



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 102 May 2017



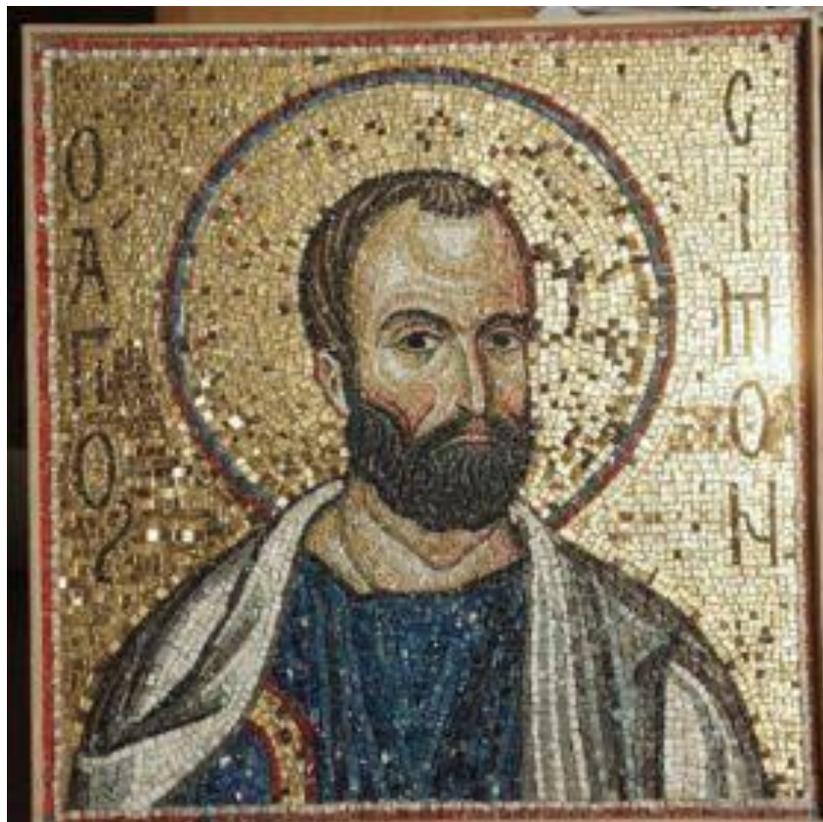
St Simon the Zealot

The Apostle Simon the Zealot was from Cana of Galilee, and he was one of the Twelve Apostles (Mt 10:4). The name of Simon occurs in all the passages of the Gospel and also in the Acts of the Apostles, in which a list of the Apostles is given. He should not be confused with Simeon or Simon, the brother of James the Less. To distinguish him from St. Peter, who is called Simon Peter, he is called (Matthew 10:4; Mark 3:18) Kananaïos, or Kananites, and Zelotes (Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13). Both surnames have the same signification and are a translation of the Hebrew qana (the Zealous). The name does not signify that he belonged to the party of Zealots, but that he had zeal for the Jewish law, which he practiced before his call. The first miracle which the Saviour worked, changing water into wine, occurred at the house of Simon during his wedding feast. When the wine ran out, the Lord, at the prompting of the Theotokos, transformed water into wine. Struck by the miracle, the bridegroom believed in Jesus as the promised Messiah with all his heart and soul.

Little is known of the life of St. Simon. While we have little to say of his life, unlike some of the Apostles, it is most significant that the first miracle of Christ was at Simon's wedding. Many of the Church Fathers say that this shows how important marriage is to God. Seeing the wonder of the changing of water into wine, made Simon realize that he was in the presence of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Promised One of the Prophets. He followed Jesus without question, and agreed with his wife to live as brother and sister.

There are many traditions about where St Simeon travelled and, while sometimes it can be difficult to separate fact from legend, we can conclude that – as the hymns of the Church confirm – his famous zeal led him to travel far and wide around the world.

One account of Simon's missionary journeys states that he passed through Egypt, Mauritania, Libya, Numidia, Cyrenia and Abkhazia. In Abkhazia, he enlightened many pagans with the Faith. The first five of these countries are along the Northern Coast of Africa bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Abkhazia, however, is Northwest of the Black Sea in modern Russia. Another account of Simon's missionary journeys concurs that he went to preach the Gospel in Mauritania in North Africa near modern Algeria. This account states that because he succeeded in converting many to the Faith of Christ, he was tortured and finally crucified there. The same traditional account states that Simon also went to Britain where he enlightened many unbelievers with the light of the Gospel. Nicephorus (9th Century) concurs that Simon travelled to Britain. Dorotheus of Gaza stated that Simon not only went to Britain, but that he was crucified by idolaters and buried there. Another account of Simon's travels confirms that he visited North Africa including Egypt, Mauritania, Libya, Numidia, Cyrene and Abkhazia, but suggests that he was not crucified there. Instead he proceeded from there to the Eastern parts of Britain in the first year of the Boadicean War (61AD). During this time, Simon worked with Joseph of Arimathea, who had performed the burial rite of Christ along with Nicodemus. He was then crucified in the vicinity of Caistor, Lincolnshire, under Caius Decius on May 10th, the day on which the Church commemorates him. This tradition is still remembered in Caistor to this day. Another account of Simon's travels says that he had been to Britain earlier, c. 44 AD, but that he had left Britain and returned to the continent. At this earlier time, Simon may have worked with the Apostle of the Seventy Aristobulus.



