



# *“Joy of All Who Sorrow”*

No. 98 January 2017

## **For Unto Us a Child is Born**



**Unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called: Wonderful! Counsellor! The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

# The Nativity Epistle of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia

Moved by the most profound feelings of fraternal love and joy for the Saviour of the world born in Bethlehem, I congratulate the Archpastors, clergymen, monastics and faithful flock of the Church Abroad on the holy feast of the Nativity of Christ!

O, blessed Nativity night!

On this holy night, the Son of God meekly descended to earth and was born in a humble Bethlehem cave. He brought news of the salvation of all mankind, and by his example of humility and self-sacrifice pointed the way to eternal blessedness. The angels praised the birth of Christ with the words, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth and good will toward men" (Lk 2:14). The whole world, heeding this wondrous song, became a form of temple and altar, where a unique Divine service was invisibly being performed, during which divine hymns from the heavenly abodes merged with suffering humanity.

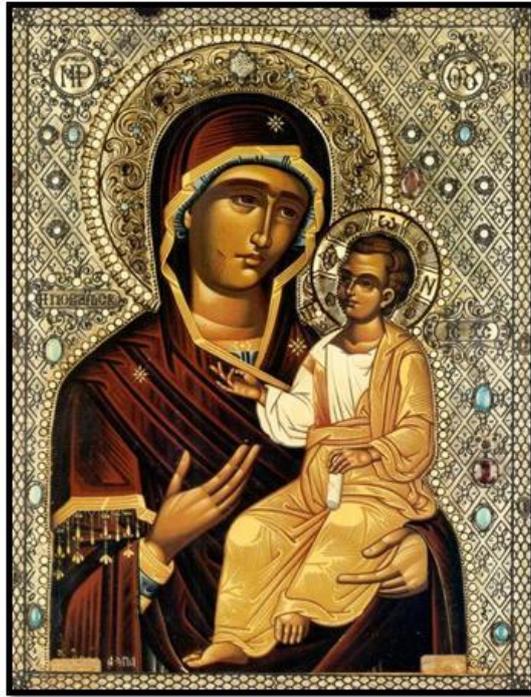
In our troubled days, when the gospel commandments of patience, humility and brotherly love resound with particular force, we bear witness to internecine strife, brutal persecution of Christians, all forms of political fervour, and social discord. The human heart races at the mere thought of these great tribulations. We cannot hope but pose the question: is this how the world is to honour its God, its Creator and Saviour? As we celebrate this holy event, let us lift up our prayers for brotherly unity and understanding, for patience and mutual respect within society, and for peace among nations. Let us unite in our churches in these days, leaving aside at least for a while our earthly cares and troubles, let us offer the God-Child our fervent faith and hope in salvation, let us fill our lives with Christian virtues.

As we enter the new year of 2017, I ponder the humility of God who became man and cannot help but remember the humility of His Holiness Patriarch Tikhon. 100 years ago, after his election at the All Russian Local Church Council, he meekly accepted the wooden staff of the Primate of the See of Moscow, Metropolitan Peter. Let us turn our attention to this Holy Hierarch-Confessor, who together with the Russian Church ascended the Golgotha of sorrows and humiliation! In those horrifying years, a special host of martyrs for the faith rose up, passing through fire and water, and enduring abuse and injury, chains and imprisonment, "tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection" (Hebrews 11:35). In the spiritual achievements of his Holiness Patriarch Tikhon and the Martyrs of the twentieth century, a profound love for God and neighbour was revealed, and also unlimited devotion to the Will of God. May the self-sacrificial *podvig* of the martyrs who suffered in the years of godless persecutions serve as an example of faith and piety, not only for us, but for all Orthodox Christians!

As we noetically kiss the holy manger of Bethlehem, let us piously pray to the Divine Child that this twenty-first century, in contrast to the last one, will be a time of building the church and of mankind turning to God, that the seeds sown by the suffering of the holy new martyrs and confessors of Russia will continue to bring forth abundant fruits of faith, hope and love in human hearts. Let us pray to him that he grant us spiritual peace and true Christian life, so that we will be to our neighbours a "light of the world" (Jn 8:12) and the "salt of the earth" (Mt 5:13).

With love in the Incarnate Lord,  
Hilarion

# The Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Ikon



On October 6<sup>th</sup> 2007, the Miracleworking and Myrrh-streaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Theotokos was found on a bookshelf in Hawaii exuding myrrh. In 2008, the Iveron Icon was officially recognized by the Russian Orthodox Church as miraculous and worthy of veneration. Since that time, this sacred image has visited over 500 Orthodox churches and monasteries in the United States and Canada. It has been a source of numerous miraculous occurrences, including many healings from both physical and spiritual infirmities.

