

**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 7 June 2026. Issue 32.

Tone 8

All Saints

Saint Theodotus of Ancyra; Saint Potamiaena; Venerable Panagis Bassias (Paisios); Saint Zenaida the Wonderworker; Saints Aesia and Susanna; Saint Lycarion; Saints Tarasius and John; Venerable Stephen the Presbyter; Venerable Anthimus the Presbyter; Venerable Sebastiana the Wonderworker; Saint Anastasius Gordius; Saints Basilides the Soldier-Martyr and John the Venerable Martyr; Saint Anthony of the Monastery of Valaam; Saint Willibald; Saints Basil, Paul, Sergius, Nicholas, Leo, and Peter the Presbyters, Ignatius the Monk, Joanna the Martyrs, and those martyred with them in Poland; Venerable Gregory Mystriotes of Strongyli of Lichades; Saints Phanentes

**Epistle Reading
Hebrews (11:33-12:2)**

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.

Brethren, all the saints through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises. stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder,

they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

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

Matthew (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30)

The Lord said: Whoever confesses me before men I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me in front of others I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Then Peter said: Behold, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have? Jesus said to them: Amen, I tell you that you who have followed me, at the regeneration, when the Son of Man will sit on the throne of his glory, you also will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children, or lands for my Name's sake will receive a hundred times [more] and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first!

Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 8.

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

All Saints Troparion

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!

St Martin the Merciful Troparion

In signs and in miracles thou wast renowned throughout the land of Gaul. By grace thou art a light for the world, O Martin, Bishop blessed of God. Deeds of mercy and compassion filled thy life with their splendours, teaching and wise counsel were thy riches and treasures, which still thou dost dispense freely to those who honour thee.

St Helen Troparion

We behold thee, glorious Helen, with thy God-inspired son, in the joys of the kingdom of Heaven, and we magnify Christ, for he hath revealed to us thine honoured festival, giving light more brilliant than the sun. Therefore we cry in faith: O People, exalt Christ above all forever!

All Saints Kontakion

Unto thee, O Lord, the Author of creation, the universe doth offer the God-bearing martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By whose prayers, through the Theotokos, do thou preserve thy Church in profound peace, O most merciful One.

St Panagis Bassias

Venerable Panagis Bassias (later Paisios) was born in Lixouri, Cephalonia, in 1801 into a distinguished and devout family. Exceptionally educated for his time, he initially worked as a teacher. Later he abandoned public teaching and dedicated himself more fully to the spiritual life. Drawn to asceticism from a young age, he lived with great discipline and humility, eventually being ordained priest in 1836. He became widely known throughout Cephalonia for his fervent preaching, deep compassion for the poor and suffering, and his reputed gifts of prophecy and miracle-working. To protect himself from pride arising from public admiration, he adopted the manner of a “Fool for Christ”, feigning eccentricity while continuing a life of holiness, prayer, and service. He died in 1888 and was canonised by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1986.

One of the most famous miracles attributed to Venerable Panagis concerns a wealthy and highly charitable widow from Argostoli. After the death of her husband, she devoted herself to raising her two sons in the Christian faith while tirelessly helping the poor, the sick, and prisoners. Tragedy struck when her elder son suddenly died after collapsing with severe pain. A year later, her second son died in exactly the same manner despite her desperate all-night prayers to God, the Mother of God, and Saint Gerasimos. Overcome by grief and anger, she abandoned her former piety, blasphemed God, and isolated herself from society. She commissioned life-sized portraits of her sons, placing them in a special room where she would mourn and speak to them daily.

Hearing of her condition, Venerable Panagis travelled from Lixouri to Argostoli and went directly to her home. Although she insulted and rejected him, he miraculously caused the locked door to open by making the sign of the Cross with his staff. Entering the room containing the portraits, he instructed the woman to sit quietly and watch. After praying briefly, the coverings over the portraits lifted, and the two young men appeared alive before her. In the vision, they simultaneously drew revolvers and shot one another dead.

The saint then explained that God, out of love and mercy, had spared the woman from witnessing the terrible fate that awaited her sons in life. Unknown to her, both young men had fallen in love with the same woman and would eventually have killed one another exactly as she had just seen. Instead, God had taken them peacefully through natural death. St Panagis urged the grieving mother to repent of her anger against God and to resume her former life of charity and faith. Deeply shaken and transformed by the revelation, she returned to her Christian works and spiritual life.

No Weekday service this week