



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 206 May 2026



Holy Week & Pascha

Holy Week began with the Great Church Clean on Great and Holy Monday and it was wonderful to see so many people giving up their Bank Holiday to come and help clean the Church and the House in preparation for all the Divine Services and celebrations. After the Divine Services for the Feast of the Annunciation on Great & Holy Tuesday, we then proceeded with the Liturgy of Great & Holy Thursday where Holy Communion for the Sick was prepared for the rest of the year. There was good participation of the faithful for the Vespers and Matins services on Great Friday culminating with the beautiful procession of the Shroud around the church. Following the Vespers of Holy Saturday where we heard the whole story of salvation from the Old Testament, in the afternoon we had the joy of 8 baptisms leading to Pascha night where all the newly illumined partook of Holy Communion. I was so pleased to see more people staying for the whole of the Pascha night service including the Liturgy and there was a wonderful festal atmosphere. Many people then returned for Vespers later in the afternoon followed by our traditional Easter Party and red egg hunt. Thank you to all who participated, helped, read, sang, served, arranged flowers and made and brought food as well as prosphori and Artos. May God bless!

Baptisms

On the afternoon of Great Saturday two households were received into the Orthodox Church consisting of the Davies Family: Thomas, Emmelia, James and David as well as the Warman Family: Paisius, Juliana, Isaac and Luke. They were all supported in and out of the font by their sponsors: Nicholas Mathewson, Nicholas Bamford, James Hollinshead, Joshua Bowler and Matushka Elizabeth. The children who were aged from 1 – 6 all did extremely well to cope with full immersion baptism as well as a long service. It has been a great honour to see these two beautiful families be united to Christ and we all wish them many, many years!

Marriage of Paisius & Juliana Warman

Following on from their baptism on Holy Saturday, Thomas Sunday saw Paisius and Juliana Warman crowned in the Church after the Liturgy at a very joyful service with other parishioners. Congratulations to the newly-illumined and newly-wedded as well as their sponsors Ionut and Tatiana Blana.

Bury St Edmunds

On Saturday 25th April, a number of Mettinghamites travelled over to the new Mission of St Edmund in Bury St Edmunds for the Divine Liturgy to which many clergy and faithful from across the diocese had travelled. The Liturgy was celebrated by Hieromonk Theodore and concelebrated with the rector, Archpriest Volodomir as well as Fr Mark. It was wonderful to serve and worship with the Dive family and finally see the fruit of all their hard work. After a bring and share lunch, Hieromonk Theodore gave an excellent spiritual talk and then Subdeacon Christopher led us on a guided tour across the city towards the Cathedral and the beautiful Abbey Gardens with the ancient ruins of the Abbey and Shrine of St Edmund. The children then went on to play lots of games on the grass and then enjoyed an ice-cream before returning for Vespers. Thank you to Fr Volodomir, Matushka Antonina as well as Subdeacon Christopher and Maria for a wonderful day.

Jerusalem

Following the Palm Sunday collection, a grand total of £1000 has been raised for our Monasteries in the Holy Land.

Apostles Fast Online Book Group on Prayer

Following on from the Lent Talks on the Psalter, Fr Mark will be leading an online book group on Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom)'s short but powerful book, *Living Prayer*. The talks will last six weeks and take place at 7.30pm on Sunday evenings from Sunday 7th June to Sunday 12th July. Copies of the book will shortly be available on the Parish Bookstall to purchase.

St Botolph Pilgrimage

We are glad to announce the restoration of our annual pilgrimage to Iken in Suffolk on **Saturday 27th June at 11.30am**. This will consist of a Moleben with Akathist to St Botolph followed by a short talk on the saint and a bring & share lunch.



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

MAY 2026

Saturday 2nd May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 3rd May

(Sunday of the Paralytic)

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 6th May

7.30pm ~ Moleben to St George the Great Martyr

Saturday 9th May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 10th May

(Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 13th May

7.30pm ~ Moleben to the Theotokos “Joy of All Who Sorrow”

Saturday 16th May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 17th May

(Sunday of the Blind Man)

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 20th May

6.30pm ~ All Night Vigil

Thursday 21st May

✠ (Ascension of the Lord) ✠

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy

Saturday 23rd May

7.30pm ~ Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday 24th May

(Fathers of the 1st Oecumenical Council | Sts Cyril & Methodius)

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 27th May

7.30pm ~ Moleben to the Theotokos “Joy of All Who Sorrow”

Saturday 30th May

6.30pm ~ All-Night Vigil

Sunday 31st May

✠ (Pentecost) ✠

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy & Kneeling Prayers

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

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