



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 176 December, 2023



**‘If fasting was all about food, then cows
would be saints.’**

(St John of Damascus +749)

A Pastoral Word from Fr Mark

PATRONAL FEAST

On **Monday 6th November** it was a great joy to celebrate our Patronal Feast on a crisp and clear Autumn day amidst falling leaves and bright blue skies. Although it was a weekday, a number of our parishioners made a special effort to be present at our Altar feast and to honour the Mother of God. We were also joined by several parishioners from our Parish of St Alexander Nevsky in Norwich together with Priest Vladimir Dyachenko and Reader Sergey Dorofeev who concelebrated with Priest Mark and Deacon Andrew. The Apostol and Gospel was read in both English and Slavonic and at the end of the Liturgy, a shortened Cross Procession was held with the ikon solemnly processed around the church. Bishop Irenei had written a beautiful epistle to the parish which Fr Mark read out after the final blessing. After the post-communion prayers, a festal meal was held in the House in front of a roaring fire.

FOUNDER'S DAY

On **Wednesday 15th November** we held our annual requiem liturgy on the day of the repose of Mary Bond, Deacon Andrew's late wife, who was the foundress of our beautiful church. On Tuesday evening a *pannikhida* was served and on Wednesday morning the divine liturgy was celebrated together with our dear friend, Archpriest Paul Elliott, the Chancellor of our diocese and Rector of the Parish of St Elisabeth the New Martyr in Wallasey, Birkenhead. Father Alexander Haig as well as Father Mark Shillaker and his matushka, Presbytera Paula from the Parish of St Martin's in Colchester also joined us for the service together with a very good number of parishioners and friends. It was also good to see several family members who also came to pay their respects. At the end of the liturgy, a small Litia was served at Mary's grave and Memory Eternal was solemnly intoned. Afterwards, a Memorial meal was served in the House and conversation and fellowship continued throughout the afternoon.

NEW INQUIRERS

Thanks to God, over the past month or two we have seen several new inquirers coming to the divine services who are interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity. It has been wonderful to welcome them to the church and to get to know more about each of their backgrounds. Fr Mark is now running a series of on-line catechesis sessions over Skype. Thus, if you notice one of our new inquirers at church and haven't done so already, please introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcome. Let us pray that God will bring more souls searching for ancient, Apostolic Christianity to us in the weeks and months ahead. If you are reading this bulletin, are interested in Orthodoxy, but in anyway anxious about attending church for the first time, please do reach out to Fr Mark whose contact details are at the bottom of the service schedule.

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Please note that as well as the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos on Monday 4th December, we will also be having a liturgy for St Nicholas on Tuesday 19th December. Don't forget that we will also be having a moleben to different saints each Wednesday evening throughout the Fast. Do take this opportunity to break up your week with prayer in church and learn more about one of the saints.

Notes & Jottings

IKONOSTASIS

As announced in the previous issue of the bulletin, following discussions with the workshop of Dylan (Silouan) Hartley of our ROCOR Telford Parish, we are pleased to show a draft illustration of the plan for our new ikonostasis. This has been designed to be delivered in 3 stages: the first ground floor stage should be in place shortly after Pascha 2024 and will enable us to swap our temporary print ikons of Christ and the Mother of God for hand painted ikons by our ikonographer and friend, Efrem Carrasco. As Mary Bond, our foundress, was born on the feast of the Kazan Ikon we plan to have this ikon matched with a similarly close-up ikon of Christ Pantocrator. The second stage (highlighted purple) will enable us to put a cornice in place along with the ikons of the 12 feasts which will sit either side of a large central archway with a feast of the Last Supper. The third and final stage will enable us to crown the ikonostasis with a final deisis tier (highlighted green) with Christ enthroned in Majesty together with the Theotokos, St John the Baptist and the Archangels Gabriel & Michael. This will inevitably be a long-term project and involve further rounds of fundraising for us to complete it. We hope to provide regular updates and images on the progress of the project in subsequent issues of the bulletin along with more information about how you can get involved.



UPDATED PARISH WISH LIST

Following the last issue of the bulletin where the revised version of the wish list was circulated, Fr Mark is pleased to confirm that the vast majority of items have now been pledged. A big thank you to all those who have so generously given to this appeal, may God reward you. Fr Mark will be drawing up a list of benefactors of the church and will ensure that those who have purchased items in memory of departed loved ones will be commemorated. The main items which are left include a pair of processional banners as well as our ongoing appeal for hand painted ikons and more vestments. Compared to most parishes we have only a very limited number of church vestments as well as very few matching altar hangings. If you would like to help us celebrate the feasts more fully, then please do get in touch.

CALENDARS & CARDS

Saint Herman Calendar 2024 – This calendar is a lectionary in book form, Paperback, 120pages, £10 per copy. These are selling quickly – order now to avoid disappointment. There is still a plentiful stock of Christmas cards. These retail at £1.50 for a pack of five, complete with envelopes. If you have not already seen it, ask for a copy of the illustrated Christmas flyer, which gives full details.

NAMEDAYS

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

Many Years!

- 7 December – **Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria** – Catherine Meyer
- 10 December – **Great Martyr James the Persian** – James Bones
- 19 December – **St Nicholas the Wonderworker** –
Nicholas Mathewson, Subdeacon Nicolas Mabin
- 28 December – **St Stephen, Archbishop of Sourozh** – Archpriest Stephen Platt
- 28 December – **Holy Martyr Anthea**
(mother of Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria) – Anthea Barry



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

DECEMBER 2023

Saturday 2nd December

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 3rd December

(Forefeast of Entry of the Theotokos | St Edmund King & Martyr)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

7.30pm – Great Vespers with Litia

✕ Monday 4th December ✕

(Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple)

10.10am ~ Hours & Festal Liturgy

Wednesday 6th December

7.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 9th December

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 10th December

(St James the Persian | Kursk Root Ikon)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 13th December

7.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 16th December

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 17th December

(Great Martyr Barbara & St John of Damascus)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

✕ Tuesday 19th December ✕

(St Nicholas the Wonderworker)

10.10am – Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 20th December

7.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 23rd December

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 24th December

(Sunday of the Holy Forefathers)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 27th December

7.30pm ~ Moleben & Confessions

Saturday 30th December

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 31st December

(Sunday of the Holy Fathers & Sunday before Nativity)

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:

Tel. 01502 716914 / 07592482732 or Email: marktattumsmith@gmail.com