

THE NARTHEX

The believers were first called Christians at Antioch
ACTS. 9:26
APRIL-MAY 2011

The Orthodox Church of St. Dunstan Poole-Bournemouth
The Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of The United Kingdom and Ireland
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East
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The Foundation

At the time of writing, I have received notification that the transfer of the former St. Osmund's church building has now been made. No doubt there are loose ends to tie up and the transfer of the financial arrangements has to be carried through, so that the rents paid for the use of the hall may now be made to *The Bournemouth-Poole Orthodox Christian Foundation* rather than to the liquidators of the property. When this is in place, we shall take over the management of the building that includes paying for the utilities and minor repairs. Meanwhile, the directors of the Foundation will start the process of applying for grants from relevant charities, in order to undertake a programme of repairs as set out in the covenants (obligations) that are attached to ownership.

Of course, raising large amounts of money to carry out large repairs, such as to the ceilings on the north aisle, will take a long time if the grants are not forthcoming. Fortunately, it was recently announced that the current recession would not affect government help for the repair of churches through English Heritage. Hopefully, we might gain help from that source, eventually.

Meanwhile, I wish to mention now our own giving and the responsibility we all have for maintaining this building. One of the features of the Great Fast of Lent is almsgiving, donating from our own possessions towards charitable ends. This is a mark of our life in Christ in general but like prayer and fasting, it is particularly focused in Lent. There is also another kind of giving which is

focused on our own community or the Orthodox Church worldwide. This implies that we have a moral obligation to pay for the mission and maintenance of the Church and, not least, the church building in which we all share.

Clearly, maintaining a building like the one we now possess is very expensive. True, we do have a considerable asset in the hall, through which, many of our running costs should be met automatically. However, there will be other overheads apart from maintaining services in the church. One of these will be insurance to cover the building, public liability and our own properties. There will also be minor repairs apart from the grand project of restoring certain parts of the fabric.

To this end, I should like to invite as many of you as possible to consider becoming a member of the BPOCF. This will entail registering with the membership secretary and committing to making a regular donation to the charity. If you are a taxpayer, then you can further benefit the Foundation, as the tax that you have already paid can be recovered by the treasurer. What is very important is that we are able to rely upon your regular and committed giving. Members will, of course, be able to receive the annual accounts and vote at the AGM for the directors and officers of the Foundation. This regular donation will be collected either through an envelope scheme, given at church services or directly through your bank

account. At the same time, we should still be making donations to the parish for its mission, contributing to its costs etc. What is very important is that we see such giving, not only from the point of view of the needs of the building and the parish but also from our own spiritual *need* to give. Every Christian believer, who has, in any way, a living commitment to the faith, should be very clear about the offerings that he/she makes regularly. This giving might be analysed as covering three areas: firstly, towards maintaining the services and the fabric of the church; secondly, for the mission of the Church and thirdly, for the relief of those in need (almsgiving), the latter being the first call on our consciences. The biblical tradition is that one should give a tithe (one-tenth) of our financial resources. However, whatever is possible for us, we need to give by proportion, having assessed our needs and the needs of our families. This remember, is not just a practical necessity but a part of our spiritual life in Christ.

So, we might summarise that our giving should be:

- Considered
- Regular
- Proportional
- Spiritual

I hope that this will be organised within the next few weeks, so please look out for a display, soon to appear at the back of the church, giving further information about the Foundation and its aims.

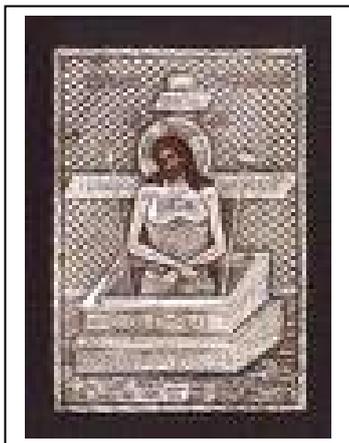
Fr. Chrysostom

Regarding the Romanian Services

For the time being, the Romanian congregation under Fr. Ioan, will normally be using our church on the last Sunday of the Month. I envisage this continuing until they find their own building nearer to London. Members of our congregation are welcome to attend, of course. As for receiving the Holy Gifts, you would need to speak to Fr. Ioan before the service. They normally start at about 11.00am with Orthros with the Liturgy just after Midday. You will notice, however, that as Pascha falls on the last Sunday in April, they will be there again in stead on Palm Sunday.

