



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

**Sundays 01 - 08 July 2018**

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

**Newsletter Issue:  
12/18**

**Regular Services:**

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

**Orthodox Calendar:**

29 June – Peter and Paul, the Holy apostles  
30 June – Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles  
01 July – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Mathew  
02 July – Deposition of the Precious Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae

05 July – Athanasius of Mount Athos  
07 July – Kyriake the Great Martyr  
08 July – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Mathew

**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.

**بطرس الرسول:**

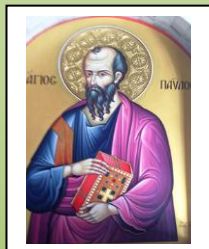
كان بطرس المطوب من الله ابن يونا وأخا اندراوس المدعو أولاً، وقد نشأ من بيت صيدا في الجليل. ففي أول أمره كان صياد سمك عامياً فقيراً، وكان اسمه سمعان. ثم سمّاه يسوع نفسه بطرس حين نظر إليه وقال " أنت سمعان بن يونا. أنت تدعى كيفاً الذي تفسره بطرس" (يوحنا 1 عدد 42). ورقّاه إلى وظيفة الرسالة فصار تلميذاً له غيوراً لا يفارقه وتبعه من بدء الكرازة الخلاصية إلى حين آلامه داخلاً معه إلى دار رئيس الكهنة قيافا. وهناك أنكره ثلاث مرات خوفاً من اليهود وإختشاء من الخطر الذي كان. ولكنّه ببكائه المر ودموعه الغزيرة نال غفراناً كاملاً عن زلّته.



وبعد قيامة المسيح وحلول الروح القدس كرز بالإنجيل في اليهودية ومدينة انطاكية وبعض أماكن في آسيا حتى بلغ أخيراً إلى رومية. وفيها صلبه نيرن الملك منكساً رأسه إلى أسفل ورجلاه إلى فوق سنة 66 أو سنة 68 فارتقى إلى الأبد السماوية. (عن كتاب السواعي الكبير)

كان بطرس ذا حب كبير لسيدته وغيره ملتزمة فهو الأول الذي اعترف بلاهوت المسيح والأول الذي بشر بالمسيح في يوم الخمسين. وكان الرب يتمجد على يديه ببعض المعجزات كشفاء المقعد عند باب الهيكل الجميل (أع 3)، وشفاء إينياس في مدينه اللد، وإقامة طابيثا بعد موتها في يافا (أع 9). ليس من ينكر الدور الرئيس الذي قام به بطرس في الطور الأول لتأسيس الكنيسة، فالرسول بولس يذكره مع الرسولين يعقوب ويوحنا على أنهم معتبرون أعمدة في كنيسة الله.

وقد خلف لكنيسة المسيح رسالتين من الرسائل الجامعة السبع من أهم الموضوعات فيها: هوية المسيحيين الذين دعاهم «شعب الله المختار» وواجب تحمل الاضطهاد، وحسن السيرة، والمحبة، ودفع الشر بالخير لا بالشر، وإطاعة السلطات الحاكمة، ومعاملة الناس جميعاً بالرفق والحلم، وعظ وإرشاد شديد اللهجة، حض المؤمنين على الثبات في الإيمان وتحذيرهم من أهل البدع وأصحاب المذاهب الإباحية.



### Saint Paul:

Saint Paul is undoubtedly one of the most important figures in the history, an untiring missionary in the establishment of the early Christian faith, the first interpreter of the Good News of Jesus to the Gentile world, and the author of 14 Epistles of The New Testament. He was an expert Pharisee in knowledge of the Law, a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time (Acts 22:3-4). He went to Damascus to bring the Disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds.

As he was approaching Damascus, suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven, our Lord Jesus spoke with him, a wondrous transformation! - Beyond all expectation, he became a disciple like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place preaching that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). It was Paul who came up with the doctrine that would turn Christianity from a small sect of Judaism into a worldwide faith that was open to all.