PASCHAL EPISTLE OF HILARION

Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York,
First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Beloved Archpastors, Honorable Fathers, Dear in the Lord Brothers and Sisters:

With a heart filled with the endearing sensation of Paschal joy, I congratulate the hierarchs, clergymen, monastics, parishioners and worshippers of our churches, scattered throughout the whole world, on the joyful celebration of the glorious Resurrection of Christ, and I greet you with the angelic good news: CHRIST IS RISEN!

I greet you with these holy Christian words, joy of eternal life. I send you all prayerful wishes for Paschal communion with God, spiritual peace, firm health, boldness, well-being, and the many mercies and blessings of God, and express my heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, support and help in bearing the burden of obedience imposed on my unworthiness, and for your efforts and participation in the life of the Church. The words of the Paschal greeting, like the trumpets of the archangels, which will in time lift up all who have died, lift even now the morale of all Orthodox Christians as they do every year on the light-filled night of Holy Pascha. "Even the disbelievers," wrote Archbishop Anthony (Bartoshevich) of blessed memory, "sense something special on this night, they feel that something is happening that they cannot comprehend."

By His sacrificial love and victory over sin, evil and death, Christ delivered enlightenment, purification from sin and renewal to all who genuinely believe in Him (Hebrews 10:10-14, Colossians 1:21-23). Piously partaking of the Mystery of His Eucharist on this "feast of faith," towards which the great Chrysostom beckons us, let us seek the strength to "walk in newness of life... not serve sin... and be alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:4-11). The Lord now awaits our renewal, while the mystical powers, through "grace by grace," are given from the over-abundant spiritual fullness we receive in Christ (John 1:14-16).

St Tikhon, Patriarch-Confessor of All Russia, summons us to this renewal through his example, having 100 years ago meekly accepted the position of Patriarch, bravely leading the way to the Russian Golgotha for many millions of "living sacrifices," the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, who are our shared treasure and the seed of the rebirth of the Orthodox Church. We archpastors are likewise summoned to this renaissance by the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, which will take place during the days of Holy Pentecost, so that we may worthily, piously and in the spirit of wisdom perform the constructive, peace-making and salvific work of the Church, to perfect and improve her earthly life and all her works. We are also called towards renewal through all the celebrations of this important year—especially the 10th anniversary of the reestablishment of unity within the Russian Orthodox Church, which became possible through the patience, all-forgiveness and humility of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II and Metropolitan Laurus, who, in the words of Apostle Paul, "enlarged their hearts" (2 Corinthians 6:11), to accommodate all the faithful flock. The Lord calls upon us all towards this renewal, for, as St Gregory the Theologian writes, "Thus the day of spiritual renewal is honoured!"

May our purifying and illuminating conscience, labours and life spread like a breeze from heart to heart throughout our diaspora like the "Pascha of purification" (Paschal canon, Ode 4)! May this call of the Resurrection on the third day of the Lover of Mankind, God, inspire our life in the Church, in society, in family and personal life to "glorify Him with a pure heart." Amen.



Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Ikon will come to our church in Mettingham on Monday 15 May at 7pm

At 7pm on Monday 15 May, we will be blessed with a visit of the Hawaiian myrrh-streaming ikon of the **Mother of God**. The story of the miracle-working ikon goes right back to St Luke the Evangelist, who is said to have painted the original Iveron ikon on which it is based. The ikon miraculously survived the ikonoclasm of Emperor Theophilus (829–842) in Byzantium—a pious widow hid it in her house, and when soldiers came to destroy ikons at the emperor’s orders, they found it and pierced it with a spear, but to their great horror, blood flowed from the wound. The mark is depicted in all copies that have since been painted of this ikon. To save it from further violence, after long prayer the widow cast the ikon into the sea. It miraculously sailed on its own to the holy mountain of Athos, the “Garden of the Panagia”. The monks one day saw a pillar of light over the sea, and looking closer, beheld the ikon of the Theotokos. Only one monk, however, was worthy of receiving it into his hands—the Georgian monk Gabriel from the Iveron monastery.

