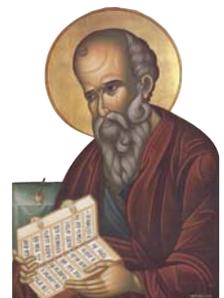




**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ROMANIAN ORTHODOX PARISH
CAMBRIDGE**

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER
-BULETIN DE CRACIUN SI ANUL NOU-
2014**



Parohia
SF IOAN EVANGHELISTUL
Cambridge, UK

LAMENTATIONS FOR THE BURIAL OF THE LORD / PROHODUL DOMNULUI



The service took place in St Peter's Church, the small medieval chapel across St Giles Church, our usual place of worship. The simple church building, still retaining the chill of wintry days, yet brought to life by candles and singing, proved a fitting setting for the service where we lament the Lord's death on the Cross and His burial.

Dr Razvan Porumb has kindly offered this account of the day and also of the Paschal service.



'Looking back at this year's Paschal events within the Romanian Parish of 'St. John the Evangelist' these now seem to have been so serene, so outworldly and transfigured, that it is hard to imagine services ever being more memorable and inspiring. And

yet I said the same thing the year before about the Easter and pre-Easter services, and I will probably say the same thing next year – and this is probably the nature of these unique liturgical events – the pinnacle of the church year



for all believers, when heaven and earth could be said to be in their closest proximity.

It all started when, in quiet and solemn anticipation, a small congregation gathered on the Great and Holy Friday in the small church of St Peter – an ancient and austere church from the 11th century, whose stone unadorned walls are still permeated with the grace and prayer witnessed throughout multitudes of Eucharistic

liturgies. The warmth and friendship of the faithful, helped in no small measure by the lit candles, the fragrance of incense and the chants of the people quickly transformed this tomb-like room into a space of joy and exhilaration. The beautiful poetry and music of the day's hymn, the walks around the church with the Epitaphion through the beautiful garden at St Peter's gave everybody the feeling that they were now walking on the holy ground in between worlds. People moved carefully and whispered quietly so as not to disturb this precious state of grace.

HOLY PASCHA / INVIEREA DOMNULUI - SF PASTI



And the precious grace was not disturbed. Next day, on the Holy Saturday, in the greater, stately church of St. Giles, so closely resembling an Orthodox cathedral, the same reverence and piety were observed. People came in much greater numbers – so great that the huge space at St Giles, came to seem almost inadequate! The numerous congregation nevertheless set-

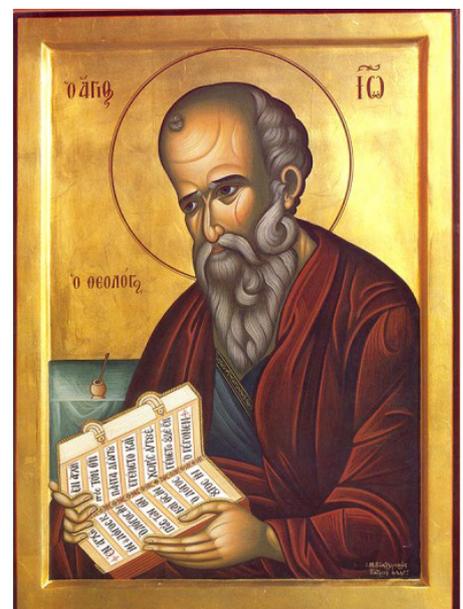
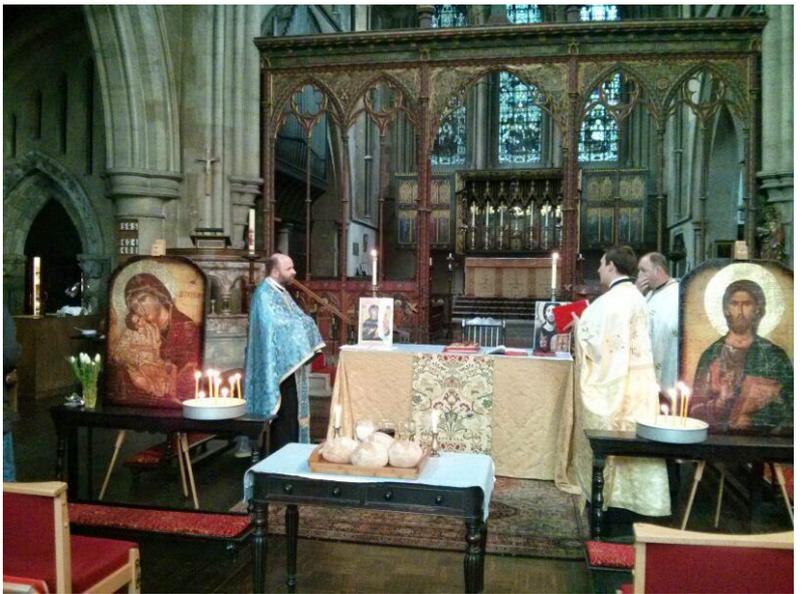
tled in silence and reflection, and the mood remained throughout one of prayer and veneration. With no concelebrant priest or even deacon, and with a small but enthusiastic choir on his side, Father Dragos conducted the Paschal Liturgy with characteristic simplicity and meekness – yet the service had all the splendour and glory of a grand Festal service and the church was filled with the light and bounteousness of the Resurrected King. A memorable liturgical experience for a commendable congregation, who – despite numbers – has set yet another example for prayerful discreetness and joyful piety.'



