



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

**Sundays 16 - 23 December 2018**

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

**Newsletter Issue:  
22/18**

**Regular Services:**

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

**Orthodox Calendar:**

12 December – St Spyridon of Trymithous  
15 December – Eleutherios and his mother Anthia  
16 December - 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

20 December – Ignatios Bishop of Antioch  
22 December –Saturday before Nativity  
23 December – Sunday before Nativity

**ANNUAL GALA DINNER**

The Antiochian Orthodox Society held its Annual Charity Dinner on Saturday 17th November 2018 in the Palace Suite at the Royal Garden Hotel in London. The event was extremely successful in every respect. The capacity of the hall was exceeded which made it difficult to arrange the seating for the 370 guests. The atmosphere was very friendly and full of joy and happiness. Everyone without exception enjoyed all parts of the evening including the food, the wine and especially the entertainment programme which was lead by the famous Lebanese musical artist Ghassan Saliba.



**CHRISTMAS FAIR 2019**

In the name of the Metropolitane Silouan, the Antiochian society, And the Priests, I want to thank all who worked in the Christmas fair, which was very successful. The atmosphere was very familiar, full of joy and love ♡. Thank you, May God bless your families



## THE HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER



The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. He was the second bishop of Antioch, tradition suggests that when Saint Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

As Bishop of Antioch, Saint Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example. In the time of persecution he was a source of strength to the souls of his flock, and was eager to suffer for Christ.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan (98-117), after his victory over the Scythians, ordered everyone to give thanks to the pagan gods, and to put to death any Christians who refused to worship the idols. In the year 107, Trajan happened to pass through Antioch. Here they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity. He came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch, and rejected the persistent requests of the emperor Trajan to sacrifice to the idols. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts. Saint Ignatius joyfully accepted the sentence imposed upon him. His readiness for martyrdom was attested to by eyewitnesses, who accompanied Saint Ignatius from Antioch to Rome.

On the way to Rome Saint Ignatius visited several churches, teaching, guiding the Christians there and He exhorted everyone not to fear death and not to grieve for him. He also wrote seven epistles: to the churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna. He also addressed a letter to Saint Polycarp, who mentions a collection of the letters of Saint Ignatius in his letter to the Philippians (Ch. 13). Saint Irenaeus of Lyons quotes from Saint Ignatius's letter to the Romans (AGAINST HERESIES 5:28:4). All these letters have survived to the present day. On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led Saint Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf, made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts." After this the lions were released and tore him to pieces, leaving only his heart and a few bones. Tradition says that on his way to execution, Saint Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When they asked him why he was doing this, Saint Ignatius answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with his lips Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ." After his execution Saint Ignatius appeared to many of the faithful in their sleep to comfort them, and some saw him at prayer for the city of Rome.

Hearing of the saint's great courage, Trajan thought well of him and stopped the persecution against the Christians. The relics of Saint Ignatius were transferred to Antioch (January 29), and on February 1, 637 were returned to Rome and placed in the church of San Clemente.

### Story and Lessons:

### The cracked pot

A water bearer in China had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

## **Fathers quotes:**

“Take heed often to come together to give thanks to God and show forth His praise. For when you assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith. Nothing is more precious than peace, by which all war, in heaven and earth, is brought to an end”.

“Do not err, my brethren: if anyone follow a schismatic, he will not inherit the kingdom of God. If any man walk about with strange doctrine, he cannot lie down with the passion. Take care, then, to use one Eucharist, so that whatever you do, you do according to God: for there is one Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup in the union of His Blood; one altar, as there is one bishop with the presbytery and my fellow servants, the deacons”.

“Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself”

**St Ignatios of Antioch**

## **Announcements:**

**The Annual Christmas Lunch** will take place on the 16th of December 2018, at the Millenium Gloucester Hotel 2:00pm, for tickets please get in touch with Mrs Samira Abdel-Nour.

**A Holy liturgy**, will be celebrated for **St Ignatios the God-bearer**, on Wednesday 19 July, 7 pm.

برعاية الميتروبوليت سلوان أونر تدعوكم مطرانية الجزر البريطانية و ايرلندا الانطاكية للروم الأرثوذكس الى **مؤتمر العام 2019**  
بعنوان : العمل في كرم الرب، رعاية الأطفال وتربيتهم على الإيمان، وذلك من نهار الاثنين 27 لغاية 29 أيار 2019، الدعوة عامة،  
للاستفسار الرجاء مراجعة الأب ميخائيل.