



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

Sundays 18 – 25 July 2019

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

**Newsletter Issue:
12/19**

Regular Services:

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

Orthodox Calendar:

13 August – Maximus the Confessor	21 August – The Holy Apostle Thaddeus.
14 August – Prophet Micah	22 August – Martyr Anthuse.
15 August – The Dormition of our Theotokos Mary	23 August – Apodosis of the Dormition
18 August – 9 th Sunday of Matthew	24 August – Hieromartyr Kosmas of Aetolia
19 August – Martyrs Timothy and Thecla	25 August – 10 th Sunday of Matthew



Farewell to Archbishop Gregorios

The Board of Trustees represented by Dr. Samir Hraiki, Mr. Simon Abdel-Nour and Mr. Johnny Tabbal paid a tribute and farewell visit to His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios regarding his retirement on Monday 22nd July 2019 and presented him with a symbolic gift to show our thanks and gratitude for all his care and support to our church.

The Enthronement of the new Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain, NIKITAS (Lioulias) took place on Saturday 27th July 2019 at the Cathedral of the Holy Wisdom in Bayswater. **INDEED HE IS WORTHY**



The Feast of the Dormition of the most holy Theotokos, and her ascent into Heaven

In a sermon given by St. Theodorus the Studite on the Dormition of the mother of God, there are the following striking ideas:” As we carry on our backs the clothing of virtues, we celebrate the Feast of burial and leaving of the mother of God into heavens, the Heaven was on Earth when you were dressed in Eternity. You moved to the heavenly eternal Chambers. Today the Theotokos who shut her Physical eyes, is offering us Holy and radiant lights, that have been until recently unusual, by that I mean protecting the world, and interceding for it before the face of God. Today, having become eternal, she raises her hands to the Lord for the salvation of Mankind. She has gone up to the peaks, and as a pure holy dove she is still defending us on Earth. And being in Heaven, she expels the devils because she is interceding for us before God. Earlier death had dominated us through our first mother Eve. But once it touched her blessed daughter, he died when she did, because death has been defeated by the one from whom the Theotokos took her power. The Theotokos died. She died, she did not disappear. The moment she went into the heavenly chamber; she has not stopped protecting the Humankind. With what words could we describe your mystery? Our minds bow, and our tongues are not able to say anything, for your Mystery transcends every mind. It is heedless, and we cannot explain it, no matter how we try. Everything that is yours goes beyond our limits. What is yours has moderated what belongs to Nature, because of your inexplicable birth. Whoever has heard of a virgin that gives birth to a child without marriage? What a wonder! This mother, who is giving birth, is a pure Virgin. And the one who is born through her is God. This is the thing that makes her different from everybody. That is why you truly receive, through your life-giving death, the immortality of body and soul.

Have we ever heard of a death like the one the Theotokos was granted? How just it is! There is no one superior to that that is above all. Mother of God, I am amazed when I meditate on your wonderful death. My soul wonders, your wonderful death. My tongue falls short, when I speak of your mystical resurrection. Whoever is qualified to narrate your wonders? What mind, no matter how great and eloquent it is, can understand the value of what you did, and understand the mysteries of your glory, your Feast, and Dignity? Every tongue is dry and weak if it tries, because you are incomparably above the heavenly peaks, and the beauty of your light is beyond that of the sun. You have acquired more than the angels did with all the incorporeal bodies. These meanings are restricted to the Theotokos, especially at her death, and they have been mentioned in our Heritage, in a sort of narratives.

Story and Lessons:

Prayer

I woke up one morning with six hungry babies and just 75 cents in my pocket. Their father was gone. Now that he decided to leave, there would be no more beatings, but no food either. I scabbled the kids until they looked brand new and then put on my best homemade dress, and drove off to find a job. The seven of us went to every factory, store and restaurant, in our small town. No luck. The kids stayed crammed into the car and tried to be quiet while I tried to convince who ever would listen that I was willing to learn or do anything... I had to have a job, still no luck. The last place we went to, was an old Root Beer Barrel drive-in, owned by an old lady, needed someone on the graveyard shift. we all thanked God for finding Mommy a job, and so I started at the Big Wheel.

As the weeks went by, heating bills added a strain to my meagre wage. The tires on the old Chevy had the consistency of penny balloons and began to leak. I had to fill them with air on the way to work and again every morning before I could go home. One bleak fall morning, I dragged myself to the car to go home and found four tires in the back seat. New tires! There was no note, just those beautiful brand new tires. Had angels taken up residence in Indiana? I wondered. I was now working six nights instead of five and I still wasn't enough. Christmas was coming and I knew there would be no money for toys for the kids. I found a can of red paint and start repairing and painting some old toys. Then I hid them in the basement so there would be something for Santa to deliver on Christmas morning. Clothes were a worry too. I was sewing patches on top of patches on the boy's pants and soon they would be too far gone to repair. On Christmas Eve the usual customers were drinking. When it was time for me to go home, my car was filled full to the top with boxes, so I lift up the top one, inside was whole case of little blue jeans. I looked inside another box; it was full of shirts to go with the jeans. Then I peeked inside some of the other boxes, there was groceries and toys. I will never forget the joy of my children when I came back home. Yes, there were angels in Indiana that long-ago December.

I believe that God only give three answers to prayer: "YES, NOT YET, I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER IN MIND". You may be going through a tough time right now but God is getting ready to bless you in a way that you cannot imagine. This prayer is powerful, and prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards, let's continue to pray for others.

Fathers quotes:

"Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honourable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation – she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honourably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the centre of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the purest soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world."

St John of Kronstadt

" when the Church tells us in her hymns and icons that the Apostles were miraculously gathered from the ends of the earth in order to be present at the repose and burial of the Mother of God, we as Orthodox Christians are not free to deny this or reinterpret it, but must believe as the Church hands it down to us, with simplicity of heart."

St John Maximovich

"If her Fruit, whom none may comprehend, on Whose account she was called a heaven, submitted of His own will to burial as a mortal, how should she, who gave Him birth without knowing a man, refuse it?"

St John of Damascus

Announcements:

**مدرسة تعليم اللغة العربية: على الراغبين تسجيل أسماء أولادهم من عمر أربع سنوات حتى عمر اثنتي عشرة سنة
"مع بعض الاستثناءات" للفصول المقبلة، الاتصال بالسيدة ماغي مخول مديرة المدرسة (07949187944)**