



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

**Sundays 17 – 24 June 2018**

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

**Newsletter Issue:  
11/18**

**Regular Services:**

Saturdays: Vespers 16:30  
Sundays: Matins 10:00  
Liturgy 11:00

**Orthodox Calendar:**

11 June – Bartholomew the Holy Apostle  
14 June – The Holy Prophet Eliseus (Elisha)  
17 June – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew

19 June – Thaddeus (Jude) the Apostle & Brother of Our Lord  
20 June – Hieromartyr Methodios  
24 June – Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist

**Subscription to the Antiochian Orthodox Society of Britain**

The Antiochian Orthodox Society of Britain is the backbone of the parish of St. George's Cathedral. It is responsible for all its finance, maintenance and administration plus assisting the clergy with all their needs. It is also responsible for the maintenance and refurbishment of the church building which is a Grade 2 listed building and requires continuous attention and large amounts of expenditure.

The society regular income is generated mainly from the membership, the church collection and donations made in the candle box. Unfortunately our expenses, which have increased tremendously after we became an Archdiocese, much exceed our regular income. Accordingly our accounts will be in deficit if we exclude the income generated from the Annual Dinner. We need very much to increase our regular income by increasing mainly the society membership which constitutes the only steady income. We strongly urge everyone to join the society by completing the form which can be downloaded using the following link: <http://www.stgeorgeantioch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Application-Form.pdf>

**The standard annual subscription is £180**, paid by monthly £15 standing order. Those with limited income can pay as little as they can afford. Higher donations are always welcomed.

**The Annual Conference**

**The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland** held its annual Conference for 2018 entitled **"Nurturing the Parish Community"**, with His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan's blessing, in the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, in Alfreton, Derbyshire, from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> included. The talks have been captured on video that can be watched on the Archdiocesan website [http://www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk/church\\_media](http://www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk/church_media).



## The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, who proceeds from the Father, is He Who spoke through the prophets and was the Divine Instrument in the birth of Christ. For centuries, from the beginning of the Christian Church just fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit has continuously inspired the faithful members and granted them the spiritual prerequisites for salvation. The fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ, the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit made His official entrance into the Church turning the Apostles attitude of fear and doubt into courage and the bold faith to preach to all peoples. These Apostles and their disciples immediately became heralds and preachers of the Gospel of Christ, so The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible; He guides and protects the Church of Christ, having given it life on the day of Pentecost. It is the Holy Spirit Who endows the members of the Church with varieties of spiritual gifts for their illumination and satisfaction. This is why the Christian invokes in times of joy and in times of sorrow the Holy Spirit to strengthen his faith with His Grace to accomplish his purpose in life. The faithful member of the Church humbly should pray that he will not be led astray by "movements" outside the Church, where there is no salvation. The dire need of the people today is that they be reawakened to the realization that they already possess the greatest spiritual gift they can be given - their Christian faith. The Christian must dedicate himself to the true meaning and practice of his faith in God, and not allow himself to be led astray in moments of weakness. The Holy Spirit bestows gifts only on those who believe in and practice the true faith. The Christian is admonished to: *"Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication, to that end keep alert with all perseverance for all the saints"*(Ephesians 6:18).

### النسر والديك للقديس سلوان الآثوسي

حلَّق نسر في الأعالي، كان فرحًا بجمال الكون ويفكر: "إني أحلَّق فوق أمداء واسعة جدًا وأشاهد الوديان والجبال والبحار والينابيع والمراعي والغابات، وأشاهد حشد الحيوانات والعصافير وأرى القرى والمدائن، وكيف يحيا البشر، لكن الديك في المراعي لا يعرف شيئًا إلا حدود مزرعته حيث يعيش ولا يرى إلا بعض الناس والحيوانات. سأطير صوبه لأخبره عن حياة العالم." وطار النسر ليحط على قرميد سقف المزرعة فرأى كيف كان يتمشى الديك بجرأة ويفرح وسط دجاجاته وفكر: "أترأه مكتفيًا بما عنده! ولكن، مع هذا، سأحدِّثه بما أعرف." وأخذ النسر بإخبار الديك عن جمال وغنى العالم. في أول الحديث، أصغى الديك بانتباه، لكنه لم يفهم شيئًا. وإذا لاحظ النسر أنَّ الديك لا يفقه شيئًا، حزن، وصار الحديث مع الديك مؤلمًا. والديك من جهته، إذ لم يفهم ما كان يخبر به النسر، سئم، من سماع حكايات النسر... لكن كلاً منهما أكمل حياته راضيًا. هذا هو ما يحدث عندما يتكلم الإنسان المثقف مع الجاهل. وهذا ما يحدث وأكثر عندما يكلم الإنسان الروحي الإنسان غير الروحي أو المادي. إنَّ الإنسان الروحي شبيه بالنسر، أما المادي فشبيه بالديك. إنَّ نفس الإنسان الروحي تنفقه ليل نهار من الأحكام الإلهية وترفع ذاتها نحو الله بالصلاة. أما نفس المادي فمرتبطة بالدنيويات، بالتراب أو هي قلقة دائمًا بالهواجس والأفكار. إنَّ روح الإنسان الروحي تهلل وتفرح وهي دومًا في سلام، أما روح الإنسان المادي فتبقى خاوية فارغة ويائسة. إنَّ الإنسان الروحي يطير محلَّقًا كالنسر في الأعالي، فتحسُّ روحه بحضور الله ويعاين الكون كلَّه، حتى عندما يصلِّي في الظلمة أو في الليل. أما الإنسان المادي فيفرح وتهلل بالزهو والإستكبار أو بالغنى ويسعى باحثًا عن الملذات الجسدية. وإذا يلتقي الإنسان الروحي بالإنسان المهتم بالدنيويات، يسأم كل منهما من الآخر ويصحب التواصل بينهما مؤلمًا.

