Prophet Elias News

News and Views for the Orthodox Church
of the Holy Prophet Elias in Devon
July 2024

For service times see Noticeboard on P4

Extracts from Homily on the Day of the Holy Prophet Elias

by Saint Luke (Voino-Yasnetsky) Archbishop of Simferopol



When we read the Bible, the Third and Fourth Books of Kings about the amazing acts of the holy Prophet Elias, our mind is astounded by them; we are amazed at many things: his extraordinary zeal for the glory of God and his total fearlessness in the work of cultivating faith amidst a pagan people (and such were the people of Israel at that time); our mind is amazed when we read of his extraordinary miracles; and we are most of all amazed when we read about the incredible power of his prayer, for you know that he commanded the elements with it—he forbade the rain to fall upon the Palestinian land for three and a half years, and then again by his prayer brought rain down to the earth. He brought down fire from heaven, and it burned the sacrifice that had been drenched with water.

It is to Prophet Elias's prayer that I would like to direct your attention, for there is not sufficient time to speak of all the great things he did. However, I would like to talk not only about *his* prayer. We know that there were great ascetics of piety, great saints who also worked wondrous and magnificent miracles…. But I want the thought to reach your heart that not only does this kind of prayer, which works manifest miracles seen by everyone, not only does the prayer of the Prophet Elias, and the prayers of the apostles, prophets, and martyrs work miracles. I want you to understand that any prayer will work miracles.

What miracles does it work? Not those glorious and amazing miracles that the Prophet Elias wrought, no. It works miracles unknown to anyone other than the one in whose soul these miracles happen….

Thus, know that in your prayer is the power of God, working miracles in your hearts. Know, that prayer is the most important of all the Christian's works. All his other works are small and insignificant, absolutely insignificant in comparison with the act and labour of prayer. Just as every plant without water in dry soil withers, so also does the human soul wither if it is not fed with prayer. It also needs food and water, but a special water—that living water that Christ promised to the Samaritan woman when He talked with her; that water flowing in eternal life, about which he spoke in the temple in Jerusalem on the day of Mid-Pentecost. This water is the water of God's grace, which is absolutely needful for every one of us. And we receive this living water, this spring of grace, through prayer.

But when I speak of prayer, I often get the reply, "I don't know how to pray. Teach me how to pray." How do I answer?

First of all I answer that prayer is the greatest and hardest of all human works. We know that there is no difficult work that can be learned easily. Long study is needed for all such work, or for any art. And if long study is needed for human works, then is it even more needed for this greatest of all works. Study, study, and study endlessly—and you will obtain it.

But how should you begin this study? Here is how: there are many prayers that have been compiled and written by great God-pleasers, by great holy hierarchs, monastic saints, and martyrs. Pray these prayers; Do not think up your own prayers; pray using those prayers the Holy Church has taught you. However, when reading these prayers, delve into every word, catch yourself in every moment of straying, in every distraction from the words of prayer. If you will pray like this, the holy prayers of the great God-pleasers will illumine your souls.

Posted on Orthodox Christianity *8/3/2014. The complete homily, including Saint Luke's guidance on the use of the Jesus Prayer, can be found at* https://orthochristian.com/95814.html

There Is No Greater Sin Than War
Saint Sophrony of Essex (July 11th)

For me, the period of war coincided with the time I lived on Mt. Athos. My dwelling was a cave in the ridges of a steep, almost hanging cliff, which was beaten day and night by sea waves; and I could feel their blows as I lay on my less than soft bed.

During those terrible days, all of Europe rested from steamships, ferryboats and caiques, and I had more silence possibly than during peacetime. O, this was a time of increased prayer for the world and throughout the world, especially for Russia.

Thirty years have passed but peace has not yet been attained, the darkness has not been dispersed, and the light of love is not yet brightly illumining the earth. In those nightmarish years I prayed long hours, especially at night. I wept in my prayers "for peace to the whole world", especially for Russia, for the Russian people, who were being threatened with nearly total destruction.

The history of mankind is filled with all kinds of crimes, but **there is no greater crime than war,** especially in our times, "world wars", when all people are in one way or another drawn into "fratricide". Today one "rejoices" that hundreds of thousands are killed, and even millions "on one side"; tomorrow the victims rejoice that revenge has been gotten over the murderers. **And thus the entire world is enveloped in hellish hatred, the Holy Spirit abandons people's souls, and despair takes hold of their heart.**

Written in 1975 (translated from the Russian on the website Athonite).