Some might find this sharing surprising, after such a long search for our own building. On the other hand, willingness to allow such an arrangement helped gain the confidence of the liquidators, Gotham-Erskine and greatly helped our case.

Most of Fr. Ioan's service is, of course, in Romanian, so if you prefer to attend the Liturgy in English, you can always support Fr. David's congregation at St. Edward's, Athelhampton. His Liturgy begins at 10.00am and I hope to concelebrate with him, as occasion arises or indeed, take the opportunity on the last Sunday of the month to visit our small chapel in Cornwall.



SERVICES

APRIL

Sun 3rd Fourth Sunday of Gt. Lent
St. John Climachus. Orthros 9.00am
Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Fri 8th Little Compline & Akathist
7.00pm

Sun 10th Fifth Sunday of Gt. Lent.
St. Mary of Egypt Orthros 9.00am
Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Sun 17th Entry of Our Lord in
Jerusalem - Palm Sunday
Romanian Liturgy 11.00am
[Liturgy at Athelhampton 10.00am]

Great and Holy Week

Confessions in preparation for Pascha can be heard before any of these services or by appointment with Fr. Chrysostom.

Sun 17th, Mon 18th and Tues 19th
Orthros - Bridegroom Service.
6.00pm

20th Great and Holy Wednesday
Anointing Service 7.00pm

21st **Great and Holy Thursday**
Celebration of the Mystical Supper
Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil
11.00am
Orthros - Twelve Gospels 6.00pm

22nd **Great and Holy Friday**
Royal Hours 9.00am
Vespers of the Shroud 4.00pm
Orthros (Lamentations service)
6.00pm

23rd **Great and Holy Saturday**
Midnight Office, Rush Procession,
Orthros and Divine Liturgy of
Pascha 11.00pm

Sun 24th **HOLY PASCHA**
Vespers of Love 2.30pm

MAY

Sun 1st 2nd Sunday of Pascha
Thomas Sunday Orthros
9.00am Divine Liturgy 10.30am

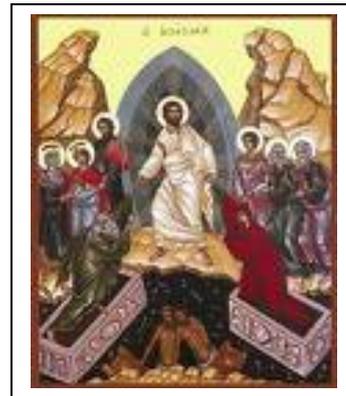
Sun 8th 3rd Sunday of Pascha
The Myrrhbearers Orthros
9.00am Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Sun 15th 4th Sunday of Pascha
The Paralysed Man Orthros
9.00am Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Thurs 19th St. Dunstan of
Canterbury, Patron of Our
Parish

Sun 22nd 5th Sunday of Pascha
The Samaritan Woman Orthros
9.00am Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Sun 29th 6th Sunday of Pascha
The Blind Man **Romanian
Liturgy 11.00am**



After the resurrection, when our bodies will be reunited to our souls, they will be incorruptible; and the carnal passions which disturb us now will not be present in those bodies; we shall enjoy a peaceful equilibrium in which the prudence of the flesh will not make war upon the soul; and there will no longer be that internal warfare wherein sinful passions fight against the law of the mind, conquering the soul and taking it captive by sin. Our nature then will be purified of all these tendencies, and one spirit will be in both, I mean in the flesh and in the spirit, and every corporeal affection will be banished from our nature.

St. Gregory of Nyssa