Over a millennium later, in the summer of 1982, a Chilean man named Jose Munoz-Cortes, who was living in Montreal, went to Mt Athos. At the small skete of the Nativity of Christ, he felt an immediate and strong attraction for an ikon of the Mother of God, a contemporary (1981) copy of the ancient Iveron Ikon. He was disappointed to learn that it was not for sale, but to his great joy, as he was leaving the skete, Abbot Clement unexpectedly handed the ikon to him, saying that it pleased the Mother of God to go with him to America. Back in Montreal, Brother Joseph, as he became known, began reading an akathist daily before the ikon. A few weeks later, on November 25, he awoke and smelled a strong fragrance. The new ikon was streaked with myrrh, miraculously emanating from the hands of the Mother of God. For the next fifteen years, as myrrh continued to flow from the ikon, Brother Joseph devoted himself to its care, accompanying it on numerous trips to parishes all over the United States and Canada, to South America, Australia, and Europe. Everywhere, the Mother of God worked miracles, healing souls and bodies.

In 1997, under mysterious circumstances, Brother Joseph was murdered and the ikon disappeared. That same year, an exact copy of the ikon was gifted to Subdeacon Nektary of the Orthodox Church in Honolulu. Ten years later, in 2007, this copy began to stream with myrrh. Since then, it has been to over 1000 churches in North America and has been venerated by millions of people around the world. Numerous miracles have been attributed to the Theotokos through this “humble little ikon”, accounts are only just being collected, and are indeed numerous. People have commented that just being in the presence of this ikon, you feel such an abundance of love and joy. It is truly indescribable. We would encourage all of you who can to come and experience this for yourselves. If you are unable to attend but would like your or a loved one’s name to be commemorated before the ikon, please contact us to arrange this.

Notes & Jottings

MARCH FOR LIFE 2017

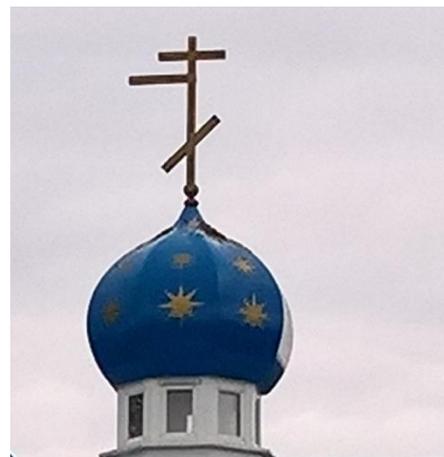
There will be a delegation from our community at this year's March For Life event in Birmingham. The event will take place on Saturday 20th May, in Victoria Square in the city centre. (See link below):

<http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/>

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the legalization of abortion in this country, and since then over 8 million human beings have lost their lives as a result. It would be good to see Orthodox Christians participating in the annual protest against this terrible tragedy. If anyone would be interested in being part of the group, please contact Katy-Elizabeth, (01502) 716914 or tattumsmith@gmail.com.

DAMAGED CROSS

During Easter weekend we noticed that one arm of the cross on the main cupola was broken. The builders used wood to make the external crosses on the building but this is clearly not sufficiently durable. Maybe a large bird, possibly a gull, landed heavily on it and snapped the arm of the cross. Sadly birds seem to think that the crosses are merely perches for their convenience and they leave a mess with their droppings as a consequence of this. Clearly we need to rethink this whole question.



INTER-CHURCH QUIZ

The annual local Inter-church Quiz was held in Mettingham Village Hall on Bright Friday. The team, consisting of Fr Antony and Matushka Helen Bardsley, Nicholas Meade and Fr Dn Andrew, greatly improved on last year's performance. By the narrowest margin, our team came second.

DIRECTORY

The Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist has now published the 2017 Directory of Parishes in Britain and Ireland. We have copies in stock at £4 each.

THANKS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

We thank all our friends and supporters who contribute generously to the church. Also, we are grateful to all who provide flowers for the church, culinary contributions for celebrations and community events, books for the library and to sell in the shop. God bless you all for your love and help.

NAMEDAYS

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

MANY YEARS!

- 4 May – **St Philippa, mother of St Theodore of Perge** – Matushka Phlippa Steer
- 6 May – **Great Martyr George, Patron of England** – George Tattum-Smith
- 8 May – **Apostle and Evangelist Mark** – Subdeacon Mark Tattum-Smith
- 15 May – **St Boris & St Gleb, Martyrs** – Boris Jermy, Gleb Jermy
- 18 May – **New Martyr Efrem of Nea Makri** – Efrem Carrasco
- 21 May – **Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian** – John Andrews
- 26 May – **St Alexander of Rome, Martyr** – Alexander Weston



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

MAY 2017

Saturday 6 May

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 7 May

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

Saturday 13 May

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 14 May

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

Saturday 20 May

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 21 May

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Blind Man)

Wednesday 24 May

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Thursday 25 May

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (The Ascension of Our Lord)

Saturday 27 May

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 28 May

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Fathers of the 1st Oecumenical Council)



Do you see the women's courage? Do you see their affection? Do you see their noble spirit even unto death? Let the men imitate the women!

St John Chrysostom

Collegiate Church of the Ikon of the Mother of God: Joy of All Who Sorrow

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