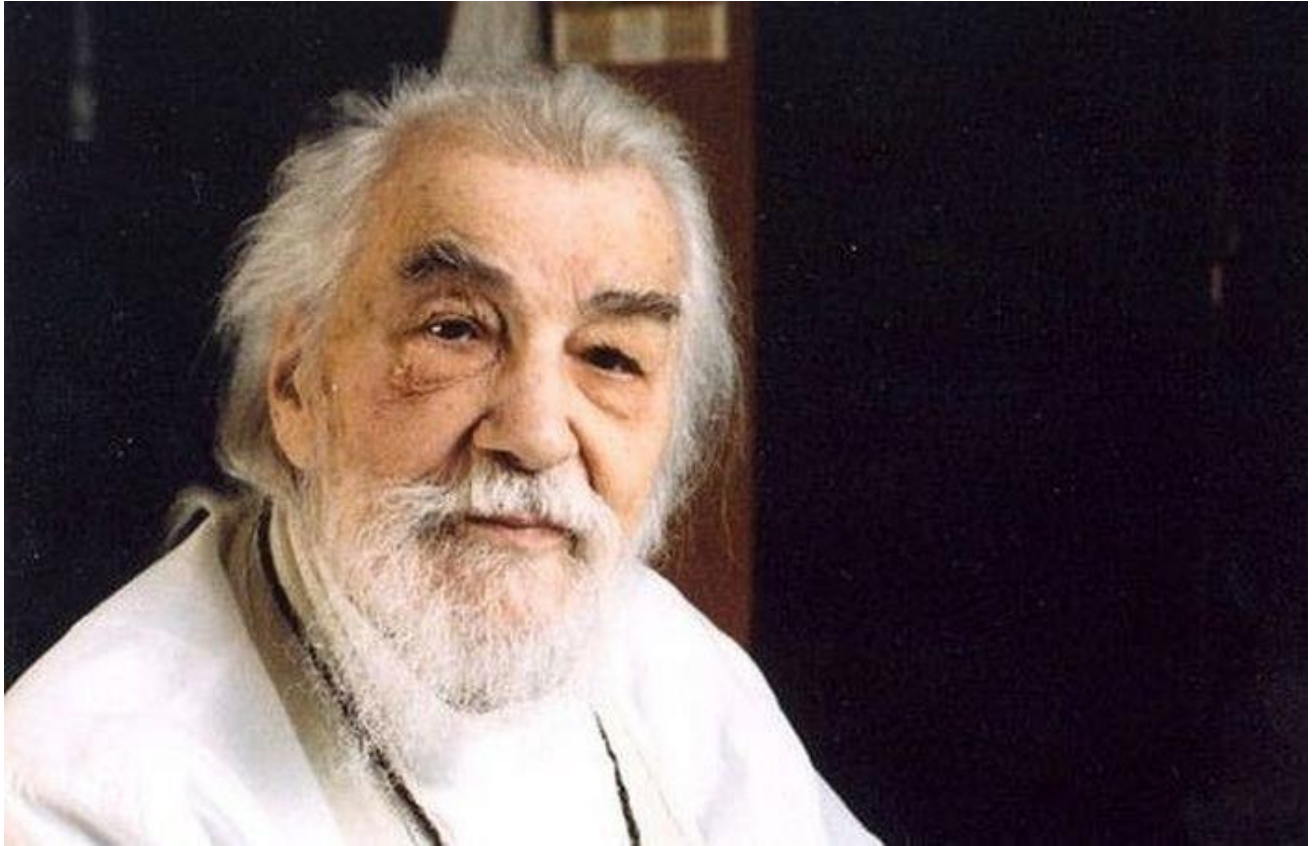




“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 173 September, 2023



‘May the person whom the Lord sends you today on the path of life become the most important, dearest and closest to you.

Warm his soul!’

(Archimandrite John (Krestyankin)+ 2006)

