



Celtic Orthodox Church

Parish of St Gwenn, Wessex

Meeting at St Gabriel's church
Morcombelake, Dorset DT6 6DP

Parish priest
Fr Leonard Hollands

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Services this Month

Services at St Gabriel's, Morcombelake
unless otherwise stated

Fri 5 July – St Gwenn Teirbron of Dumnonia

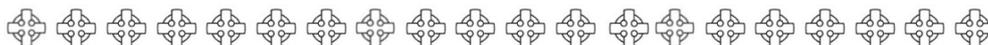
Matins with Communion 9.00am

At St Aidan's Oratory



Sun 7 July – PENTECOST 4

Divine Liturgy 10.30am

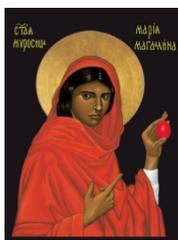


Sun 14 July – PENTECOST 5

Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Mon 22 July – St Mary of Magdala, Myrrh-bearer, Equal to the Apostles



Matins with Communion 9.00am

At St Aidan's Oratory



Sun 28 July – PENTECOST 7

Divine Liturgy 10.30am

From your Parish Priest

Greetings in the Name of our Blessed Lord!

Thanks to the influence of The Reverend Bramwell Evens, Romany of the BBC, I became an avid wildlife enthusiast. Via the same influence I later became a committed Christian. Having become Celtic Orthodox these two important and enduring aspects of my life blend perfectly. This train of thought has come about as I have watched a family of wrens fluttering around outside my studio window. They nested in the corner behind my pond and now the youngsters have fledged but still enjoy their home territory. During the nesting season the father wren has been pouring out his trilling song – so loud for such a tiny bird! It is said that if an elephant made a noise at the same decibel to body-mass ratio it would literally shatter our ear drums!



The wren is small but has a massive song; we are small but we proclaim the greatest news. May God grant us the grace and courage always to proclaim His good news.

Loving blessings to you all,

Fr Leonard †

Monk Deacon Cwyfan – Memory Eternal



For some inexplicable reason dear Fr Deacon Cwyfan was omitted from the list of anniversaries of reposing in the June St Gwenn's News. Sincere apologies for this.

The first anniversary of his departing actually occurred on 17 June. We celebrated a Panikhida for him after our Liturgy on Sunday 23 June.

We still miss him and his sense of fun behind which lay a deep faith. It is probable that he is now doing his inimitable Hunchback of Notre Dame routine for the angels!

In a sermon where Deacon Cwyfan was considering chapter 20 of St John's – the empty tomb and Jesus' appearing to Mary Magdalene (whose feast we celebrate this month) and, in the locked upper room to Thomas, who had not been present at an earlier appearance. Fr Deacon Cwyfan asks:

How do we, engage with what we hear and read from the bible? I conceived the notion of a pen picture in which there is the drama that we become witness to. Imagery plays an important part when we read. It helps place us there. Think of the drama played out as Mary Magdalene is at the tomb. My point is about engagement with the Holy Scriptures. Everyone will have a different impression when we actively engage mentally with what we see. When we read or hear the scriptures it becomes real for us; it can become a living experience. There can be active involvement; we can empathise with the characters and their emotions and actions; we are able to be there with the characters.

Thinking of this active engagement, we are now in the upper room with the disciples. We are locked in. Jesus appears. We watch Thomas's Encounter with Jesus. Seeing

is believing. But our faith is believing without having to see. For me our capacity to visualize the words into imagery words makes the bible a living reality.

Fr Deacon Cwyfan

Some Quotations

The very best and highest attainment in this life is to remain still and let God act and speak in you.

Meister Eckhart

Holy prayer is based on a state of soul produced by action according to [God's] commandments. It depends on that state and cannot exist in the soul when the soul is not in that state.

St Ignatius Brianchaninov

Obedience is the virtue of a life in which self-will is sacrificed at the altar of the Cross, and the human person is united fully to the will of God.

Bishop Irenei Steenberg

For our Prayers

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

For the Unity of Christ's Church throughout the world; for a greater tolerance towards, and willingness to understand, other Christians, giving thanks for what we hold in common.

For PEACE in our troubled world; that the love of God may touch the hearts of all, and have mercy on all who suffer and hunger because of conflict.

For our Country as we continue, under new leadership, to resolve the ongoing problems involved in our leaving the European Union.

For all in sickness, sorrow or distress; for those devastated by conflict; for the persecuted; for the starving; for refugees; for hostages; and for the homeless.

For the departed – Roy, Ron, Jean, Jeremy, John, Bryce, Jenny, Beryl, HB Met Mael, Fr Tony, Neil, Alfreda, and Betty, whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month. Memory Eternal.

