



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

Sundays 28 October - 04 November 2018

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

**Newsletter Issue:
19/18**

Regular Services:

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

Orthodox Calendar:

23 October – James (Iakovos) the Apostle
26 October – The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius
28 October – 7th Sunday of Luke

01 November – The Holy Cosmas and Damian
04 November – 5th Sunday of Luke



The Annual General Meeting

The Antiochian Orthodox Society held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 7th October 2018 at 1.30pm in St. George's Cathedral. It was attended by 40 members of our parish. The meeting started by a short prayer from His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan followed by a report from the Chairman Dr. Samir Hraiki. In his report the Chairman gave summary of all the activities and maintenance work which took place during the previous year. Members also discussed and approved the final audited accounts of the Antiochian Orthodox Society for the year ended 31st December 2017. Finally, members elected the following trustees: Dr Samir Hraiki (Chairman) – Mr. Wael Khoury (Vice-Chairman) – Mr. Simon Abdel-Nour (Secretary) – Mr. Johnny Tabbal (Treasurer) – Dr Sami Carouba (member) – Mr. Emile Chammas (member) – Mr. Najib Coutya (member) – Mr. Gabriel El-Kassir (member) – Mr. Souheil Haddad (member) – Mr. George Najib Haddad (member) – Mr. Roger Hasbani (member) – Mr. William Haykal (member) and Mr. Christian Karam (member).

At the end of the meeting thanked the Chairman and all board members for their hard work and excellent effort.

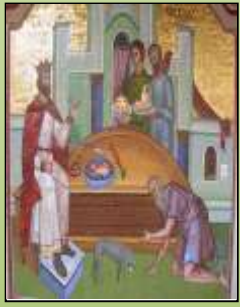


ST GEORGES ARABIC SCHOOL

St Georges Arabic school was successfully started, we want to thank all the team who worked together to make it happen, and we want to thank the parents who gave confidence in this school.

May God give them the power to continue this blessed ministry.





THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS :

Christ never said that the rich will not enter into the Kingdom of God. In the Bible, we know examples of righteous men who were very rich: The righteous Joseph - the son of Israel - controlled the vast treasures of Pharaoh, was arrayed in a royal manner (Genesis 41:40-45) and was the second man in the realm. The righteous Job - blameless and God-fearing - was very rich: He had 7,000 head of livestock, 3,000 camels, 500 pair of oxen and 500 she-asses and a great many servants (Job 1:3).

Why did the rich man end up hell? It does not say in the Gospel that he was evil, cruel, depraved, godless or impious. The Evangelist Mark discloses the crux of the matter to us and says that many of the rich are condemned not because of their wealth, but because of their trust in it: how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! (Mark 10-24). Excessive repletion, satiety and self-satisfaction are dangerous for a man. And it is precisely this that is bad, and not any other, external thing. Money is not bad in itself, but one's attitude toward it. It is bad to be limited, self-satisfied and at ease. And, on the contrary, it is good to be dissatisfied with oneself, always to hunger and thirst after righteousness, always be conscious of ourselves as destitute, not self-sufficient, but dependent on God.

The rich man's fault was that he lived only for the flesh; he enjoyed earthly goods without measure and completely stifled within himself every manifestation of spiritual life. By this, precisely, he also prepared for himself a bitter fate. If a man will only pass from one amusement to another, from one carnal pleasure to another, he will make his soul incapable of any spiritual sensation. And this will be so even in the event he does not commit great sins. This is evident from the example of the rich man. He became hardened in soul to such an extent that he did not show any compassion for Lazarus, who lay at his gate and whom he constantly saw. The soul of the rich man became incapable of love for his neighbour.

The Apostle Paul says: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:7-8)". Each man himself prepares for himself his portion beyond the grave. If he abides in God's will, that is, does His commandments, which command love toward God and neighbour; if he repents when he transgresses these commandments in any way; if he nourishes his soul with the Church's mysteries; if he abides in prayerful communion with the Lord; then about such a man one may say that he soweth to the Spirit. Such a man already in this life begins communion with the spiritual world; he becomes, as it were, its citizen. After death, such a man enters into a better world and enjoys its good things, because during his temporal life he managed to acquire in himself the ability to enjoy them.

Story and Lessons:

Changing our vision

There was a very wealthy man who was bothered by severe eye pain. He consulted many physicians and was being treated by several. He did not stop consulting a galaxy of medical experts; he consumed heavy loads of drugs and underwent hundreds of injections. But the ache persisted with more vigour than before.

At last, a monk who was supposed to be an expert in treating such patients was called for by the suffering man. The monk understood his problem and said that for some time he should concentrate only on green colours and not to let his eyes fall on any other colours. It was a strange prescription, but he was desperate and decided to try it.

The millionaire got together a group of painters and purchased barrels of green paint and directed that every object his eye was likely to fall to be painted green just as the monk had directed. When the monk came to visit him after few days, the millionaire's servants ran with buckets of green paint and poured it on him since he was in red dress, lest their master see any other colour and his eye ache would come back.

Hearing this, the monk laughed and said "If only you had purchased a pair of green spectacles, worth just a few dollars, you could have saved these walls and trees and pots and all other articles and also could have saved a large share of his fortune. You cannot paint the world green."

Let us change our vision and the world will appear accordingly. It is foolish to shape the world, **let us shape ourselves first.**

Fathers quotes:

"We have very little faith in the Lord, very little trust. If we trusted the Lord as much as we trust a friend when we ask him to do something for us, neither we as individuals nor our whole country would suffer so much"

Elder Thaddeus

"Possibly a contentious unbeliever will maintain that we worshiping images in our churches are convicted of praying to lifeless idols. Far be it from us to do this. Faith makes Christians, and God, who cannot deceive, works miracles. We do not rest contented with mere colouring. With the material picture before our eyes we see the invisible God through the visible representation, and glorify Him as if present, not as a God without reality, but as a God who is the essence of being. Nor are the saints whom we glorify fictitious. They are in being, and are living with God; and their spirits being holy, the help, by the power of God, those who deserve and need their assistance"

St John of Damascus

"To have faith in Christ means more than despising the delights of this life. It means we should bear all our daily trials that may bring us sorrow, distress, or unhappiness, and bear them patiently for as long as God wishes and until He comes to visit us. For it is said, "I waited on the Lord and He came to me"".

St Symeon the New Theologian

Announcements:

ببركة صاحب السيادة الميتروبوليت سلوان أونر ومجلس جمعية كنيسة القديس جارجيوس تم افتتاح مدرسة تعليم اللغة العربية لأولادنا الأحياء من عمر أربع سنوات حتى عمر اثنتي عشرة سنة "مع بعض الاستثناءات"، فعلى الراغبين تسجيل أسماء أولادهم للفصول المقبلة، الاتصال بالسيدة ماغي مخول مديرة المدرسة (07949187944)، ليُبنى على الشيء مقتضاه.

Saturday November 17th, the Antiochian Orthodox Society will hold its **Annual Charity Dinner** at 7.30pm in the Royal Garden Hotel, Please ask Father Michael or any member of the society board for tickets.

A Fair of handmade products is projected; who is interested to help, please get in touch with Father Michael Touma, the event will take place on Sunday 2nd of December after the Holy Liturgy.

The Annual Christmas Lunch will take place on the 16th of December 2018, at the Hilton London Metropole 2:00pm, for tickets please get in touch with Mrs Samira Abdel-Nour.