

**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 6 September 2026. Issue 45.

Tone 5

**Remembrance of the Miracle of Archangel Michael at Colossae;
Saint Kalodoti; Saints Eudoxius, Romulus, Zenon, Macarius, the
Eleven Thousand Martyrs and One Thousand One Hundred and
Four Soldier Martyrs; Saint Faustus the Presbyter; Saints Macarius
and Andrew; Saint Bibos the Hieromartyr; Saints Cyriacus,
Dionysius and Andrew; Saints Andropelagia and Thecla; Saint
Theoctistus the Shipmaster; Saint Cyriacus the Citizen; Saint
Sarapavon the Councillor; Saint Lygeri the New Martyr of Chios**

**Epistle Reading
II Corinthians (1:21-2:4)**

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, the One who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, is God; who has also sealed us, and has given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. Moreover, I call God for a witness upon my soul, that in order to spare you, did not yet come to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers of your joy, for you are established in the faith. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you with sorrow. For if I make you sorry, who then is the one who makes me glad, but the same who is made sorry by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from those in whom I ought to rejoice, having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all. For out

of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not that you should be made sorry, but that you might know the love which I have more abundantly for you.

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 (22:2-14)

The Lord said this parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who planned a wedding feast for his son. He then sent out his slaves to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they refused to come. Again, the king sent out other slaves, saying: ‘Tell those who are invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner! My cattle and my fatted calves have been killed and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!’ ” But those who were invited made light of it and went off, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise, and the others seized the king’s slaves, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. He sent out his soldiers to destroy those murderers and to burn their city. Then the king said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the crossroads of the highways, and as many people as you may find, invite to the wedding feast.’ Those slaves went out into the highways and gathered as many people as they could find, both good and bad. Thus, the wedding [hall] was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not wearing a wedding garment. He asked him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here, not wearing a wedding garment?’ And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.’ Indeed, many are called, but few are chosen!”

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.

Archangel Michael Troparion

O Michael, commander of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech thee: by thy prayers encompass us beneath the wings of thine immaterial glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to thee: Deliver us from all harm, for thou art the commander of the Powers on high!

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.

Archangel Michael

The Holy Archangel Michael is one of the most celebrated of the Angels and bodiless powers, known as the chief commander of the heavenly hosts. His name means “Who is like unto God?” According to Scripture and Tradition, Michael repeatedly intercedes for humanity and serves as a defender of the Faith, particularly invoked for protection from enemies, war and civil conflict. He is commemorated especially on November 8, the Synaxis of Michael and all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven, and on September 6, which commemorates his miracle at Colossae.

Michael appears prominently in Scripture as the protector of God’s people. In the Book of Joshua, he appears as the commander of the army of the Lord, while in Daniel he helps the Archangel Gabriel and is described as the great prince who protects God’s people. The Church Fathers also attribute numerous Old Testament interventions to him, including protecting the Israelites during the Exodus, defeating the Assyrian army, saving the Three Holy Youths from the fiery furnace, and transporting the Prophet Habakkuk to Daniel in the lions’ den. He also disputed with the devil over the body of Moses.

In the New Testament era, Michael is associated with miraculous protection and deliverance. On Mount Athos, he miraculously saved a young man thrown into the sea by robbers. His most famous miracle occurred at Colossae, where pagans attempted to destroy a church by diverting two rivers towards it. Michael appeared carrying a cross and caused the waters to flow underground, saving the church; the spring that emerged there is traditionally associated with healing.

Holy Liturgy this week

Tuesday 8 September, 8:10am

The Nativity of the Mother of God, St Helen’s Chapel.