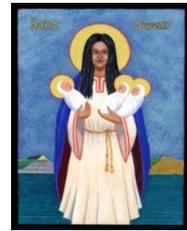




# Celtic Orthodox Church

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## St Gwenn's News 65 MARCH 2018

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### Services at St Gwenn's

**Thurs 1 Mar – St David of Wales**  
**Matins 7.30am**



**Fri 2 Mar – St Chad of Lichfield**  
**Matins with the Presanctified Gifts 7.30am**



**Sun 4 Mar – LENT 3 – Veneration of the Cross**  
**Divine Liturgy 10.30am**



**Wed 7 Mar – St Enodoch of Cornwall**  
**Matins with the Presanctified Gifts 7.30am**



**Sun 11 Mar – LENT 4 – St John of the Ladder**  
**Divine Liturgy 10.30am**



**Wed 14 Mar – St Aristobúlus (transferred from 15th)**  
**Matins with the Presanctified Gifts 7.30am**



**Sat 17 Mar – St Patrick of Ireland**  
**Divine Liturgy 9.00am**



**Sun 18 Mar – LENT 1 – St Mary of Egypt**  
**Divine Liturgy 10.30am**



**Wed 21 Mar – St Benedict + St Cuthbert (transferred from 20th)**  
**Matins with the Presanctified Gifts 7.30am**



**Sun 25 Mar – PALM SUNDAY**  
**Divine Liturgy and Procession of Palms 10.30am**



## HOLY WEEK

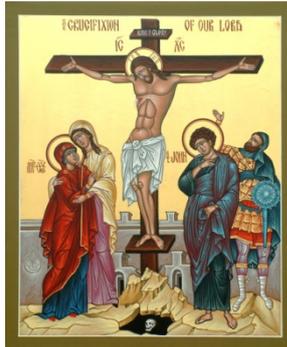
Wed 28 Mar – **Great and Holy Wednesday**  
Matins with the Presanctified Gifts 7.30am



Thurs 29 Mar – **Great and Holy Thursday**  
Divine Liturgy 7.00pm  
With washing of Feet



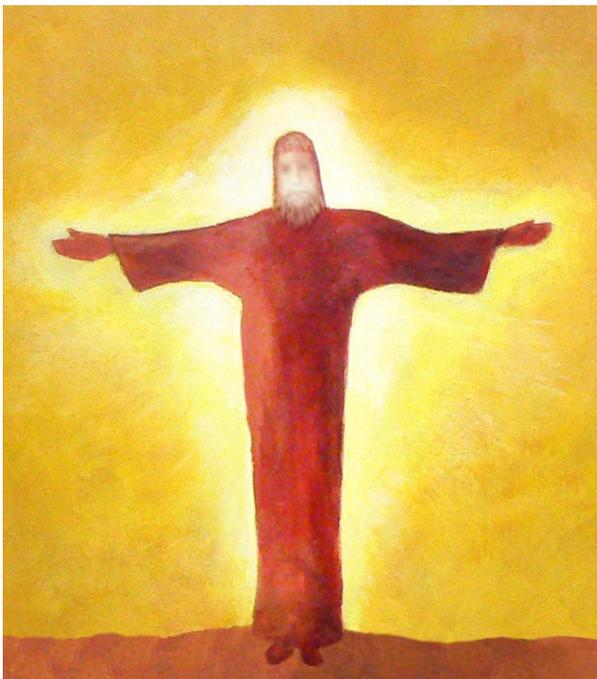
Friday 30 Mar **GREAT and HOLY FRIDAY**  
VESPERS of the SHROUD 3.00pm



Sat 31 Mar/Sun 1 April

## PASCHA

VIGIL and LITURGY 8.30pm (Sat)  
Festal Matins 10.30am (Sun)



*Christ is Risen!*

*Indeed He is Risen!*

## From your Parish Priest

Greetings to you all!

This month we shall see Lent come to its dramatic conclusion with Holy Week carrying us through to the very heart of our Christian Faith – PASCHA. And, no, I have not forgotten that the Sunday of Pascha this year is actually the first day of April – *next* month. But the liturgical day begins at Sundown/Vespers on the evening before, so we shall celebrate the great Paschal Liturgy at the end of the last day of March.

Each Sunday through Lent we have a special focus – Lent 1 is The Triumph of Orthodoxy; Lent 2 we recall St Gregory Palamas; Lent 3 is the Veneration of the Cross; Lent 4, St John of the Ladder; Lent 5, St Mary of Egypt; Lent 6 (Palm Sunday), the Entry into Jerusalem. You can find out more about these Sunday themes – see below.