Posted at St. Sophrony: Spiritual Excerpts / OrthoChristian.Com

This Month We Celebrate

On Monday July 1st: Wonderworking Unmercenaries **Cosmas and Damian** (3rdC)
Saints Julius and **Aaron**, First Martyrs of Wales (c304)

On Tuesday 2nd: **Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco** (1966)
We wish **Edward S** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Wednesday 3rd: Translation of the relics of **Hieromartyr Philip,** Metropolitan of Moscow (1652)

On Friday 5th: **Saint Morwenna**, Hermit of Morwenstow, sister of Saint Nectan of Hartland (6thC)

On Sunday 7th: **All Saints of Britain; All Saints of Russia; All Saints of Romania; All Saints of Palestine**
Great Martyr Kyriaki (c303)
We wish **Kyriaki H** a Happy Feast and **Many Years!**

On Monday 8th: Great Martyr **Procopios of Caesarea** (303)

On Wednesday 10th: **Saint Anthony of the Kyiv Caves,** Founder of monasticism in Rus (1073)

On Thursday 11th: **Saint Olga** of Kyiv – Equal of the Apostles (969)
Saint Sophrony of Essex (1993)

On Friday 12th: **Saint Veronica** who was healed by Christ
We wish **Veronica D** and **Veronika M** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years**!

On Sunday 13th: **Saint Alexander Schmorrell** of Munich (1943)
We wish **Mitch Alexander** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Monday 15th: Holy Equal to the Apostles **Grand Prince Vladimir,** Enlightener of Rus (1015)
Saint Swithun, Bishop and Wonderworker of Winchester (862)

On Tuesday 16th: Commemoration of the **Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**

On Wednesday 17th: Great Martyr **Marina (Margaret)** of Antioch in Pisidia (c303)
Passionbearers Czar **Nicholas II**, Empress **Alexandra,** Crown Prince **Alexis** and Grand Duchesses **Olga, Tatiana, Maria** and **Anastasia** (1918)

On Thursday 18th: Martyrs the Grand Duchess **Elizabeth** and the Nun **Barbara** (1918)
We wish **Eliza S** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Saturday 20th: **HOLY, GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH)** (9thC BCE)
We wish **Otto S** and **all Parishioners** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**
Saint Alexis (Medvedkov**) of Ugine,** France (1934)
New Martyrs **Saint Maria of Paris and Ravensbruck** (1945) and her co-workers
Fr Dimitry Klepinin (1944**), Elias Fondaminsky** (1942) and **George (Yuri) Skobtsov** (1944)
We wish **Maria G** and all our friends in the French **Vicariate of Saint Maria of Paris and Saint Alexis of Ugine** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Monday 22nd: **Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalen**
We wish **Margaret E, Mary S, Maddy S and Michelle G** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Wednesday 24th**: Saint Christina** of Tyre (3rdC)
We wish **Christine A, Christina S** and **Kirsty S** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Thursday 25th: **The Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Most Holy Mother of God**
We wish **Emma G-L** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Friday 26th: **Martyr Paraskevi of Rome** (170)

On Saturday 27th: **Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon** (305)

On Sunday 28th: **Saint Nicanor** of the Seventy Apostles
We wish **Father Nicanor** a **Happy Feast, Happy Birthday** and **Many Years!**

On Wednesday 31st: **Saint Joseph of Arimathaea**
Saint Germanus of Auxerre, opponent of Pelagianism in Britain (448)
Saint Neot, Hermit in Cornwall (c877)

Noticeboard

Saturday July 6th: Vespers 6pm
Sunday 7th: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Saturday 13th: Vespers 6pm
Sunday 14th: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Saturday 20th: Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias Vespers 6pm
Sunday 21st: 4th Sunday after Pentecost
Parish Patronal Feast Divine Liturgy 10.30am followed by Bring and Share Lunch

Saturday 27th: Vespers 6pm
Sunday 28th: 5th Sunday after Pentecost Divine Liturgy 10.30am

All services in Saint Anne's unless stated otherwise

*For services in the Romanian parish (Exeter and Newton Abbot) consult https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064673836911 or telephone Fr Julian on **07469 262827**.*
*Similarly for the Torquay parish either visit https://www.facebook.com/standrewtorquay/?locale=en_GB or telephone Robert Skrivanos on **07971 316416**. For services in Plymouth visit* plymchurch.com

Food Bank Emergency – Can You Help?

