



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

Sundays 20 - 27 January 2019

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

**Newsletter Issue:
01/19**

Regular Services:

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

Orthodox Calendar:

14 January – leavetaking of the Theophany
17 January – St Anthony the Great
18 January – St Athanasios & St Cyrill
19 January – St Macarius the Great of Egypt

20 January – 12th Sunday of Luke
21 January – Maximos the Confessor
25 January – ST Gregory the Theologian
27 January - 15th Sunday of Luke



The Annual Christmas Lunch

The Annual Christmas Lunch took place on the 16th of December 2018, at the Millenium Gloucester Hotel.

It was a very joyful day, gathering all the kids and parents of our parish, delicious food, and a family ambiance.

Big thanks for Samira, Wadad, Nemer, and all the team who worked to make this events happens.



THE DIVINE LITURGY AND THEOPHANY

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself, and have enlightened the world, glory to You!



ASCETISM

The lives of the ancient Desert Fathers are filled with examples of great men and women who fasted, practiced feats of asceticism, and rejected all worldly things.

St. Macarius was sent some fresh grapes. He desired to eat them, but showing self-control, he sent them to a certain brother who was ill and who was himself fond of grapes. When the brother received them he was delighted, but wishing to conceal his self-mastery, he sent them to another brother, pretending that he had no appetite for any food. When the next brother received the grapes, he did the same in turn, although he too had a great desire to eat them. When at length the grapes had been passed round a large number of the brethren without any of them deciding to eat them, the last one to receive them sent them again to Macarius, thinking that he was giving him a rich gift. Macarius recognized them and after inquiring closely into what had happened, marveled, giving thanks to the Lord for such self-control among the brethren. And in the end not even he partook of the grapes.

Asceticism is a key part of Orthodox Spirituality. It is not a negative activity but a most positive one. It is the primary means by which we come closer to God. It involves the activities that help us perfect our way of life to be more like Christ.

Story and Lessons:

My Boss

30 years ago I worked as a security guard for a rich family. There was something strange going on at that place.... Every day, I opened the gate and the car door for my boss and greeted him, but not once did he respond to my greeting.

They often threw large parties, and there was usually a lot of leftover food. My family was so poor then that I would pick up the leftovers to take home. One day, my boss saw me going through the garbage bags outside the kitchen. As usual, he didn't say a word. The next day I saw a clean bag full of fresh food near the garbage area. Without much thought I happily picked it up and took it home.

Every day, from that day on, there was a bag of groceries in the same place, and it provided enough to feed my family. Then one day everything changed, I was shocked to learn that my boss had unexpectedly died. After that, no more food bags were left by the bins. Every day I checked but there was none. I was very disappointed. Once again, I struggled to provide for my family.

Finally, I decided to ask my boss wife for a pay raise. She was shocked but empathetic, "How come you didn't complain about your salary earlier? And why are you suddenly asking now?" she asked with concern. I gave many excuses, but finally came out with the truth. I told her about the bag of groceries left by the trash, and how it had fed my family.

A look of relief lit up her face, "And this stopped the day my husband died?" she asked.

I was shocked as I just realized that it was my boss who had left the food for me. He seemed so stern and uncaring, I never suspected him to be so kind. My boss wife suddenly started crying, "I'm so sorry, I shouldn't have asked for the raise", I said. "I'm crying for a different reason", she answered. "You are the seventh person that my husband was giving food bags to".

From that day forward, I continued to receive my daily bag of fresh groceries. But now it was his son who directly delivered it to my house. And just like his dad, whenever I thanked him, he never replied. So one day I said loudly, "THANK YOU!" "I'm sorry, please don't be offended, I have a hearing problem just like my dad". I was speechless, and my heart was full of remorse and gratitude.

Fathers quotes:

“The person who loves God cannot help loving every man as himself, even though he is grieved by the passions of those who are not yet purified. But when they amend their lives, his delight is indescribable and knows no bounds”
St Maximus the Confessor

“Learn to love humility, for it will cover all your sins. All sins are repulsive before God, but the most repulsive of all is pride of the heart. Do not consider yourself learned and wise; otherwise, all your efforts will be destroyed, and your boat will reach the harbour empty. If you have great authority, do not threaten anyone with death. Know that, according to nature, you too are susceptible to death, and that every soul sheds its body as its final garment”
St Anthony the Great

“Like the tax collectors who sit in the narrow roads and seize the passers-by and the oppressed, so also the demons watch carefully and grab hold of souls. And when they pass out of the body, if they are not completely purified, they are not permitted to go up into the mansions of Heaven there to meet their Master. For they are driven down by the demons of the air”
St Macarius the Great of Egypt

Announcements:

A Holy liturgy, will be celebrated for **St Anthony the Great**, on Sunday 20 January, 10:00 Am.

برعاية الميتروبوليت سلوان أونر تدعوكم مطرانية الجزر البريطانية وَايرلندا 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.