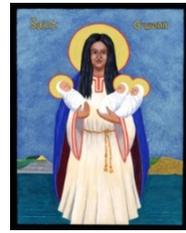




# Celtic Orthodox Church

Parish of St Gwenn, Wessex  
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## St Gwenn's News 66 APRIL 2018

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### Services at St Gwenn's

**Sun 1 Apr – PASCHA**

**Festal Matins 10.30am**

*Christ is Risen!  
Indeed He is risen!*



**Sun 8 Apr – PASCHA 2  
Divine Liturgy 10.30am**



**Sun 15 Apr – PASCHA 3  
Divine Liturgy 10.30am**



**Sun 22 Apr – PASCHA 4**  
**Divine Liturgy 10.30am**



**Wed 25 Apr – St Mark, Apostle and Evangelist**  
**Divine Liturgy 9.00am**



**Sun 29 Apr – PASCHA 5**  
**Divine Liturgy 10.30am**



**Mon 30 Apr – St James, son of Zebedee, Apostle**  
**Matins with the Communion 8.30am**



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**From your Parish Priest**

Greetings to you all!

This month begins with the great feast of PASCHA, and so I begin with the Paschal greeting: CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! It is in this proclamation that our distinctive Christian Faith is based. Christ died to free us from the pains of eternal death and the damnation our sins deserve. "Come to me," He said. "Repent," said Jesus and the Baptist John. "Sin no more," Jesus urges. And to free us from our sins, Jesus, the Word of God incarnate, the spotless Lamb, gave His human Life for us that we too, through His glorious resurrection may become eligible for ETERNAL LIFE. Eligible, note. This great gift is not forced upon us. If we don't want it we may turn our backs on God and follow the ways of the evil one. But we are called to a *better* turning, the turning around to face *God*. That's what repentance is – from the Greek *μετάνοια*, to turn and face another way; in this context, to face God. We have been preparing all Lent for this re-assertion of our God-ward facing stance so that we may joyfully embrace our Resurrection Faith. CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! Let us celebrate the feast; let us glory in our Resurrection Faith.

With love and great joy I send Paschal Blessings!

Fr Leonard+

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**The Paschal Troparion**

✠ **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.**

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee before His face.

✠ **Christ is risen from the dead.....**

As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

✠ **Christ is risen from the dead.....**

So sinners shall perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.

✠ **Christ is risen from the dead.....**

This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

✠ **Christ is risen from the dead.....**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the Age of ages. **Amen.**

✠ **Christ is risen from the dead.....**

...bestowing



LIFE

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### Quiet Day – advance notice

On Tuesday 15 May Fr Leonard will be leading a Quiet Day at St Hugh's, Charterhouse on the Mendips.

The day, which will begin with the Celtic Orthodox Office of Hours, will provide ample opportunity to find peace and quiet.

More details will follow, but it would be good if those who can make it would put it in their diaries to avoid double booking.



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### Reflections on part of St Patrick's Lorica or Breastplate

*With thanks to The Northumberland Community and David Adam*

"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, to give you a future and a hope," says the God through the prophet Jeremiah (Jer 29,11). God can take events of the past and weave them so skilfully into a new plan for us that not only do we find there is a future for us after all, but it is as if there have been no wasted years.

#### CHRIST BEHIND ME

There He walks in your past. He walks in all the dark rooms you pretend are closed, that He may bring light. Invite Him into your past. Experience His forgiveness, His acceptance of you. Offer especially all that you are ashamed of, all that you wish to forget, all that still pains and hurts you, all the hurt you have caused others. Walk there in the places you are afraid of, knowing that He walks with you and will lead you on!

## CHRIST BEFORE ME

He forever goes before us to prepare a place for us.  
He is on the road we tread. Wherever life is leading us,  
He has gone before. Perhaps we have no clue about what  
lies ahead; [but] we know *Who* is ahead of us, so the future  
is not quite unknown.

David Adam, *The Edge of Glory*

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### **For our Prayers**

That the Paschal joy may lift the hearts of all.

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 throughout the world; for a greater willingness for Christians to rejoice in what they *share*, rather than squabble and remain entrenched in what they do not share or agree upon. Whatever must our Blessed Redeemer think of us?

For an end to the escalating tensions and hatreds associated with differing Religions. For harmony among people of all Faiths 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 – Colin, Sophia, Edna, Bob, Arthur, Maureen, Olivia, Jodit, Daphne, and Christian whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month. Memory Eternal.

