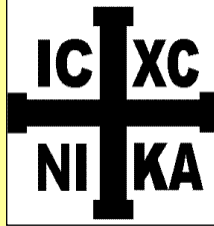


+ Pentecost: the Gift of the Holy Spirit; the feast of the Holy and Glorious Trinity +

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 275 JUNE 2020



**SORRY! NO SERVICES AT ST HELEN'S
UNTIL WE RECEIVE PERMISSION**

You are encouraged to read the prayers of the Church on your own if you can manage that, or to pray more prayers from your own prayer book, such as an Akathist or a Canon or Hours.

Or you can watch services on television or internet in English or in your own language.

I am praying for all members of the community of our church and for all citizens of Colchester and district, and for all the world in this sad and difficult time. May God have mercy on us and save our souls.

God bless you all.

Still no news about actually taking over St Martin's - but we hope it may happen very soon!

Part of the reason is that if our churches are given permission to reopen soon, they are pretty certain to demand that there be social isolation—i.e. that people not in the same domestic household will have to stand at least two metres apart.

In St Helen's it will mean (because it is so small) that few people can be admitted to worship at the same time. But in St Martin's (so much larger) we would be able to accommodate many more at the same time.

Let's pray that good sense and helpfulness may apply. Pray about it, please, and watch out for news.

Prayer counts for a lot. They were all praying together in the Upper Room at the time of Pentecost - around Mary and the other women, it tells us - when the Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles and their companions - in power and glory.

They were utterly changed. Previously they had been timid and shy and afraid. Now they became strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. God took hold of them and filled them with himself.

The result was that their mission to the people gathered in Jerusalem was transformed. They had been fishers of fish. Now they became *fishers of men*.

That is what we need now—for God to come and fill us, weak and pathetic sinners, with his divine life so that we may serve him in this town and borough, effectively to preach his word to people in their needs and the problems of their lives, so that they may be transformed also.

Use that prayer to the Holy Spirit which we know so well because it is printed in our prayer books for use very often particularly before the *Holy God (Trisagion)* prayers. It is one of the very few prayers to the Third Person of God in the liturgical life of the Church. It is addressed to *the life-giving, life-creating, Spirit of God*: I invite you to say it every day in the context of your prayers for obtaining St Martin's:

O heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Father Alexander



One form of the icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit. The Twelve Apostles (Paul replacing Judas), surrounding the Theotokos. Each Apostle has the fire descending on him.

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

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Reader: George Harrison 07-869-488-842

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Orthodox Parish of St Helen: Registered Charity No: 1134418
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Bank Account No: 50349364 Appeal Account No: 80219819

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

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

St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's APPEAL TOTAL TO DATE

£160,661 (including Gift Aid)

Thank you and God bless you!

Here and There

FATHER JOHN TURNER was an Anglican priest who lived many years of retirement at Frinton, and was a good friend of this parish. Sadly he died on 1 May 2020 aged 95. I discovered only recently that in his youth during World War II he had been a decoder in the Japanese department at Bletchley Park. He was a parish priest here at Weeley, but at heart he was a scholar, and was sub-warden for some years at St Deiniol's Library in north Wales, the celebrated residential library founded by William Gladstone. He had a deep knowledge of Orthodoxy and particularly of St Simon the New Theologian, whose works he translated into English, for which he was awarded a PhD. We knew him and his lovely wife Jean as keen long-standing fellow-members of the Fellowship of SS Alban and Sergius. They seem never to have been tempted to become Orthodox, but both were also enthusiastic members of the local branch in Colchester, he as chairman. Jean died a few years ago: he remained very active until quite recently. Their son Francis lives in Japan, but thankfully was here with his father when he died. The funeral has taken place but there will be a memorial service, probably at Kirby-le-Soken where he assisted, after the pandemic has died down. We shall miss him. Memory eternal!

CLEANER needed for St Helen's Chapel. I have been very grateful to IJA DUR for keeping St Helen's neat and tidy, but she wishes to take a bigger post in September. Please let me know if you would like to take up this small post.

THE APOSTLES FAST always finishes on 28 June, the day before SS Peter and Paul, but starts on the day following All Saints Day. All Saints is the Sunday after Pentecost, so the Fast always starts on a Monday, this year on 15 June. It therefore varies in length each year. It is the least strict of the fasts of the year. Consult your Diocesan calendar for the details.



Traditionally both St Peter and St Paul were martyred in Rome on 29 June but in different years, Peter by upside-down crucifixion in AD 64 and

Paul by beheading in AD 65, though the actual years and other historical points are disputed. They were the "chiefs" of the Apostles and therefore of the Christian Church, Peter from the beginning, Paul (who did not know Christ in the flesh, except in his vision outside Damascus) only from later on. Peter and Paul were 'natural' leaders, but also greatly gifted by the Holy Spirit in the life and affairs of the Church. Though not afraid to dispute points in the Gospel of Christ, they were one in mind and heart. Both are venerated as joint founders not only of the Church in Rome, as is well known, but also of the Church in Antioch, which is much less known.

A Word from the Fathers: St Augustine of Hippo (+430)

This day has been consecrated for us by the martyrdom of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. It is not some obscure martyrs we are talking about. "Their sound has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world". These martyrs had seen what they proclaimed, they pursued justice by confessing the truth, by dying for the truth.

The blessed Peter, the first of the Apostles, the ardent lover of Christ, who was found worthy to hear, "And I say to you, that you are Peter". He himself, you see, had just said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Christ said to him, "And I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." Upon this rock I will build the faith you have just confessed. Upon your words, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," I will build my Church; because you are Peter.

Peter comes from *petra*, meaning a rock, Peter, "Rocky", from "rock"; not "rock" from "Rocky". Peter comes from the word for a rock in exactly the same way as the name Christian comes from Christ.

Before his passion the Lord Jesus, as you know, chose those disciples of his whom he called apostles. Among these it was only Peter who

almost everywhere was given the privilege of representing the whole Church. It was in the person of the whole Church, which he alone represented, that he was privileged to hear, "To you will I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

After all, it is not just one man that received these keys, but the Church in its unity. So this is the reason for Peter's acknowledged pre-eminence, that he stood for the Church's universality and unity, when he was told, "To you I am entrusting," what has in fact been entrusted to all.

To show you that it is the Church which has received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, listen to what the Lord says in another place to all his apostles: "Receive the Holy Spirit; and immediately afterwards, Whose sins you forgive, they will be forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they will be retained"

There is one day for the passion of two apostles. But these two also were as one; although they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, Paul followed.

We are celebrating a feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of the apostles. Let us love their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their confession of faith, their preaching....

JUNE DAYS

Mon	1	S Justin Martyr, Nun-Martyr Wite of Whitchurch Canonorum, Dorset
Fri	5	Hieromartyr Boniface of Crediton, Devon
Sun	7	HOLY PENTECOST
Mon	8	DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Tue	9	DAY OF THE TRINITY, S Columba of Iona, Enlightener of Scotland
Thu	11	Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
Sun	14	Pentecost 1, ALL SAINTS
Mon	15	<i>Beginning of Apostles Fast</i>
Wed	17	S Botoiph of Iken
Fri	19	Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
Sun	21	Pentecost 2, All Saints of Britain
Mon	22	S Alban, Protomartyr of Britain
Tue	23	S Etheldreda of Ely, S Mark of Ephesus
Wed	24	Nativity of S John the Forerunner
Sun	28	Pentecost 3
Mon	29	Holy Chiefs of the Apostles Peter & Paul
Tue	30	Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles