



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 193 May 2025



Holy Week and Pascha 2025

Once again, we have completed the yearly commemoration of the Passion and Resurrection of our glorious Saviour. The weekend of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, which were both celebrated with the Divine Liturgy, was filled with sunshine. Both services were well-attended and joyous, with the Faithful brandishing Palm Crosses, pussy willow and bright green foliage in memory of the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday. After the Saturday Liturgy, many of the Faithful stayed behind and thoroughly cleaned both the church and the areas of the house that we use regularly. Many thanks to those who contributed to this effort. We had another liturgy for Holy Thursday and the institution of Holy Communion, and then solemnly commemorated Our Lord's saving Suffering and Crucifixion. The Plashanitsa was adorned by the faithful with red roses. The flowers for Pascha itself were especially spectacular this year, with both sides of the church bursting with brilliant profusions of colour. Thanks to those who contributed to this beautiful display. The Paschal Matins and Liturgy were well-attended and followed by the blessing of the paschal baskets. Later on Pascha afternoon, we gathered again to sing the Paschal Vespers, where the Gospel was read in many languages and different versions of the Easter Troparion were sung from around the world. This was followed by our Easter party, where we enjoyed Paschal foods and also played games together in the grounds, including an enhanced version of our usual egg hunt, egg and spoon races, and a tug of war! Thanks to those who organised these events. Christ is Risen!

Baptisms and Chrismation

On Holy Saturday afternoon, two of our Catechumens were baptised into the Holy Orthodox Church. Joshua and Dymphna Bowler were preceded by Theodora, their baby daughter, into the font, but now that they have joined her as full members of the Church and are an Orthodox family. Father Deacon Andrew acted as sponsor for Joshua, and Matushka Elizabeth for Dymphna. They were joined in being chrismated by Anthony Shapland who was already baptised, but desirous of being received back into the Church after a long absence. All three were then able to receive Holy Communion for the first time at the Liturgy on Pascha morning, a joyous occasion for them and all their brothers and sisters. Welcome home: dear Joshua, Dymphna and Anthony!

New Catechumen

As some catechumens were received, others were just beginning their catechetical journey. Appropriately, on Thomas Sunday, Tommy Davies was made a catechumen, taking as his namesaint the Thomas who we read about on that day. He will now join Catechumen Cuthbert in preparing for baptism next Pascha, God-willing.

Birth and Naming

James and Mary Hollinshead, who were married in our church last year, were blessed with a beautiful baby boy on the Feast of the Annunciation, 7th April. As they were unable to attend the paschal services, Fr Mark visited them on Bright Monday with the twofold purpose of bringing them Holy Communion as well as naming the new baby, who has taken the name of the holy King and Martyr Oswald of Northumbria.

New Church Tap

We were unable to have our usual Presanctified Liturgy on the final Wednesday of Lent, because a new water supply was being taken up to the church and a tap installed on the North wall. This will make many things easier, including baptisms and cleaning.



MAY 2025

Saturday 3rd May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 4th May

(Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women and Ss Joseph of Arimathea/Nicodemus)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 7th May

7.30pm ~ Moleben to Holy Great Martyr George

Saturday 10th May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 11th May

(Sunday of the Paralytic)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 14th May

7.30pm ~ Moleben to the Ikona of the Theotokos "Joy of All Who Sorrow"

Saturday 17th May

7.30pm ~ Reader Vespers

Sunday 18th May

(Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 21st May

7.30pm ~ Moleben to Holy Martyr Varus with Lita

Saturday 24th May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 25th May

10.10am ~ Hours & Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 28th May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Thursday 29th May

(Ascension of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ)

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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