

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of the British Isles and Ireland*  
**St George's Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral**

**Sundays 06 - 13 May 2018**

**Archbishop: Metropolitan Silouan Oner**  
**Parish Priest: Archpriest Samir Gholam**  
**Parish Deacon: Deacon Michael Touma**

**Newsletter Issue:  
08/18**

**Regular Services:**

Saturdays: Vespers 16:30  
Sundays: Matins 10:00  
Liturgy 11:00



**Orthodox Calendar:**

01 May – Prophet Jeremias  
02 May – Mid-Pentecost  
04 May – Martyr Pelage  
06 May – Sunday of Samaritan Woman

08 May - Synaxis of St John the Theologian & St Arsenios the Great  
10 May - Apostle Simon  
13 May- Sunday of The Blind Man



**St George's Feast**

Sunday 22 April, we celebrated St. George's Feast – our church's Patron Saint. May His blessing be upon all of us, especially the Georges & Georgettes, and who took St Georges as Patron, may life's passing seasons bring the best to them!

May your world be filled with peace and plenty that would last Longley.



**St Pelage of Tarsus:**

Born in the town of Tarsus of pagan but noble and wealthy parents, she heard about Christ and the salvation of the soul from Christians, became inflamed with love for the Saviour and was a Christian in her soul. There was at that time a terrible persecution of Christians. It happened that the Emperor Diocletian himself stopped in Tarsus and that, during the time of his stay in the town, his son, the heir, fell deeply in love with Pelage and wanted to make her his wife. Pelage replied through her mother – a wicked woman – that she was already promised to her betrothed husband, Christ the Lord. Fleeing from the foul heir and her wicked mother, Pelage sought and found Bishop Linus, a man renowned for his holiness.



He instructed her in the Faith and baptised her. Then Pelage gave away her luxurious clothing and great wealth, returned home and confessed to her mother that she was already baptised. Hearing of this, the Emperor's son, losing all hope of getting this holy maiden as his wife, ran himself through with a sword and died. Then the wicked mother denounced her daughter to the Emperor and she was taken for trial. The Emperor marvelled at the girl's beauty and, forgetting his son, burned with an impure passion for her. But when Pelage remained unfaltering in her faith, the Emperor condemned her to be burned in a metal ox heated by fire. When they stripped the martyr, she signed herself with the sign of the Cross and, with prayers of thanksgiving to God on her lips, went into the ox, where, in the twinkling of an eye, she melted like wax. She suffered with honour in 287. Bishop Linus hunted for the remains of her bones and buried them on a hill under a stone. In the time of the Emperor Constantine Copronymos (741-775), a beautiful church was built on that site in honour of this holy virgin and martyr Pelage, who was sacrificed for Christ to reign eternally with Him.

The Service to the Holy Martyr Pelage says that she was "deemed worthy of most strange and divine visions", the church commemorated her on May 4 and on October 7, her prayer be with you.

## من الفصح الى الصعود

ما تطلبه النفس أن تبقى مشدودة إلى الفصح بعد إقامته حتى لا تفقد فرحه، ولهذا يبقى الموسم الفصحي عندنا حتى خميس الصعود ونرتل في هذه الفترة باستمرار "المسيح قام". مساء الفصح يبدو السيد لتلاميذه مجتمعين ويلقي عليهم السلام "ولما قال هذا أراهم يديه وجنبه"، كان هذا ليتيقنوا أن الرؤية صحيحة وأن ما رأوه ليس شبحاً. الاستنتاج المنطقي من هذا الظهور أن هذا الذي يشاهدونه الآن إنما هو الذي عُلق على الخشبة، الخطأ الذي ارتكبه توما كان فقط أنه لم يصدق التلاميذ، ونحن علينا دائماً أن نصدق التلاميذ أي أن نقبل كلمة الله كما هي في الإنجيل وأن نقبل التراث الأرثوذكسي الذي تكون في الكنيسة جيلاً بعد جيل إيضاحاً للإنجيل فلا يصنع أحد ديانتته كما يشاء أو تشاء له الرياح العاصفة فيه من جراء خطاياها أو من الآراء الفاسدة التي تقدمها البدع الخارجة عن الكنيسة أو تأتي بها الفلسفات الضالة التي تبدو لغير العلمين شبيهة بإيماننا وهي ليست بشبيهة. المهم إنما هو الإيمان بيسوع سواء أتى بالعيان أو بسماع الكلمة.