In Great and Holy Week the main services are the Liturgy on Thursday where we recall the institution of the Eucharist – Christ's gift of Himself to us – and the washing of feet; Great and Holy Friday we celebrate the Vespers of the Shroud – a moving service where the figure of Jesus is symbolically nailed to the cross; Great and Holy Saturday where the Vigil and lighting of the New Fire and the Paschal Candle lead us seamlessly into the celebration of the great and joyful Paschal Liturgy, resounding with cries of, "He is Risen!"

If you have never before experienced these wonderful services, do please consider joining us. Meanwhile, may God grant us the grace to use the remainder of Lent well and to prepare ourselves for the great joy of Pascha/Easter.

Blessings

Fr Leonard+

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## More on the Celtic Revival Down Under

Father Paul Zimmerman, our COC priest at the Antipodes, was born in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia in 1951. He was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, pre Vatican Council. He was educated in the Catholic School system. He tells us:



*Fr Paul Zimmerman*

"My Christian Faith was encouraged by my Mother, attending Church with her. When old enough I became an Altar Boy, and loved serving on the Altar with the priest.

"During my years in High School I received my calling to be a priest. At the young age of 17, I entered the Capuchin Franciscans in Australia. Five years later, I left the Capuchin's and eventually met my wife and we had four sons by this union.

"With all the changes going on in the Roman Catholic Church, I became very unhappy, so a search then began. At the Grand age of 50, I converted to Orthodoxy and was baptised into the Orthodox Faith. A while later I met a Bishop who accepted me for Ordination, and after due process, he ordained me as Priest within the Orthodox Church.

"I met an Orthodox Priest on social media who in turn introduced me to Bishop Paul Dupuis of the Celtic Orthodox Church. I studied as much as I could find on the Celtic Orthodox Church and its tradition. I learnt that there had been a Bishop, Peter Green, here in Australia who has since passed away. I asked Bishop Paul if we could re-start the Celtic Orthodox Church - Australia. With the permission of the Primate Metropolitan Marc it was approved under the oversight of Bishop Paul.

"It is still early days with the mission of Saints Peter & Paul Celtic Orthodox Mission at Sellicks Beach which is south of the South Australian Capital of Adelaide. Your prayers are always needed with this endeavour."

And a reminder – you can find Fr Paul’s Facebook Group at CELTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH – AUSTRALIA ([www.facebook.com/groups/1727489174226546/?ref=bookmarks](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1727489174226546/?ref=bookmarks) ).

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## Lenten Sunday Themes

As mentioned above, you can read more on the themes for each of the Sundays in Lent. Short articles are posted week by week on our Celtic Orthodox Facebook page: *Celtic Orthodox Church Wessex and the UK* [www.facebook.com/celticorthodoxuk/](http://www.facebook.com/celticorthodoxuk/)



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## Further thoughts on Fasting

You may sometimes hear people mistakenly claim that there is no fasting on Sundays. This error has no doubt come about as a misinterpretation of the relaxation of Orthodox *fasting from the Liturgy*. The Eastern Orthodox Churches do not celebrate the Liturgy on the weekdays of Lent (Annunciation excepted), but this liturgical fast is relaxed on Saturdays and Sundays. But the dietary fasting is *not* relaxed apart from the exceptions stated in the February News. Communion is allowed with Presanctified Gifts, however, on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent. Although not part of our Celtic Orthodox tradition, we at St Gwenn’s are following the Liturgical fasting this year.

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## Confession

A traditional part of Orthodox Lenten discipline is to make a sacramental confession prior to the great Paschal feast. Fr Leonard is available for this.

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## Prayer Requests

Another reminder - if there is something or someone you would like us to pray for at St Gwenn’s do please contact Fr Leonard.

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## For our Prayers

For our Primate Metropolitan Marc, Bishop Paul and all our monastics, clergy and people, and for the future of the Celtic Orthodox Church, and the Western Orthodox Communion.

For the Unity of Christ’s Church; for a greater willingness for Christians to rejoice in what they share, not remain entrenched in what they don’t.

For an end to the escalating tensions and hatreds associated with differing religions. For harmony among people of all religions and none.

For PEACE in our troubled world; that the love of God may be allowed into the hearts of all.

For all in sickness, sorrow or distress; for those devastated by conflict; for the persecuted; for the starving; for refugees; for the homeless; for those affected by storms, flooding, earthquake or fire.

For the departed – Bill, Br Hugh OSB, Presbyteria Elizabeth, Bernard, Ron, Fr Columba, George, Judi, Betty, Elina, Bob, Fr Ben, George, and Romany June, whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month. Memory Eternal.

That Easter joy may fill the hearts and minds of all God’s people.

