



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 174 October, 2023



**‘There never was and never will be a place
on earth free from sorrows. The only
sorrow-less place possible is the heart, when
the Lord is present there.’**

(St Nikon of Optina +1931)

A Pastoral Word from Fr Mark

PATRONAL FEAST AT OUR CATHEDRAL

Fr Mark and family went to our beautiful diocesan cathedral in London for the Altar Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God on Thursday 21st September. It was wonderful to concelebrate with Vladyka Irenei and all the Cathedral clergy as well as other visiting clergy from around the diocese including Fr Paul Elliott from Wallasey, Fr Robert Williams from Clifden (Ireland), Hieromonk Mark (Underwood) from Cardiff as well as Fr Aleksandr Groves from St Leonard's on Sea. Many thanks to Vladyka, the clergy and sisterhood for welcoming us again and for their hospitality.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Following the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, it was also a great joy to return back to England's Nazareth, the village of Little Walsingham in North Norfolk to celebrate the Feast of the Ikon of Our Lady of Walsingham on Saturday 23rd September. After a procession from the Slipper Chapel, Fr Mark with a small number of pilgrims served a moleben for the Ikon of OLW in the Holy House. We are grateful to the Shrine Administrators for this rare privilege and to Mother Melangell for organising the pilgrimage.

IKON TO ST VARUS & PRAYING FOR LOVED ONES OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Fr Mark has had an ikon to the Martyr Varus commissioned for our church in memory of his Aunt Joyce and Uncle Denis Troup. The Martyr Varus is well known for the efficacy of his prayers for the salvation of those who die outside the Orthodox Church. We will start serving a regular service to St Varus for our departed non-Orthodox loved ones. We also hope to serve a Divine Liturgy in honour of St Varus on his feast day with our new ikon on Wednesday 1st November.

NEW HOLY OILS

We are very grateful to Irina Dembri who has recently returned from Russia with a large number of holy oils from the lampadas hanging over the relics of different saints including: St Seraphim of Sarov, St Luke the Surgeon, St Sergius of Radonezh and his parents Sts Cyril and Maria. We will use these to anoint the faithful during our Wednesday evening molebens over the coming months.

PARISH WISH LIST

Please find a link to what I am calling our [Parish "wish list"](#) which contains a number of liturgical items that we are really in need of. These items vary greatly in price from £12 – over £1000 and will all serve to beautify our worship to God. Perhaps you would like to purchase something in memory of a departed relative or in gratitude to God for a blessing you have received? Take a look through the wish list and please contact me if you feel moved to purchase anything or contribute towards an item. Most of the orders will be made through the St Elizabeth Convent in Minsk which will also contribute towards the excellent support they offer to people with mental health problems, learning disabilities and in recovery from addictions. I will try and keep the list updated as pledges are made.

TWO IMPORTANT SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Please take note that in November we have **TWO** important services coming up, first and foremost our Patronal Festival for the Feast of the Ikon of the Theotokos: *Joy of All Who Sorrow* on **Monday 6th November** with Hours and Festal Liturgy beginning at 10.10am which will be followed by a procession and festal meal. On **Wednesday 15th November** we will have Founder's Day where we will celebrate a Requiem Liturgy for the soul of Dcn Andrew's late wife, Mary Bond at 10.10am followed by a Litia at the grave and Memorial Meal. Please make an effort to support both of these important services in the life of our community.

Notes & Jottings

CARDS

The new card is now being printed and will be added to the range of cards currently available. This one depicts an ikon of the Mother of God surrounded by six Scottish Saints, in the borders, and was written in St Seraphim's Studio at Walsingham. The cards will be blank inside so that they can be used for any occasion, including Christmas, and will be supplied with envelopes in packs of five retailing at **£1.50 per pack**.

THE WILLOW TREE

On Sunday 10 September the large willow tree, near our car park, unexpectedly broke on half and a large section of it fell onto the drive causing a complete blockage. This happened at some time during the liturgy. By a great team effort with a chainsaw, it was possible to allow a passage for vehicular traffic. In the late afternoon of Holy Cross Day, Sergiu Sacaliuc arrived with a co-worker to cut up the largest fallen section which is now in woodpile in the corner of the carpark. When the wood is well seasoned, it will be useful for fuel in a wood-burning stove. The tree, which was planted 70 years ago, leans at precarious angle but fortunately it leans away from the carpark. If it leaned the other way, it would have fallen on to several cars that were parked there. As it was, no cars were damaged.



FOUNDER'S DAY

Founder's Day is on Wednesday 15 November and is the 13th anniversary of the repose of our Foundress, to whom we are deeply indebted. In founding this church, in honour of the Mother of God, it was Mary's wish to provide somewhere for people in this area to come and pray. The fact, that so many of you take advantage of this facility, is heart-warming. We cannot fail to notice the depth of your devotion because of your generosity to the church, both in time and material support. Strengthening our community all helps to raise the profile of Orthodox Christianity here, enabling us to reach out to more people. If Orthodoxy is to grow in this country, we need to be more visible, more pro-active; build churches, teach, preach, print and publish. Whilst we greatly value the church building, it is the living community that is Mary's true memorial.

FILMING

Elizaveta Gerson, a reporter working for TV100, which is based in St Petersburg and broadcasts to the European part of Russia, visited Mettingham on Friday 1 September, together with a cameraman and did some filming in the church for Russian Television. This was the second time Elizaveta had been here. She did some filming and interviewing ten years ago.

NAMEDAYS

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

Many Years!

3 October – **St Oleg, Prince of Briansk, monk** – Oleg Myslov

5 October – **St Peter of Constantinople, tax collector** – Archpriest Peter Baulk

8 October – **St Sergei of Radonezh, abbot** – Sergiu Sacaliuc, Sergei Gratchev,
Igumen Sergei (Armstone)

9 October – **Holy Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian** – Priest John Palmer, John Harwood

31 October – **Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke** – Priest Luke Holden



PARISH & COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE IKON OF THE THEOTOKOS:
"JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW"

OCTOBER 2023

Saturday 30th September

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 1st October

(Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross | St Eumenius of Crete)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 4th October

6.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 7th October

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 8th October

(St Sergius of Radonezh)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 11th October

6.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 14th October

(Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos)

10.10am ~ Hours & Liturgy

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 15th October

(Sts Cyprian & Justina of Nicomedia)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 18th October

6.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 21st October

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 22nd October

(Fathers of the Seventh Oecumenical Council & Apostle James)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 25th October

6.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 28th October

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 29nd October

(Martyr Longinus)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

For all other services and pastoral needs including baptism, marriage, molebens and panikhidas, please contact Priest Mark Tattum-Smith on:

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