### Story and Lessons:

### Only God knows

Once there lived a wise man in a village. Although he was poor, the king was jealous of him because he owned a beautiful white horse. He was offered extravagant amounts of money for the horse, but the man always refused, saying, "this is not just a horse to me, but a person and a friend... Could you sell your friend? No, absolutely not!" One morning he woke up and found his horse gone. As the news spread, the whole village gathered at his house, "You old, foolish man! It was just a matter of time before your horse would be stolen," "You could have been rich, if you had sold it. What a misfortune!" "We'll see", replied the old man, "It's true that the horse is not in the stable, but how do you know whether it's a misfortune or not?" The villagers laughed at him and said, "Don't try to fool us, silly man!"

A few days later, the horse returned with several wild horses. Again the villagers came to the man's house, "Old man, you were right. We are sorry for what we said", "Now you have more beautiful horses. You can train them and sell them to earn money. What a blessing!" The old man smiled, "We'll see. Who knows whether it's a blessing or not?" This time people kept silent. A couple of days later, the old man's only son fell off one of the wild horses while trying to ride him, and broke his leg. Upon hearing this, the villagers gathered again and told the old man: "You were right. Having more horses isn't a blessing. Now your only son is injured. What a misfortune!" Again, the old man replied: "We'll see". One month later, war broke out and all young people of the village were forced to join the military. The villagers all gathered and cried, "Our sons are gone forever... Your son's injury indeed turned out to be a blessing!" The old man replied, "Whether it is a blessing or a misfortune – nobody knows... Only God knows!"

Life reveals itself to us in fragments. Sometimes, when something happens, it's better not to jump to conclusions, but to let it be and wait. A seeming misfortune may be a blessing in disguise and vice versa. There's always a higher plan unfolding.



### **St John the Baptist:**

St John the Baptist in the Eastern Orthodox Christian believe was the last of the Old Testament Prophets, thus serving as a bridge between that period of revelation and the new covenant, he was an itinerant preacher and a major religious movement of Baptism at the Jordan River. He anticipated a messianic figure who would be greater than himself, and, in the new Testament, Jesus is the one whose coming John foretold. Christians commonly refer to him as the forerunner of Jesus, since he announces Jesus coming. He is also identified with the Prophet Elijah, and some of Jesus early followers had previously been followers of John, even he is the one recognises our Lord Jesus as the Messiah and baptises him, and Jesus introduces him to his disciples as the lamb of God (John1:29-36).

St John always spoke the truth and because he condemned Herod for marrying Herodias, the former wife of his brother Philip, in violation of Old Testament Law, Herod did not appreciate his criticism and put him imprisoned, and later he was beheaded.

St John had a specific role ordained by God as forerunner or precursor of Jesus the foretold Messiah. In Luke 1:17-77 the role of John is referred to as being "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord", "and to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins". He commanded the Jews to exercise virtue both as to righteousness towards one another, and piety towards God, and so to come to baptism.

### **Fathers quotes:**

"Was it upon the twelve that is (the Holy Spirit) came? Not so, but upon the hundred and twenty. For Peter would not have quoted to no purpose the testimony of the prophet, saying, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, said the Lord God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Joel 2:28). "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit". For, that the effect may not be to frighten only, therefore it is both with the Holy Spirit and with fire. And began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Mt.3:11)".

**St John Chrysostom**

"And my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. My friends, consider the greatness of this solemn feast that commemorates God's coming as a guest into our hearts! If some rich and influential friend were to come to your home, you would promptly put it all in order for fear something there might offend your friend's eyes when he came in. Let all of us then who are preparing our inner homes for God cleanse them of anything our wrongdoing has brought into them".

**St Gregory Dialogos**

### **Announcements:**

جاناب الأهالي الكرام: نحيطكم علماً أنه ببركة صاحب السيادة  
الميتروبوليت سلوان أونر ومجلس ادارة الجمعية  
الأرثوذكسية الأنطاكية، 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.