



The Celtic Orthodox Church in Britain

Community of St Gwenn

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*The **Celtic Orthodox Church** is an Ancient Christian Church, founded in AD37. It is the **original** Church of Great Britain, and its spirituality blessed our land for the first twelve centuries of the Christian era. Now it is revived!*

Parish Priest – Fr Leonard Hollands Asst Priests – Fr John Francis, Fr Patrick Mary Fr Deacon Tugdual Meharg

St Gwenn's News No 160, PART 1 – April 2026



**We celebrate our
Liturgies at the
Woodbury Community
Hall, Woodbury Lane,
Axminster EX13 5TL**

April Liturgical Calendar

Thur 2 Apr	Great and Holy Thursday – Thanksgiving for the Last Supper: [ZOOM]** 7.00pm
Fri 3 Apr	Great and Holy Friday – Vespers of the Shroud: 1.00pm
Sat 5 Apr	PASCHA – Paschal Vigil and PASCHAL LITURGY: 7pm
Sun 12 Apr	PASCHA 2
Sun 19 Apr	PASCHA3
Thu 23 Apr	St George, Martyr and Wonderworker
Sat 25 Apr	St Mark, Apostle and Evangelist
Sun 26 Apr	PASCHA 4
Thu 30 Apr	St James, Son of Zebedee, Apostle
Sun 3 May	PASCHA 5 – Liturgy 10.30am

[ZOOM]**

If you would like to join our Liturgy of Thanksgiving for the Last Supper – the Institution of the Eucharistic Liturgy – on 2nd April, please contact Presbytera Clare at meganJ210618@outlook.com to request the Zoom link.

From Fr Leonard

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour.

The April Newsletter will be in two parts, the second part following once we have received Paschal messages from our bishops.

Meanwhile, on a personal note, I would like to thank you all again for your prayers and support during the many months of my immobility. I cannot say just how wonderful

it was to be able to celebrate the Palm Sunday Liturgy. As I mentioned in the March News, things were at last beginning to look as if the spinal surgery had worked. That has, praise the Lord, turned out to be the case and I am now walking again! I have given away my mobility scooter to a needy relative.

Paschal blessings and love in the risen Christ to you all

Fr Leonard +

Fr Patrick reflects on Hosanna!

"...Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (John 12:13)

Hosanna! The Church since the Incarnation of Christ has both heard and proclaimed this word each year on Palm Sunday; but what does it actually mean? In short it means; Save us, we pray, O Lord!

With the current state of the world, it isn't hard to come up with many "things" from which we cry out to God to be saved. Sin, sickness, suffering and death being the main causes of our reoccurring distresses.

Then, in our impatience, or lack of trust in God, we become irritable desiring the Lord to swoop us up to Heaven immediately to be with Him and to save us from all of the current calamities of the world, not knowing, or simply dismissing, what is taught in the epistle of St James "for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." (Jas1:3)



*The Entry of Our Lord
Into Jerusalem*

It is not that God has saved us and now somehow has forgotten us, leaving us to our own devices, as if to suggest He is similar to a lifeguard who, standing and keeping watch, sees someone drowning in the sea. Then jumping into the chaos of cold and dark waters, grabs hold of the victim pulling them back to the safety of the surface and onto dry land, then simply to walk away without further assistance or saving.

No! "being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ:" (Philippians 1:6)

Elder Ephraim of Arizona says: "Therefore, my children, endure all things, for an invisible crown is being woven for the head of every person. Bitter is the winter, but sweet is Paradise. Endure the frost of temptations, that your feet may dance with joy in the heavens."

"...God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life." (Romans 6:22)

Having reminded ourselves of the promises of God in the Holy Scriptures let us therefore, pray "Hosanna!" not as a desperate plea to rid ourselves of trials and tribulations, but rather to ask God to pour His grace into our lives as we await His second coming.

"And therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him." (Isaiah 30:18)

Closing Prayer:

"Preserve me, O God: for in Thee do I put my trust." (psalm 16:1)

Fr. Patrick +

Palm Crosses

If anyone would like to receive a blessed palm cross or palm crosses, please send a stiffened s.a.e. (large letter stamp), min 9½"x 7" to Fr Leonard, Yew Tree Cottage, Marshwood, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5QF



Lord, in your mercy: Hear our Prayers

For our Patriarch His Beatitude Metropolitan Marc, Bishop Nicolas and all our clergy and people; For Bishop Martin (French Orthodox Church) and his clergy and people; For Bishop Gregoire (Orthodox Church of the Gauls) and his clergy and people;

FOR PEACE

FOR THE SUFFERING

For all who have died recently, and for Colin, Sophia, Edna, Bob, Carol, Arthur, HRH Prince Philip, Maureen, Pope Francis, Olivier, Yodit, Daphne, Michael and Christian, whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month.