بولس الرسول يصدمه في جماعة كورنثوس أن بعضاً من المؤمنين لا يؤمنون بقيامة الأموات إذ يقول: "إذا أُعلن أن المسيح قام من بين الأموات، فكيف يقول بعضكم أنه لا قيامة للأموات... " وإن كان المسيح لم يقم، فتبشيرنا باطل وإيمانكم أيضاً باطل". إن القيامة هي الدعامة الوحيدة لإيماننا برينا يسوع، ويذهلنا ما نسمعه مراراً من أشخاص "لا نعرف شيئاً عن القيامة، من ذهب وعاد ليخبرنا؟" الآن نقول لهم: "المسيح ذهب وأخبرنا وشهادته كافية". "ما هو كمال الإيمان؟ ألا يؤمن بالمسيح أنه إنسان فقط، وأيضاً ألا يؤمن بالمسيح أنه إله فقط، بل أنه إنسان وإله.. هكذا التلميذ الذي جابه مخلصه بأن يلمس أعضاء جسده وندباته، ما إن لمس حتى صرخ قائلاً: ربّي وإلهي (يو 20 : 28). لقد لمس الإنسان، فاعترف بالإله. لمس الجسد، فالتفت نحو الكلمة، ذلك أن الكلمة صار جسداً، وسكن في ما بيننا (يو 1 : 14). ولقد سمح الكلمة بأن يعلق جسده على الخشبة، سمح الكلمة بأن تثبت المسامير في جسده، سمح الكلمة بأن تنفذ الحربة في جسده، سمح الكلمة بأن يوضع جسده في القبر، ثم أقام الكلمة جسده، وبسطه لأبصار تلاميذه، وارتضى أن يُضغط بأيديهم، فلمسوا وصرخوا: ربّي وإلهي. هوذا اليوم الذي صنعه الربّ" (المغبوط أوغسطينوس). كما يقول القديس يوحنا الذهبي الفم "قام المسيح فليس في القبور من ميت".

### Story and Lessons:

#### Helping others

Yesterday I went to the ATM at my bank to withdraw some cash. When I put my card in, I realized that someone had left a large amount of cash in the machine.... It was 500£! I took the money inside and handed it to the manager. The manager asked me, "What do you expect me to do with it?" I told him to find out who was at the ATM before me so he could return it to that person's account. I left the bank, satisfied that I had done all that I could. Today, I received a phone call from the bank manager. He had found the owner of the money, and she had a surprise for me.... It was 92 year-old Edith who had taken out the money to pay her rent. But after she took her receipt, she forgot to take the cash out of the ATM. Her rent came to 480£ and so as a thank you she wanted me to have the rest. It turned out though, that 20£ was all she had for the rest of the month to live on. So I refused to take it. I couldn't stop thinking about Edith and her vulnerability, though. How poor she must be, but how generous at the same time! Finally, I decided to call the bank manager back. I told him to transfer 200£ from my account into Edith's. Another bank employee overheard my request and decided to chip in another 100£.

A little while later, I received another phone call from the bank. The staff had pulled together and come up with another 300£ for Edith! I couldn't believe it. How wonderful! My one act of honesty inspired an incredible act of generosity from our little old lady.... and that generosity snowballed into more and more generous donations in return.

It doesn't matter how much we have to give, however big or small, true generosity always returns positivity to our lives. Give with your whole self, love with your whole heart, and your life will be full of happiness. One small step, one small act will create a ripple. You may not always see its effect from the middle of the pond, but it's there. The things we give to people can make a life changing. Our Lord Jesus said "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did to me" Matthew 25:40

## Fathers quotes:

“For thus the power of death was overcome, and the dominion of corruption, which had gained sway over us was destroyed”.  
**St Cyril of Alexandria**

“The power to bear Mysteries, which the humble man has received, which makes him perfect in every virtue without toil, this is the very power which the blessed apostles received in the form of fire. For its sake the Saviour commanded them not to leave Jerusalem until they should receive power from on high, that is to say, the Paraclete, which, being interpreted, is the Spirit of divine visions. Concerning this it is said in divine Scripture: Mysteries are revealed to the humble (Ecclus 3:19). The humble are accounted worthy of receiving in themselves this Spirit of revelations Who teaches mysteries” **ST Isaac the Syrian**

“If from one burning lamp someone lights another, then another from that one, and so on in succession, he has light continuously. In the same way, through the Apostles or daining their successors, and these successors ordaining others, and so on, the grace of the Holy Spirit is handed down through all generations and enlightens all who obey their shepherds and teachers”  
**St Gregory of Palamas**

## Announcements:

✠ انتخب المجمع الأنطاكي المقدس الذي انعقد في البلمند في 26 نيسان 2018 الأسقف أثناسيوس فهد ميتربوليتاً على أبرشية اللاذقية وتوابعها، وسيتم التنصيب نهار الجمعة 2018/05/04 في كاتدرائية القديس جاورجيوس اللاذقية.

✠ كما أخذ المجمع الأنطاكي المقدس الذي انعقد في البلمند في 27 نيسان 2018 قراراً تدبيرياً استثنائياً قضى بنقل سيادة المطران سلوان موسي ميتربوليت بوينس آيرس وسائر الأرجنتين ليكون ميتربوليتاً على أبرشية جبيل والبترون وما يليهما خلفاً لسيادة المطران جورج خضر وسبقى معتمداً بطريركياً لأبرشية بوينس آيرس وسائر الأرجنتين حتى يتم تنصيبه على أبرشية جبل لبنان.

✠ جانب الأهالي الكرام: نحيطكم علماً أنه ببركة صاحب السيادة الميتربوليت سلوان أونر ولجنة رعية كنيسة القديس جارجيوس سيتم افتتاح مدرسة لتعليم اللغة العربية لأولادنا الأحباء من عمر أربع سنوات حتى عمر اثنتي عشرة سنة "مع بعض الاستثناءات" وذلك في أيلول القادم إن شاء الله، فعلى الراغبين تسجيل أسماء أولادهم لدى السيدة ماغي مخول مديرة المدرسة (07949187944)، ليبنى على الشيء مقتضاه.

وشكراً لتعاونكم