

**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 30 August 2026. Issue 44.

Tone 4

Saints Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Phantinos the Wonderworker; Six Holy Martyrs who were martyred at Melitene; Venerable Sarmatas; Venerable Bryaena; Sixteen Holy Martyrs of Thebes; Saint Eulalius the Hierarch; Saints Felix the Bishop, Januarius the Priest, Fortunatus, and Septiminus; Venerable Phylax; Venerable Alexander, Prince of Russia; Saint Philonides the Hieromartyr; Translation of the Holy Relics of Saint Alexander "Nevsky"; Saint Alexander of Svir

**Epistle Reading
I Corinthians (16:13-24)**

Prokeimenon in Tone IV

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O Lord my God Thou art very great.

Brethren, be watchful, be established in the faith, be manly, be strong. Let all your things be done in love. Now I beseech you, brethren (since you know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have set themselves for the ministry of the saints), that you also be subject to such, and to everyone who is a fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatos and Achaicos, for that which was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit as well as yours; therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute

you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren salute you. Salute one another with a holy kiss. The salutation of me, Paul, is with my own hand. If any one does not love the Lord, let him be anathema. Maranatha! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: Gird thee and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

Verse 2: Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Gospel Reading Matthew (21:33-42)

Jesus said this parable. “There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower, and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his slaves to the farmers, to receive his fruit. But the farmers took his slaves, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. Again, the owner sent other slaves, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying: ‘They will respect my son!’ But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, ‘This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ And so they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?” They answered him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 4.

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles; Death is over thrown! Christ our God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

SS Alexander, John and Paul Troparion

O God of our Fathers, always act with kindness towards us; take not Thy mercy from us, but guide our lives in peace through the prayers of the Patriarchs Alexander, John, and Paul!

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!

The Nativity of the Theotokos Kontakion

By thy holy nativity, O immaculate one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death; thy people celebrate it, having been saved from the penalty of their transgressions, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

St Alexander of Constantinople

Our father among the saints Alexander of Constantinople was the first bishop of Constantinople having been the bishop of the city of Byzantium when the name of the city was changed to Constantinople. Alexander participated in the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea and fought against the Arian heresy. His feast day is August 30.

St. Alexander is believed to have been born between 237 and 244. He was elected as a vicar to assist St. Metrophanes, who was the bishop of Byzantium during the early decades of the fourth century, and was of great age by the time of the council at Nicea. There is considerable uncertainty about the time of Alexander's transition as Metrophanes' successor as Bishop of Byzantium and Metrophanes' repose. Alexander's consecration as vicar is believed to have taken place between 313 and 314, when Alexander was 72 years old. In view of Metrophanes' age Alexander attended the Council in Nicea, although Metrophanes may have attended the council himself. In the event, in accordance with Metrophanes' will, Alexander succeeded Metrophanes upon his repose.

The central issue of the Council at Nicea was Arius and his teaching Arianism. Alexander supported Alexander of Alexandria in the defense of the Trinitarian position at the council that in the end resulted in the council's condemnation of Arius and Arianism. After the council, Arius wanted to be received back into communion. With the support of Eusebius of Nicomedia, who convinced him, Constantine I commanded Alexander to formally receive Arius back into communion. According to Socrates Scholasticus, Arius did not in fact repent of his heresy, but was equivocating, of which Bishop Alexander was aware. Alexander, though threatened by the Eusebians with deposition and banishment, persisted in his refusal to admit Arius back into the Church. Alexander shut himself up in the Church of Hagia Irene, which at that time was the cathedral of Constantinople, in fervent prayer that God would take him from this world rather than be forced to restore someone to communion who he feared was only feigning repentance. As it happened, Arius died in 336 on his way to the church, before he could be received back into communion.

Alexander did not long survive Arius. On his deathbed he was said to have nominated his vicar, Paul as his successor, and to have warned his clergy against Macedonius, a semi-Arian who became bishop of Constantinople in 342 and whose teachings inspired Macedonianism.

Source: Orthodox Wiki

Holy Liturgy this week

Tuesday 1 September, 8:10am

Indiction: Church New Year, St Helen's Chapel.