A Pastoral Word from Fr Mark

DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

On Saturday 26th August at 11am, a band of 13 pilgrims from the parish met together in the sleepy Norfolk village of Great Snoring to undertake a small foot pilgrimage to Walsingham in honour of the Mother of God during her Dormition Fast. After praying the Lord's Prayer, the pilgrims set off for the nearby village of Houghton St Giles where the Roman Catholic Slipper Chapel is located. This medieval chapel was the traditional location where pilgrims would remove their shoes before walking the holy mile in Walsingham bare foot. After a picnic lunch where Fr Mark gave a brief overview of the history of Our Lady of Walsingham as well as its Orthodox heritage, the pilgrims walked the Holy Mile in silent prayer. At the end of the Holy Mile we then went to St Seraphim's Pilgrim church in the former railway station where we were able to again pray silently before the beautiful ikons, many of which had been painted by Archimandrite David (Meyrick) and Brother Leon Liddament. We then walked together into the Anglican Shrine and entered the Holy House, a replica of the dimensions of the original Holy House a stone's-throw away in the ancient Abbey Grounds. At 2pm we had a moleben in front of the Ikon of our Lady of Walsingham in the small Orthodox Chapel dedicated to the Theotokos: 'The Life-giving Spring'. After singing Many Years to Mother Melangell, Cennydd Locke and those who keep the flame of Orthodoxy alive in Walsingham, we then had a quick look round the Abbey to see the original site of the Holy House and the Chapel to St Lawrence which are explicitly mentioned in the Akathist service. Finally, the pilgrims returned to the Anglican Shrine for refreshments in the Norton Room before a brief peek into Mother Melangell's Skete chapel and then the final trudge along a rather muddy Bridleway back to Great Snoring. Fr Mark hopes to lead a further pilgrimage next year.

ORTHODOX MARCH FOR LIFE – SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

On Saturday 2 September, with the blessing of Bishop Irenei, Fr Mark served a moleben in honour for the Orthodox participants in this year's March for Life who had gathered in a park in central London close to where the march would be starting from. There were approximately thirty lay Orthodox Christians in total who had come from parishes from across the UK, including: the ROCOR parishes in Cardiff, Cheltenham, Mettingham and London; Sourozh communities in Cambridge and Oxford; the Antiochian parish in Poole as well as the Exarchate parish in London. After the moleben, Fr Mark blessed the banners that would be taken on the march and emphasised that the Orthodox participants should look on the March not as a piece of political activism, but primarily as a procession of repentance. In light of this, throughout the March, the Trisagion was sung to call down God's mercy upon the evil of abortion still being actively carried out throughout hospitals and clinics in the UK. Although the numbers of Orthodox Christians taking part in the March for Life are still small, it is growing little by little each year and there would certainly have been more present this year if it were not for the ongoing rail strikes. Thanks are due to Jacqueline Richold of St Nicholas' Parish in Oxford for her excellent administrative assistance.

PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

Fr Mark and his family had a wonderful pilgrimage to Ireland and were grateful for everyone's prayers. Over the course of seven days we were able to visit all the major sites in around the eastern and central parts of the country including: Glendalough, Clonmacnoise, Kildare, Stradbally, Downpatrick, Slane and Tara, Clonfert, Kells and Monasterboice. Throughout our trip we prayed for people in the parish and will try to ensure that we serve some molebens in the near future to some of the Celtic saints we venerated on our trip.

Notes & Jottings

NEW PROJECTOR

The church has acquired a projector which combined with a screen which was kindly donated by our friend Jonathan Olanczuk we now have all we need to be able to play Orthodox films and also to have presentations and slide shows. This was one of the things which was especially requested at our AGM in March earlier this year. Please let Fr Mark know of any recommendations you have around suitable films that we could watch together as well as subjects for presentations.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Although we still have stocks of many previously published Christmas cards, we are currently discussing the printing of a new design to add to the range. It is now a matter of watch this space.

COLLEGE NEWS

The exterior painting of the college is now completed. Once more we really are "The White House". Thanks are due to Sergiu Sacaliuc and his team for their excellent work. May God bless you all.

WEEKLY NOTES

Our friend Subdeacon Claude Lopez, who lives in Switzerland, writes to tell us that he now translates our weekly church notes in French and posts them on his blog. Since he includes ikons with the text, his French version looks far grander than our original version!

NAMEDAYS

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

Many Years!

1 September – **Martyrs Timothy, Agapius & Thekla of Palestine** – Timothy Le Vin

8 September – **Saints Adrian & Natalia of Nicomedia** – Adrian Cosby

11 September – **Beheading of St John the Baptist** – John Barry

24 September – **St Deiniol of Bangor, Bishop & Abbot** – Igumen Deiniol

30 September – **Martyrs Sophia & her daughters, Faith, Hope and Love** – Nadejda Sacaliuc,
Sophia Weston



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

SEPTEMBER 2023

Saturday 2nd September

8pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 3rd September

(Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 6th September

6.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 9th September

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 10th September

(St Job of Pochaev)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 13th September

6.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 16th September

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 17th September

(Sts Peter & Febronia)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 20th – Thursday 21st September

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

No services as Fr Mark will be serving at our Cathedral in London

Saturday 23rd September

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 24th September

(Sts Sergius & Herman of Valaam)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 26th September

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Wednesday 27th September

(Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy