



**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of the British Isles and Ireland  
St George's Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral**

**Sundays 22 - 29 April 2018**

**Archbishop: Metropolitan Silouan Oner  
Parish Priest: Archpriest Samir Gholam  
Parish Deacon: Deacon Michael Touma**

**Newsletter Issue:  
07/18**

**Regular Services:**  
Saturdays: Vespers 16:30  
Sundays: Matins 10:00  
Liturgy 11:00

**Orthodox Calendar:**

- 17 April - Hieromartyr Simeon
- 18 April - John the Righteous & Athanasia the Wonderworker
- 20 April - Gregory & Anastasios Patriarchs of Antioch

- 22 April - Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing women
- 23 April - Great Martyr George
- 25 April - Mark the Apostle and Evangelist
- 29 April - Sunday of Paralytic



Palm Sunday is the last Sunday before the Resurrection, in this day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into the Holy city Jerusalem. Palm Sunday marked the ending of the 40 days of lent and the beginning of the holy week. In the name of our parish we want to thank Mrs Matilde Notley, her sister Donia and all the ladies who decorate the church and the candles. May God give all of them the strength and power to stay helping others and making our parish children happy.



In St Paul's letter to the Colossians "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church" (Colossian 1:24). By sharing Christ's suffering we hope to share the result, the glory of his Resurrection.



The Saints were people like all of us. Many of them came out of great sins, but by repentance they attained the kingdom of heaven. Everyone who comes there comes through repentance, which the merciful Lord has given us through His sufferings (St Silouan the Athonite).





We would like to thank the Russian Orthodox Church, which shared the blessing of The Miraculous Holy Fire with our parish. According to tradition, the Holy Fire ignites from the tomb of Jesus Christ at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. It has been descending on the church for more than 1500 years. It is the light of God's grace.



### **Saint George the Great Martyr:**



St George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch, he was illustrious in battle and highly honoured for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ.

By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many of the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name.

The Lord rewarded him with a wreath of unfading glory, numerous are his appearances to those who have invoked him and implored his help. The Lord bestowed upon him the power and authority to assist all those in afflictions and difficulties who call upon his name.

### **Story and Lessons:**

#### **Two Angels**

Two angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude, refused to let the angels stay in the guest room. Instead, they were given a small space in the cold basement. While making their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older replied: "Things aren't always what they seem". The next night, the pair came to rest at a house of very poor, but hospitable farmers. After sharing the little food they had, the family let the angels sleep in their bed. When the sun rose the next morning, the angels found the farmers in tears. Their only cow, that was their sole income, laying dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated, asked the older: "How could you have let this happen? The rich man had everything, yet you helped him. The poor family had little but was willing to share, and you let the cow die". "Things aren't always what they seem" – the older angel replied. "When we stayed at the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole. Since the owner was greedy I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead". "Things aren't always what they seem".

Sometimes, when things don't turn out for the best, they aren't always what they seem. If you have faith, you need to trust that the outcome has a purpose. You just might not know it until sometime later. Glory be to God for all things.

## Fathers quotes:

“You have heard, dearly beloved, that holy women who had followed the Lord came to the sepulchre with spices. They had loved Him when He was alive, and they showed Him their eager tender heartedness even when He was dead. Their deed points to something that must be done in our Holy Church. Thus as we hear of what they did, we must also think of our responsibility to imitate them. We too, who believe in Him who died, approach His sepulchre with spices if we are strengthened with the sweet smell of the virtues, and if we seek the Lord with a reputation for good works. And the women who came with spices saw angels, since those who advance toward God through their holy desires, accompanied by the sweet smell of the virtues, behold the citizens from on high”

**St Gregory the Great**

“The soul is greater than the body: the body becomes sick, and with that it is finished. But a spiritual sickness extends into eternity. Deliver us, O Lord, from such illness, and grant us healing”.

**St Macarius**

## Announcements:

† As St. George's Feast – our church's Patron Saint – falls on Monday, we shall be celebrating the Feast on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April.

† جانب الأهالي الكرام:

نحيطكم علماً أنه ببركة صاحب السيادة الميتروبوليت سلوان أونر ولجنة رعية كنيسة القديس جارجيوس سيتم افتتاح مدرسة لتعليم اللغة العربية لأولادنا الأحياء من عمر أربع سنوات حتى عمر اثنتي عشرة سنة "مع بعض الاستثناءات" وذلك في أيلول القادم إن شاء الله، فعلى الراغبين تسجيل أسماء أولادهم لدى السيدة ماغي مخول مديرة المدرسة (07949187944)، ليُبنى على الشيء مقتضاه.

شكراً لتعاونكم

† If you want to see more pictures of the Holy Week and Pascha Day, you can go to the Cathedral of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church – London – UK page on Facebook