

Holy Orthodoxy: Faith in Christ for the modern world

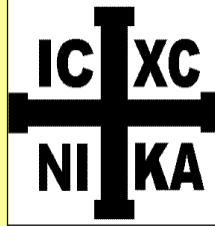
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 258

DECEMBER 2018



WEEKDAY LITURGIES AT 9.30 AM

Thursday 6 Dec St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday 20 Dec St Ignatius of Antioch
Tuesday 1 Jan Circumcision of Christ, St Basil

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Monday 24 Dec Eve of Nativity
9.30 am Royal Hours
4.30 pm Vigil (Gt Compline & Mattins)
Tuesday 25 Dec Nativity of Christ
10.15 am Hours
10.30 am Divine Liturgy & Carols
Confessions Sat 22nd (5pm), Mon 24th (11 am, 6 pm),
Or by arrangement

The Humility of God !

The holy icon of the Nativity or Birth of Christ shows the humility of Christ in the Incarnation. He is shown as poor, deprived, rejected even by the inn. He takes shelter among the animals in the cave.

It is very easy to get the idea that Christ the Son of God came from the glory of the Father to bring salvation to us, merely (as it were) throwing off his cloak of glory.

In a sense that is true, yet it is also true that the glory of God was actually a glory in *humility*.

For remember: *in becoming Man God did not change*. As Man, Christ is humble, *and as God*, the unchanging God, he is also humble. He is not a proud and magnificent Creator who shed his true nature and pretended to be humble. Humility is his very nature both as God and Man.

Of course, we are talking of things beyond our imagination, but it does mean that our God, the Holy Trinity, was and is and ever shall be a humble God, a God who loves us in his humility as God, as well as Man. There



was no change in God when he became Man.

In the person of Jesus Christ he is fully God and fully Man.

So what a God we worship—not quite the One you might expect! Fall down and worship him this Christmas time, my Friends, for he is holy, he is loving, he is humble—in his innermost nature as both God and Man.

We too therefore must be humble before God and before each other.

The publican or tax-collector in Christ's parable bows down to the floor and beat his breast. He compares himself with no-one but God.

In the cave at Bethlehem Jesus Christ shows the true power of God exactly in humility.

God bless you and keep you this Christmas time.

Father Alexander

Our former Reader Martin GROB will marry his bride Szilvia in Hungary on 29 Dec. I will be attending. So **Sun 30 Dec** no Liturgy in St Helen's: Hours & Typika 10.30 am.

A happy and holy Christmas to you and to all our readers

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

St Martin's is in West Stockwell Street, two minutes' walk from St Helen's, and close to the Town Hall

Raised so far: **£ 99,077** plus promises

- CHEQUES may be sent to the address below, made out to: *St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's*
- BANK TRANSFERS: use these codes:
IBAN: GB05BUKB20226780219819
Bank Sort Code 20-22-67
Appeal Account No. 80219819
PAYPAL: available on the Appeal website
- APPEAL WEBSITE: orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk
- FACEBOOK: *St Martin's Appeal*

Please support us in restoring an important and beautiful building to its original and proper use and in providing an Orthodox parish church "for our children and our children's children"
17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB, UK

The St Martin's Day Special Collection for the Appeal raised: (1) 11 Nov itself £485.62; (2) 18 Nov £130.00. Total: **£615.62**. Thanks to all.

St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh St, High St CO1 1UB

St Helen's is 200m down behind the George Hotel in the High Street, but accessible from there only on foot. By car: leave Middleborough Roundabout (between dual carriageways Westway and Balkeine Hill), to Northgate; go straight along St Peter's Street to Castle Park; continue round the bend, up into Maidenburgh Street.
Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd. Very little street parking available.

Saturday: Great Vespers usually 4.30 pm (check before coming)

Sunday: Mattins 9.45 am (or Hours 10.15 am), Divine Liturgy 10.30 am

Confessions: Saturday 5 pm, after Vespers, or by arrangement

Holy Marriage, Holy Baptism, Funerals, Memorials etc: by arrangement
Children of St Helen (Pre-school & Primary): normally first Saturday 3.15 pm

Parish Priest: Father Alexander (Alistair) Haig

17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB

Tel: 01-206-530-530 Mob: 07-947-047-201 Eml: parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk

Churchwardens: David Davies 01-473-745-167 **Dusan Radunovic** 01-206-762-553

Children of St Helen: Sanja Radunovic 01-206-762-553 **Silvia Lefley:** 01-206-835-715

Orthodox Parish of St Helen: Registered Charity No: 1134418

IBAN: GB05BUKB20226780219819 Bank Account Sort Code: 20-22-67

Bank Account No: 50349364 Appeal Account No: 80219819

Parish Website: <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>

Appeal Website: <http://orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk>

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CO15 1LE

Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday of month 10.00 am (not August)

CLACTON HOLY LITURGY
Sat 15 Dec
10.00 am

APPEAL GIFTS - Gift Aid was introduced several years ago in order to encourage individual earners (paying UK income tax) to give to charity. When you Gift-Aid your donation, they will give us the tax you have paid on it. *This increases your gift by 25%. So, say, you give £100: it becomes £125 at no cost to you!* This can be for any size gift. It is a huge benefit to the Church—you only have to sign a form. Thanks for doing it!

The privilege to assist in worship

The worship of God is the central activity of the Church. To join in worship as a member of the congregation should be considered a wonderful and holy thing to do for any church member. It is an entry into heaven.

