

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

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Sunday 14 June 2026. Issue 33.

Tone 1

All Saints of Antioch

**Saint Elisha; Saint Methodios the Confessor, Patriarch of
Constantinople; Saint Cyril the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Gortyna in
Crete; Saint Niphon the Athonite; Saint Julitta.**

**Epistle Reading
Acts (11:19-30)**

Prokeimenon in Tone I

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our hope in Thee.
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise becometh the just.

In those days, when the apostles were scattered because of the tribulation that arose over Stephen, they traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one, except to Jews only. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who upon coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. The report concerning them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas, to go as far out as Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they should cleave to the Lord; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great multitude was added unto the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they were gathered together in the church, and taught a great multitude of

people, and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and signified by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over the whole world; and this took place in the days of Claudius Caesar. And the disciples, every one according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren who dwelt in Judaea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: It is God who avengeth me, and who subdueth the peoples under me.

Verse 2: He magnifieth the salvations of the King and shows mercy unto his anointed, unto David and his seed for evermore.

Gospel Reading Matthew (4:18-23)

At that time, walking by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother. They were casting a net into the sea since they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fish for people!" Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. At once, they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 1.

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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!

Theotokos Kontakion

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant; O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee. Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Orthodox Chinese Martyrs (11 June)

June 10, 1900, China. The secret martial arts society known as the "Boxers" [Yihetuan, "Militia of Justice and Harmony"], backed by the xenophobic dowager empress, launched a persecution of Christians, blaming them for China's misfortunes. Proclamations were posted in Beijing's streets calling for their slaughter and threatening anyone who sheltered them.

The following night, the "Boxers", passing with lit torches through every quarter of the city, seized Orthodox Christians from their homes and tortured them with the aim of making them renounce Christ. Many, terrified by the torments, burned incense before idols to save their lives, while others confessed their faith with courage and endured terrible tortures. Having burned down their homes, they led them outside the city to the pagan temples of the "Boxers," where they were disembowelled, beheaded, or burned at the stake.

Paul Guan, an Orthodox catechist, died with a prayer on his lips. Ia Wen, a teacher at the Russian mission, was tortured twice and joyfully confessed Christ. John, a boy of eight years, had both his hands amputated and his chest mutilated. When his executioners asked whether he was suffering, he answered with a smile: "It is not difficult to suffer for Christ." The "Boxers" beheaded him and burned his remains in a festive bonfire.

Father Mitrophan Zhi-Shun, the first Chinese priest to have been ordained by Saint Nicholas of Japan (see February 3) and who had served the mission tirelessly for fifteen years, was slaughtered along with most of the seventy Christians, women and children, who had taken refuge in his home after the burning of the Russian mission buildings. When the "Boxers" burst in, they found him seated in the courtyard and stabbed him repeatedly in the chest. They beheaded his wife Tatiana, as well as their son Isaiah, twenty-three years of age. They cut off the toes, nose, and ears of their other son, John, seven years old, at the moment of his father's martyrdom. Yet he felt no pain, and while his torturers called him "son of demons," he replied: "I am a believer in God and not a disciple of demons!" Maria, the fiancée of Isaiah, nineteen years of age, had come to Father Mitrophan's home with the desire to die together with her betrothed's family. When the "Boxers" surrounded the house, she helped the others escape by jumping over the wall, and then confronted the invaders, accusing them of murdering the innocent without trial. Not daring to kill her outright, they wounded her hands and pierced her feet. To those pressing her to leave, she replied: "I was born near the church of the Most Holy Theotokos and here I shall die!" When the "Boxers" returned, they put her to death.

Among these holy martyrs were also descendants of the inhabitants of Albazin in Russia, who had brought the light of Christ to Beijing in 1685. Clement Cui Jin, Matthew Hai Chuan, his brother Vitus, Anna Sui, and many others, who without fear of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul (Matt. 10:28), bravely faced their torments and death, beseeching God to enlighten their persecutors and forgive their sins. Of the one thousand souls that comprised the Russian mission in Beijing, three hundred perished during the bloody events, of whom two hundred and twenty-two received the unfading crown of martyrdom.

Holy Liturgy this week

Friday 19 June, 8:10am

Holy Apostle Jude, St Helen's Chapel.