The full account of this phenomenon can be read on the website of the Holy Theotokos of Iveron Russian Orthodox Church in Honolulu: <http://www.orthodoxhawaii.org/>

There are also several items on Youtube about the ikon – just click on the link below.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BkTSwn7upE>

# Notes & Jottings

## EPISCOPAL OVERSIGHT

In his farewell letter, Archbishop Mark writes: *The Holy Synod of Bishops of our Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia during our session on December 8, 2016, has relieved me of my obligations as ruling bishop of the diocese of Great Britain and Ireland. Therefore, I am writing this letter in order to thank all of you for your continued support during the past 30 years and ask for your prayers for my further efforts in ruling the diocese of Germany and continuing my obligations as overseer of our convents and properties in the Holy Land. At the same time, I ask forgiveness of all for anything I may have said or done in these years that may have hurt or aggravated you.*

He goes on to say: *Metropolitan Hilarion, will be your ruling bishop from now on. You may address him in all matters concerning your church life. He only, after the patriarch, is to be commemorated in your services as Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York. He will make an effort to visit you in January.*

## VISIT OF METROPOLITAN HILARION

Indeed Fr Paul Elliott has advised us that Vladika Metropolitan will be in Britain as from 22 January. He will arrive in Mettingham sometime on Monday 23 Jan and will stay overnight. He will serve the Divine Liturgy in the collegiate church on Tuesday (24 Jan) morning. This is a great blessing, the beginning of a new era, and we look forward to the future development of our witness here under the guidance of our beloved Vladika Hilarion. We are conscious of the fact that this is a working day, none-the-less you are asked to make every effort to come and meet our father-in-God, so that we may all pray together with him for the advancement of the Kingdom of Heaven.

## HAWAIIAN MYRRH-STREAMING IKON

Above is a short item about the Hawaiian copy of the Iveron ikon, which has been streaming myrrh for the past nine years. There is now a plan to bring this ikon to Britain, in early summer, sometime after Easter, on a tour of Orthodox churches. We will try to arrange for Mettingham to be included in the schedule.

## CALENDARS

There are still a few copies of the St Herman Calendar 2017 in stock. This is a lectionary, in A4 size book form, giving details of the numerous saints commemorated every day and the daily scriptural readings. The retail price is £8.25 per copy. Order now to avoid disappointment.

## NAMEDAYS

We send congratulations to everyone who is celebrating a nameday at this time and wish them

**MANY YEARS!**

8 January – **Sunday after Christmas (St Joseph)** – Joseph Meyer

9 January – **St Stephen the Protomartyr** – Stephen Masterson

15 January – **St Seraphim of Sarov** – Seraphim Collins, Serafima Hopper,  
Seraphima Dembri

30 January – **St Anthony the Great** - Priest Antony Bardsley



**COLLEGE OF OUR LADY OF METTINGHAM**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE, METTINGHAM, SUFFOLK NR35 1TP**  
01986 895176      e-mail [churchmettingham@aol.com](mailto:churchmettingham@aol.com)

## **NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN the collegiate CHURCH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD  
*"JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW"*

Friday 6 January  
7.30 pm - VIGIL

SATURDAY 7 JANUARY  
10.30 am - DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by festive buffet and Christmas party in the college

*CHRIST IS BORN - GLORIFY HIM*



**COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD  
JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW**

**JANUARY 2017**

**Sunday 1 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Fathers)**

**Friday 6 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Saturday 7 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Holy Nativity of Our Lord, God and Saviour  
Jesus Christ)**

**Sunday 8 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos)**

**Saturday 14 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 15 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Repose of St Seraphim, Wonderworker of  
Sarov)**

**Wednesday 18 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Thursday 19 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God and  
Saviour Jesus Christ)**

**Saturday 21 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 22 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday after Theophany)**

**Saturday 28 January**

*7.30pm ~ Vigil*

**Sunday 29 January**

**10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Zaccheus Sunday)**



And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

St John the Divine

*Collegiate Church of the Ikon of the Mother of God: Joy of All Who Sorrow*  
*The White House, Low Road, Mettingham, Suffolk, NR35 1TP*  
*Tel: (01986) 895176*  
*[www.mettingham.org.uk](http://www.mettingham.org.uk)*