The Damascus Road experience was both a conversion and a call. It was a conversion away from his previous life as a zealous persecutor of Jesus' followers and it was a call to a new life, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, the Gospel was for all people and that no barriers should be put in the way of Gentiles. Paul the theologian was the first to work through many of the intriguing questions that Jesus' life, death and resurrection had thrown up. And Paul the letter-writer gave us not only some of the profoundest pieces of early Christian theological reflection, but also some of the finest, most poignant writing in history, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world.

Having completed the work of his ministry, he was martyrdom beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time some say, when Peter was crucified. The church honours the feast of Peter and Paul on the same day, June 29th, as chief of the Apostles for their dedication and zeal for spreading the Gospel of our Lord. The Apolitikon of St. Paul: O preacher to the gentiles and thrice grandest shining star, the Athenians' teacher and the universe's ornament, we joyously honour you. We pay homage to the struggles that you had for the sake of Christ, and your dignified martyrdom, Holy and glorious Apostle Paul, intercede with Christ our God, entreating Him to save our souls.

### Story and Lessons:

#### Smartphones

I was marking my students' homework one night after dinner. My husband was sitting nearby, playing "Candy Crush Saga" on his phone. Suddenly, tears welled up in my eyes.

"Why are you crying my dear?" my husband asked. "Yesterday I gave my class a writing assignment called, My Wish" I told him. "Ok, and what's making you cry?" he asked again, keeping one eye on his game. "The last paper moved me so much, it made me cry". "What about it made you cry?"

Listen, I'll read it to you, I replied wiping my eyes: "My parents love their smartphones very much. They care about their smartphones so much, that sometimes they forget to care about me. When my father comes home from work tired, he has time for his smartphone but not for me. When my parents are doing some important work and their phones ring, they will answer it right away, but they will not answer me... even when I'm crying. They play games on their phones but not with me. When they are talking to someone on their phones, they never listen to me, even if I'm telling them something important. So, my wish is to become a smartphone".

Now it was my husband who wiped his eyes. "Who wrote this?" he asked quietly. I looked up at him and said... "Our son". Let us not sacrifice our family and relationships over the pursuit of material things. Smartphones are here to make our lives easier, but not to control us, make us addicted and unsociable.

It's not too late to return to a real family life, back to the old days when we didn't have the Internet and computer games. **Put down that phone for a while. Talk to your children, your spouse or your friends.** Set a good example for your children. Whatever you do, they will also do. Talk to the people you love and make sure they will feel loved. And you can receive love from them too.

**Can your phone give you love?**

### **Fathers quotes:**

“Jesus tell us that His Holy Disciples will be more courageous and more understanding when they would be, as the Scripture says, endowed with power from on high (Luke 24:49), and that when their minds would be illuminated by the torch of the Spirit they would be able to see into all things, even though no longer able to question Him bodily present among them. The Saviour does not say that they would no longer as before need the light of His guidance, but that when they received His Spirit, when He was dwelling in their hearts, they would not be wanting in any good thing, and their minds would be filled with most perfect knowledge”

**St Cyril of Alexandria**

“Simply proclaim the Lord Christ holy in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their accusations”

**Saint Peter the Apostle**

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”

**Saint Paul the Apostle**

### **Announcements:**

**A Holy liturgy**, will be celebrated for Saints Peter and Paul, the Holy apostles, on Thursday 28 June, 7 pm.

On Sunday 8 July 2018 a **commemoration service for the late Amin Youssef HADDAD** shall be held after the Holy Liturgy for the 1st year after his passing away to the Lord. His widow and children invite you to participate at the service on his memory.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018**, the Antiochian Orthodox Society will hold its Annual General Meeting at 1.30pm in St. George's Cathedral. All welcome

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November**, the Antiochian Orthodox Society will hold its Annual Charity Dinner at 7.30pm in the Royal Garden Hotel. Tickets will be available in October.

**Many thanks**, to the 780 subscribers in our website, and we hope that the newsletter will be for your spiritual benefit.