The demand for Emergency food has increased by 36% since last year, and we have noticed a decline in donations. Our store is struggling to keep up with demand and so we are asking local schools, churches and community groups to take part in a food collection for Exeter Foodbank in July. We are particularly low in Tinned meat, fish and vegetables.

If you would like to get involved and get your congregation and supporters to donate, please do let us know. We may also be able to arrange a talk about Exeter Foodbank for your group, if this is something you would like?

We would be grateful if you are able to drop off any donations to our store at the Orange Elephant (Taverner's Farm) during the week 15th- 19th July. If this isn't possible, we are happy to arrange a collection of any donations.

We look forward to hearing from you about whether or not you'd like to be involved.
If you would like to know any more or require any further media, please contact me.

Kind regards
Fiona Field, Administrator - Exeter Foodbank 07943 896717

CTaX Bulletin

Bach B Minor Mass with Exeter Festival Chorus

Saturday 6 July 2024, 7:30pm at Exeter Cathedral

Come to Exeter Cathedral for one of Bach's most popular and well-known vocal works performed by Exeter Festival Chorus with Devon Baroque Orchestra – the only fully professional orchestra in the Southwest specialising in Baroque and early Classical music played on period instruments.

Soprano 1 – Bethany Partridge Soprano 2 – Elizabeth Drury
Counter Tenor – Benjamin Irvine-Capel Tenor – John Upperton
Bass-Baritone – Timothy Dickinson Conductor - Andrea Brown

Tickets:
Adults: £15-£30 Half price for Universal Credit, students and children under 18
Running time 1hour 50 minutes plus a 20 minute interval. Interval refreshments

Book Your Ticket > or by phone to Ticketsource on 0333 666 3366.

Cathedral Life

Summer Organ Recitals at Exeter Cathedral

Thursday 4 July at 7pm – Robert Sharpe, Director of Music at York Minster
Robert Sharpe's programmes feature music from all periods, with a particular focus on the 19th and 20th century French school.
Find out more & book your ticket >

Thursday 18 July at 7pm – Giles Longstaff, Organ Scholar at Exeter Cathedral
Giles began his musical career as a chorister at York Minster and has continued his musical development as Organ Scholar at Magdalen College School, Oxford, Organ Scholar at Blackburn Cathedral and Organ Scholar at Worcester College Oxford.
Find out more & book your ticket >

Thursday 1 August at 7pm – Michael Stephens-Jones, Assistant Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral
Having won first prize in the 2016 London Organ Competition, Michael has given recitals widely, with highlights including Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, and the 2022 Three Choirs Festival.
Find out more & book your ticket >

Thursday 15 August at 7pm – Richard Moore, Sub-Organist at Christ Church Cathedral
Richard Moore has previously held the roles of Organ Scholar at St Paul's Cathedral and Sub Organist at Guildford Cathedral. He holds the Soloist (Artist) Diploma of the Royal Danish Academy of Music, and continues his organ studies with Bine Katrine Bryndorf.
Find out more & book your ticket >

Thursday 29 August 2024 at 7pm – Timothy Noon, Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral
Timothy has appeared many times on television and radio and has made numerous commercial recordings to date as soloist, accompanist and conductor. **Find out more & book your ticket >**

Thursday 12 September at 7pm – Francesca Massey, organist, choral conductor, teacher and musician.
Francesca performs regularly as a recitalist throughout the UK and abroad. **Find out more and book your ticket >**

A Prayer for Difficult Times

Give speedy and lasting encouragement to Thy servants, O Jesus, when our spirits are despondent. Withdraw not from our souls in trouble. Be not far from our thoughts when we are in difficulties, but ever protect us. Draw near, draw near to us, O Thou who art everywhere. As Thou wast always with Thine apostles, so too unite with Thyself those who love and long for Thee, O Compassionate One, that with one voice we may sing to Thee and praise Thine all-holy Spirit.

(from the Third Hour)

Prophet Elias News *is the newsletter of the Parish of the Holy Prophet Elias, Devon, Deanery of Great Britain, Archdiocese of Thyateira (Ecumenical Patriarchate) - Archbishop: His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas (Lioulias)*

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Contributions for the August issue should reach the Editors at martinolsson827@btinternet.com
or by post at Little Linhay, Bondleigh, EX20 2AJ by Monday 22nd July, please.

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are entirely those of the named authors or identified sources and should not be taken as representing the views of the parish as a whole.