has copies of the recently published book, *The London Cathedral*, by Anna Zdanovich is profusely illustrated and deals principally with the ikonography in the new ROCOR cathedral in Harvard Road, Chiswick. The first edition of this title had the text in Russian, whereas the new edition is in English. The book is hardback and retails at £15 per copy.

SAINT BOTOLPH PILGRIMAGE SATURDAY 24th JUNE @ 11AM

For several years we made an annual pilgrimage, on the last Saturday of June, to Iken, near Snape in Suffolk, in honour of St Botolph, who laboured in the 7th Century to bring the light of the Gospel to East Anglia. Unhappily this was disrupted by the recent pandemic. Now, through the kindness of our friends at Iken, we have been able to arrange a resumption of this annual event. With the blessing of his Grace, Bishop Irenei, on **Saturday 24 June, at 11am**, a Moleben and Akathist will be sung in the ancient church which is on the site of St Botolph's monastery. Afterwards, at the invitation of the churchwarden, there will be a picnic in the grounds of her house. We have always been treated with kindness at Iken and greatly appreciate the hospitality we have received. Please pencil this date in your 2023 diary and join us in our prayers honouring this eminent local saint.

NAMEDAYS

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

Many Years!

1 February – **St Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus** – Hieromonk Mark (Underwood)

3 February – **St Maximos the Confessor** – Maxim Sarmulis

13 February – **St Victor of Corinth, Martyr** – Viktor Levine

16 February – **Sts Simeon & Anna** - Anna Dive

21 February – **St Theodore Stratelates** – Tudor-Daniel Costec

26 February – **St Zoe of Bethlehem** – Zoe Andrews



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

FEBRUARY 2023

Saturday 4th December

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 5th February

**(Sunday of the Pharisee & the Publican &
Sunday of the New Martyrs & Confessors of Russia)**

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

2pm (approx.) ~ Moleben to St Xenia

Saturday 11th February

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 12th February

(Sunday of the Prodigal Son & Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 14th February

7.30pm ~ Vigil

⌘ Wednesday 15th February ⌘

(Feast of the Presentation of the Lord)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Saturday 18th February

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 19th February

(Meat-fare Sunday)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Saturday 25th February

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 26th February

(Cheese-fare Sunday)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

2pm (Approx.) ~ Vespers of Forgiveness

Monday 27th February – Thursday 2 March

7.30pm ~ Great Compline with the Great Canon