

In brief:

The Medical Aid and Support for Syria (M.A.S.S.) contributions box is still in church for those who wish to donate.

The New Church donations box is also in church. Although progress is slow and we do not know exactly how things will work out, we still need to have financial support.

Gift Aid on above and any other giving for the work of the Church is the way in which contributions from UK tax payers can be increased by 25 pence for every pound donated. Please ask if information and form needed.

The ceiling. Our insurers are asking for more and more information and paper documents relating to the collapse that is seems less and less likely that they will meet our claim, on the basis that it was 'old age wear and tear'.

The old porch roof (east end) where it meets the wall has been letting in water. Roofers Andi Marsh and Mike kindly (withut charge) filled the cement flashing area with a silicone and we shall see if that resolves the issue. If not then further investigation and remedial work will be necessary.

2017 Directory of Orthodox Parishes & Clergy in the British Isles & Ireland. Two copies of this useful Directory remain. £4.00 each. Please ask Fr. Nikitas if interested. **NB:** all jurisdictions included in this Directory.

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On Chaplaincy matters Fr.Nikitas can also be contacted for Exeter University in Cornwall Penryn Campus, and Falmouth University.

We have contacts for the following languages:

Arabic; Bulgarian; Georgian; Greek; Romanian; Ukrainian; Russian.

Website: www.orthodoxincornwall.org.uk
Admin: James Lantsbery – admin@orthodoxincornwall.org.uk

Face book: Orthodox Church of Archangel Michael and Holy Piran. Face book administered by Constantine Manolchev.

Archdiocesan website: www.thyateira.org.uk

Patriarchal website: www.ec-patr.org (Issued 25/06/17)

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

✠ **AND HOLY PIRAN** ✠

‘Ο Ἱερός Ναός του Ἀρχαγγέλου Μιχαήλ καί του Ἀγίου Πιράνου.
Laity Moor, Nr Ponsanooth, Cornwall, TR3 7HR.

**ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCHATE**

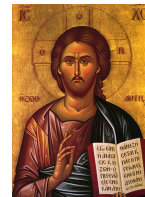
**ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ
ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ**

**In the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.
Exarchate of Western Europe and Ireland.**

JULY 2017 SERVICES

Vespers 6.00 pm Saturdays except * or announced otherwise on preceding Sunday.

Sunday	2 nd	Matthew 4 – Pentecost 4. 9.30 am Orthros. 10.30 am Divine Liturgy.
Saturday*	8 th	6.00 pm Preparation prayers for tomorrow.
Sunday	9 th	Matthew 5 – Pentecost 5. 10.30 am Divine Liturgy – Russian tradition.
Sunday	16 th	Matthew 6 – Pentecost 6. 9.30 am Orthros. 10.30 am Divine Liturgy.
Sunday	23 rd	Matthew 7 – Pentecost 7. 9.30 am Orthros. 10.30 am Divine Liturgy.
Sunday	30 th	Matthew 8 – Pentecost 8. 9.30 am Orthros. 10.30 am Divine Liturgy.



From mid-July to mid-September – school and other holidays.

At home or away – enjoy the time.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when they revile you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for so the persecuted the prophets who were before you.' (Matt. 5:3-12)

The Annual Archdiocesan Clergy Conference

This took place at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, from Tuesday June 6th to Thursday 8th. Neither Fr. Raphael nor I were able to attend this year. Among other conference activities each parish priest was expected to give a five minutes description of the community he serves so in absense I sent what I hope was an accurate account of our Orthodox Christian presence in Cornwall. Archbishop Gregorios wrote to me after the Conference saying it had been read to those attending. (See a few Conference photographs on the Archdiocesan website).

Fr, Nikitas.

To understand the Old Testament (Covenant) we need to know well the New Testament (Covenant). The old law and its slavish following found clarification and fulfilment in Jesus Christ, with the contrast between the *letter* of the law and the *spirit* of the law found in his life and teaching. Hence the writings of the Bible New Testament are fundamental to this understanding within the Tradition of the Church with both Old and New Testaments essential ingredients of Orthodox Christian worship. The 'Beatitudes' on the front of this leaflet are from the Sermon on the Mount contained in chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Matthew's Gospel in which we find Christ teaching the better "way" when seeking the Kingdom of God.

ANGER

In recent months we have heard much anger expressed with or without cause – see Mathew 5:21-26. Faults often attributed to anger are: blasphemy, hatred, revenge, fault-finding, reviling, quarelling & murder.



In his recent book *The Romanovs*, writing of the 300 years dynasty, Simon Sebag Montefiore in the introduction refers to the prevailing practice of "writing history backwards." In a 2013 unrelated publication we read: "Russians joke that Russia is a country 'with an unpredictable past'. Every change of power suggests a rewriting of the country's history depending on a particular ruler's need. The execution of the Russian Royal Family was one such 'unpredictable' event which has been interpreted differently at different periods. Recently, it has triggered a vast growth of conspiracy theories: some based on conscientious research, others conjured up by attention-seeking opportunists." Be that as it may this month brings the commemoration of the Holy Passion-Bearers and Martyrs of that period.

In our Orthodox Christian calendar(s) many faithful are remembered by name. Included this month are the Passion-Bearers Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, Crown Prince Alexis, and Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia who together with four faithful retainers were murdered during the night of **July 16th/17th 1918**, by the Urals Ekaterinburg Bolsheviks with Central Government authority. One of the children's tutors, Pierre Gilliard, concluded his book *Thirteen Years At The Russian Court*, published in **1921**, with the following, to which history has borne witness:

"And death came, but death refused to separate those whom life had so closely bound together, and took them all seven, united in one faith and one love.

I feel that events have spoken for themselves. Anything I might be able to add now – intensely as my feelings have been quickened by recalling those days of anguish relived sometimes from hour to hour – would appear mere vain literature and misplaced sentimentality compared with the poignant significance of the facts.

I must, however, assert here this conviction: it is impossible that those of whom I have spoken should have suffered their martyrdom in vain. I know not when it will be, nor how; but one day or other, without any doubt, when brutality has bled itself to death in the excess of its fury, humanity will draw from the memory of their sufferings an invincible force for moral reparation.

Whatever revolt may rankle in the heart, and however just vengeance may be, to hope for an expiation in blood would be an insult to their memory.

The Tsar and Tsarina died believing themselves martyrs to their country: they have died martyrs to humanity. Their real greatness is not to be measured by the prestige of their Imperial dignity, but by the wonderful moral heights to which they gradually attained. They have become a force, an ideal; and in the very outrage they have suffered we find a touching testimony to that wonderful serenity of soul against which violence and passion can avail nothing and which triumphs unto death."

Within less than a day – **17th/18th July** – Grand Duchess Elizabeth, sister of Empress Alexandra and founder of the Convent of Martha and Mary in Moscow, together with Nun Barbara and others, were brutally murdered near to Alapaevsk. The New Martyrs Elizabeth and Nun Barbara, together with the Passion-Bearers are among many others whose deeds and sufferings in modern times have brought them into our calendar of commemorations.

