



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

**Sundays 24 - 31 March 2019**

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

**Newsletter Issue:  
05/19**

**Regular Services:**

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

**Orthodox Calendar:**

19 March – Demetrios the New Martyr

20 March – Myron the New Martyr of Crete

21 March – Thomas Patriarch of Constantinople

23 March – Sunday of St Gregory of Palamas

25 March – Annunciation of the Theotokos

27 March – Matrona of Thessalonica

28 March – Herodion the Apostle of the 70

31 March – Sunday of the Holy Cross

**Concert of Byzantine music**

The Antiochian Orthodox Society of Britain will hold a concert of Byzantine music and chanting by the famous Mount Lebanon Choir for Byzantine Music on Saturday 1st June 2019 at 7.30pm in the following address

St. Yeghiche Armenian Church, 13b Cranley Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7 4BB

Tickets 25 £ All are welcome

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

For Mr **Tony Albert Notley**

Thursday 28th March 2019

11am – Funeral Mass at St Mary the Virgin, Kenton, St Leonard's Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 8EJ

All are invited to a reception and buffet lunch from 1.30pm at Harrow District Masonic Centre, Northwick Circle, Harrow, HA3 0EL

**Annual Youth concert**

St George's Annual youth concert will take place on Sunday April 14, at 1:00 PM.

If you would like to be included, please submit your name and song choice to:

[antiochian.oy@gmail.com](mailto:antiochian.oy@gmail.com)



**The Annual forgiveness meeting**

The Annual forgiveness meeting was held at St George's Cathedral London, on Saturday march 09, 2019.

Various topics affecting the life of of the Archdiocese, as well as the wider life of the Church of Antioch and the whole Orthodox Church, were discussed. Of particular note was to hear more on the development of our new monastic community in Shropshire, headed by Archimandrite Philip, and the forthcoming publication of a prayer book for the people of our Archdiocese.



## Story and Lessons:

### The Golden ring

During the time of Caesars and the European Emperors, there was a young farmer named Dobreah living in Warsaw. He was married with 2 sons and used to work for a rich man. Dobreah suffered from severe back pain which prevented him from carrying out hard agricultural works. His boss gave him a 2 months' chance to get better, but Dobreah still could not carry out his work as he did before. So his boss decided to dismiss him from his job and gave him notice to leave the house which he lived in with his family. Things got difficult for this small family.

Dobreah had a lot of faith in God and trusted His timing, but this last trial was beyond his understanding and seemed too harsh for him. However, he still held on to God's promises and continued to pray with lots of tears and pleading. A few days before their eviction date, he gathered his wife and sons and asked them to get on the floor with him, to pray and supplicate the Lord's mercy. After they prayed with tears and pleaded with God they felt peace in their heart. They then sat together and sang a song with the chorus "Different to how I think, or how you think, God prepares".

A moment later they heard a pecking noise from one of the high windows which was closed. A short while before Doreah's dad had passed away, he owned a blackbird who used to come to the house from time to time mainly to get some food. When they opened the window to let him in, the blackbird came in with something shiny and threw it on the floor. Dobreah picked it up, it was a golden ring which seemed very expensive. The family was happy with this gift and they were sure that it was an answer to their prayers. But Dobreah wasn't sure what to do, he didn't know if it was right for him to take the ring when it wasn't his own and doesn't know where the blackbird got it from.

The next day he decided to go to the priest to ask for advice. When the priest examined the ring, he found an engraving of the name of the owner on the inside of the ring which said "Staslov King of Polonia". The priest requested a time to meet the king and took Dobreah with him. The priest presented the ring to the king and told him what happened with Dobreah's family when they prayed and the blackbird brought the ring. The king was very pleased to find his ring, which he lost during a hunting trip. But he was moved more by this family's story, how they struggled in their hardship, and their steadfast faith and loyalty. The king commanded for a small beautiful house to be built for them on the King's land, and on the first door step a carving of a blackbird with a ring in his beak, and a line underneath that saying "Different to how I think, or how you think, God prepares".

"You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth." (Psalms 71:20)



### Sunday of Orthodoxy

Pan-Orthodox Vespers was held in St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Shepherd Bush, on March 17, 2019.

Main speaker was Rev. Archim. Zacharias Zacharou, followed by Icons procession, and reception in the hall of the church.



## **Announcements:**

A Holy liturgy, will be celebrated for **The Annunciation of the Theotokos**, on Sunday March 24,10:00 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.

**Romania pilgrimage:** With the blessings of Metropolitan Silouan and request of some members of Hamelat el Teeb; we have organised a Pilgrimage trip to Romania from 21 to 27 June 2019, which co-insides with the celebrations of St John, there will be visits to several Monasteries, touristic places, museums and shopping in Bucharest. The Price is £ 575.00 includes 6 nights' accommodations + transport +guide +half board (6 breakfast and 5 dinners). If you are interested, please contact Fr Michel Touma 07955716299 before the end of April.



## **Fathers quotes:**

“The only hope of salvation from the delusions and the heresies, the innovations and the traps of wicked people and of the devil is prayer, repentance and humility”

**Joseph the Hesychast**

“In the words of the psalmist, “As you lie in bed, repent of what you say in your heart” (Ps. 4:4 LXX), that is, repent in the stillness of the night, remembering the lapses that occurred in the confusion of the day and disciplining yourself in hymns and spiritual songs (cf. Col. 3:16) – in other words, teaching yourself to persist in prayer and psalmody through attentive meditation on what you read. For the practise of the moral virtues is effectuated by meditating on what has happened during the day, so that during the stillness of the night we can become aware of the sins we have committed and can grieve over them”

**St Peter of Damascus**

“Do that which is good, and no evil shall touch you. Prayer is good with fasting and alms and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. For alms doth deliver from death, and shall purge away all sin. Those that exercise alms and righteousness shall be filled with life: But they that sin are enemies to their own life”

**St Raphael**