Those attending should do so with attention. When distracted, try to bring your mind back to the prayers being said. You may join in hymns and prayers if you know them—but quietly, and always following the choir or chanter. (At Holy Pascha attendance is marked by more outward enthusiasm.)

All roles in the services are under the authority of the Priest. The laity cross themselves and bow devoutly, partially according to certain corporate rules and partly in accordance with how they feel personally led by the Spirit of God.

The worshipper normally stands, but may sit down at certain points, especially during the Apostle and sermon. Even the disabled and elderly should attempt to stand at least for the Gospel, Creed and Our Father.



St Stephen the first Deacon or servant or minister of the church & first Martyr.

The Reader has a special ministry. He must do his best to be both clear and devout in his reading, so that the people understand and pray better.

The Deacon if there is one is the link between the activity between the holy altar and the people, whom he leads in the prayers of the litanies and gives instructions. It is rather sad that we do not have more Deacons in the Church these days. The Deacon is the Priest's 'right-hand man'.

The Priest goes out of the holy doors to the people to speak to them corporately in the name of God, and in to the altar to speak to God in their name. It is a great privilege for the Priest to do his work, and he must pray constantly for devotion and humility in his work, and attempt to keep his thoughts centred on Christ at all times.

Services are elevated into the courts of heaven when the people pray frequently for their Priest - as he does for his people. He is to be their true friend and pastor, praying to God for each one.



Here and There

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JONAH was for a while leader of the Orthodox Church of America and is now a retired bishop of the Russian Church Abroad. He made a little pilgrimage to St Helen's a few years ago, and was hoping to be present at our Holy Liturgy in October. Unfortunately that did not prove possible, but he did return for a second little visit, and brought with him his friends **MARILYN SWAZEY** and her adult daughter **ALEXANDRA**. Marilyn was here to talk at a conference on Passion-bearers Tzar Nicholas and Alexandra, on whom she is an expert. They were accompanied by **NICHOLAS CHAPMAN**, an old friend of the Antiochian Diocese here, who was also able to attend the Holy Liturgy. It was wonderful to welcome them all.

THE ARCHDIOCESAN CONFERENCE is moving this year to a conference house called Yamfield Park, just off the M6 in the Midlands. It runs 27-29 May and costs £180 - *but £10 off for a booking to me NOW*. Our members always enjoy meeting other Antiochian Orthodox

people - as well as of course His Eminence the Archbishop. *Unfortunately, I do not have the money to subsidise places this year.*

CLIO GEORGIU was a loved member of our parish for some years, after moving from North London to be with her daughter **MARY**. Mary has now given the lamp in front of St Nicholas in her memory, so we shall think of Clio when praying there. Memory eternal!

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE: A local group discussing various religions was brought by the same **MARY** to visit St Helen's and to hear about Orthodoxy. We welcomed them and they seemed to enjoy their visit. Afterwards they kindly gave a collection for the Appeal.

RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH: See *partial photo above* for three adults received: **by Chrismation:** **PAULA ROTHERO** (Shillaker); **by Baptism:** **CHRISTINA (Della) ALEKOPOULOS** and **NICOLA (Bersheba) MSUTWANA**. Congratulations to all! Many years!

MARRIED: A fortnight later newly-illuminated **NICOLA** was married in St Helen's to **SEBASTIAN BEDREAGA**. Many years to them!

A Word from the Fathers: St Quodvultdeus

Bishop of Carthage in North Africa, exiled to Naples by Anians, died about 450 AD

The great king is born as a tiny infant. Wise men are led to him from afar. They come to adore him who still lies in a manger but reigns over heaven and earth.

When the wise men announce the birth of a king, Herod is troubled and wants to kill him, lest he should lose his own throne.

And yet if he believed in him he would reign here securely, and in the life beyond would reign without end.

Herod, why are you afraid when you hear that the king has been born? He does not come to usurp your place; he comes to conquer the devil.

But you do not understand this and so you are in a frenzy,

mad with rage.

And your determination to destroy the one infant whom you seek makes you inhumanly indifferent to the deaths of so many others.

No pity for sorrowing mothers deters you, no sympathy for fathers weeping as their sons are carried to the grave.

Nor are you held back by the sobs and crying of the little victims themselves. You slay those little ones because fear in your heart slays you. You think, 'If only I succeed in my purpose, mine will be long life.'

But in reality you are seeking to murder Life itself.

(Holy Innocents, 29 December)

DECEMBER DAYS

Sun	2	Pentecost 27
Mon	3	S Birinus of Dorchester-on-Thames
Tue	4	Gt Martyr Barbara, S John of Damascus
Wed	5	S Saba the Sanctified
Thu	6	S Nicolas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra
Fri	7	S Ambrose, Bishop of Milan
Sun	9	Pentecost 28, Conception of H Theotokos by R Anna
Wed	12	S Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Trimythous
Thu	13	S Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America Virgin-Martyr Lucy of Syracuse
Sun	16	Sunday of the H Forefathers of Christ
Mon	17	H Prophet Daniel & the Three Holy Children
Thu	20	Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bp of Antioch
Sun	23	Sunday commemorating the Righteous who pleased God
Mon	24	Eve of Nativity
Tue	25	NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF CHRIST
Wed	26	SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
Thu	27	THIRD DAY OF NATIVITY, Protomartyr & Adn Stephen
Sat	29	Holy Innocents slain by Herod
Sun	30	Sunday after Nativity
Tue	1 Jan	Circumcision of Christ, S Basil the Great