

**Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the
British Isles and Ireland
Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East**

Charity number: 1192469

Sunday 17 May 2026. Issue 29.

Tone 5

Sunday of the Blind Man

**Holy Apostles Andronicus the Apostle and Junia of the Seventy;
Saint Athanasius the New of Christianoupolis, the Wonderworker;**

**Holy Martyrs Solochon, Pamphamir, and Pamphylon; Venerable
Nektarios and Theophanes of Meteora, brothers and founders of the
Varlaam Monastery; Saint Nicholas of Metsovo; Saint Theodoret
the Presbyter; Translation of the Holy Relics of Saint Adrian the
Wonderworker; Saint Nicholas the Great Martyr; Venerable
Theophanes the Myrrh-gusher, Bishop of Solea and Archbishop of
Cyprus; Saint Eleazar; Venerable Jonah of Odessa; Venerable
Maidulph**

**Epistle Reading
Acts (16:16-34)**

Prokeimenon in Tone V

Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us from this generation forth
and for ever.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

In those days, while we the apostles were going to the place of prayer,
we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination, who brought
her masters much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, and
cried out saying: "These men are servants of the Most High God, who
proclaim to us the way of salvation." And she did this for many days.
But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit: "I charge
you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came
out that very hour. But when her masters saw that the hope of their
gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the

marketplace before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said: "These men are disturbing our city, and they, being Jews, are setting forth customs which are not lawful for us to receive or observe, since we are Romans." The multitude then rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their garments off them, and commanded to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received such a charge, he cast them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. And the jailer, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice saying: "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and fell down before Paul and Silas trembling with fear, and brought them out and said: "Masters, what must I do to be saved?" And they said: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him, and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and his entire household. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, with his entire house, in that he had believed in God.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: Of Thy mercies, O Lord, will I sing for ever; from generation to generation shall I proclaim Thy truth with my mouth.

Verse 2: For Thou hast said, "Mercy shall be built up forever." Thy truth shall be established in the heavens.

Gospel Reading John (9:1-38)

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who has sinned, this man or his parents, that he

was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; but [it was] in order that the works of God might be revealed in him. I must do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva and anointed the blind man's eyes with the mud. He then said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). And so, the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. At this, the neighbors and those who saw that he had been blind before said, "Is this not the man who sat and begged?" Others were saying, "It is he!" Still others were saying, "He looks like him." The man said, "I am he!" Therefore, the people asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered, "A man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash.' And so, I went away and washed, and I received sight." Then they asked him, "Where is he?" The man replied, "I do not know." They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Again, the Pharisees also asked the man how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see!" At this, some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They asked the blind man again, "What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet!" The Jews did not believe [the report] about this man, that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of this man who had received his sight. They asked the parents, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him! He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess Jesus as Christ, that person would be expelled from the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age. Ask him!" And so, they called the man who had been blind a second time, and they told him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner!" At this, the man answered,

“I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see!” Again, they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not also want to become his disciples, do you?” They insulted him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered them, “How amazing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. Now we know that God does not listen to sinners; but he will listen to anyone who is God-fearing and who does his will. Since the world began, it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born completely in sins, and do you teach us?” And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” The man answered, “And who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?” And Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Sir, I believe!” and he expressed adoration to Jesus.

Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 5.

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Weekday service

Thu 21 May, 8:10am

**Ascension of Our Lord, Hours and Holy Liturgy, St Helen's
Chapel.**