VESPERS PARISH FEAST / VECERNIE HRAM

VESPERS PARISH FEAST - ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, 8 MAY

On 8 May this year, for the parish feast, we were blessed to celebrate together with Fr Aurel Radulet and Fr Marian Radulet at the festal vespers. Fr Aurel had the care of the Romanian parish in Cambridge until earlier this year, when Fr Dragos Herescu was called to serve here. Fr Aurel now serves in the Romanian parish of the Holy Prophet Elijah, in Finchley, North London.



CASTLE END OPEN DAY / ZIUA PORTILOR DESCHISE, 18 OCT.



The Romanian parish in Cambridge were delighted to join in the activities during this year's Castle Hill Open Day, on 18 October.

During the Open Day, several of the churches, museums and institutions in the area were open to the public, one of which was St Giles' Church.

Since our parish meets for worship at St Giles, we are delighted to join in and contribute on the day. Thank you to our friends and hosts from the Anglican Parish at St Giles for extending this invitation!

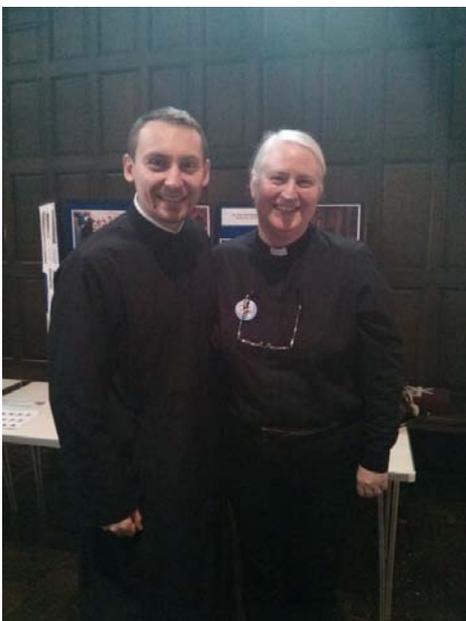
George Sarbu, a Cambridge student and member of our parish who was involved in the proceedings, offers his account.



'On Saturday 18 October Castle Hill has opened its doors for a day filled with family friendly activities, talks, tours, games and music, to showcase the oldest area of Cambridge and its wealth of cultural offerings. The Romanian Orthodox Parish, as an integral part of the Castle Hill community, was involved with organising St Giles' Church Open Day. We got together and organized a stall with Romanian home cooked food, as well as Romanian beverages. The opportunity was excellent for friendly chats amongst us and with our visitors. We exchanged good ideas and promoted our culture through our food and our friendly interactions with

cantabrigians.

Romanian food was very popular and our easy-going spirit has contributed noticeably to a successful open day for St Giles'. Our plans are to get involved next



year as well, perhaps with even more traditional dishes, more children and even more good will. We would like to thank all those involved and we hope to see you all next year.

PARISH LUNCH - PRANZUL PAROHIEI, 9 NOV.

Our first 'parish lunch' took place on Sunday, 9th November, the last Sunday before the Christmas Fast.

The 'bring & share' meal was organised in the church, at the end of the Divine Liturgy. It generated some very positive feedback and the expectation that the feast is repeated at the next opportunity!



Veronica Nitu, a Cambridge student and member of our parish, offers her account:

'It is well known and accepted within our church community that not everybody can make it to Sunday service every week due to work or other tricky life commitments. However, when news of an upcoming pre-Nativity Fast church lunch spread, many people cleared a slot in their busy schedules to come together and enjoy a joyous day with their community.



Cookbook author James Beard once wrote: "Food is our common ground, a universal experience." Following the fine afternoon I spent in the company of my peers at the St. John the Baptist's parish lunch on the 9th of November, I can testify to that.



Those who could spare food brought food, and those who could not brought something to share and helped out anyway. We spent the afternoon rejoicing in pleasant company, strengthening friendships, and all left with the comfortable weight of a hearty meal in our bellies – with food still left over!

Although we never need an excuse to see each other, I'm grateful for the chance we had to enjoy a day together over delicious food and in a pleasant atmosphere.'



ST NICHOLAS & CHRISTMAS TREE - SF NICOLAE & BRADUL DE CRACIUN, 6 DECEMBER

On 6 December, the Feast of St Nicholas was the perfect occasion to get together and combine prayer, carol-singing and officially kick off the Christmas season by decorating the parish Christmas tree. St Nicholas, the wonder-worker bishop of Myra in Lycia (presentday Turkey), is a model for Christian charity and the 'Christian Santa Claus'.

The event coincided with the Christmas Tree Festival (29 Nov. - 7 Dec.) that takes place annually at St Giles' Church, now at its 6th edition.

We started the day with prayer, singing the Akathist Hymn to St Nicholas. Afterwards, all present joined the children in singing both Romanian and English carols. The little carol-singers received gifts from St Nicholas and then everybody, eagerly, proceeded to decorating the Christmas tree.

Thank you to all who joined!



FOR DETAILS REGARDING THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICE AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION REGARDING THE ROMANIAN PARISH IN CAMBRIDGE, PLEASE VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE AT:

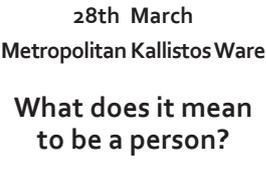
WWW.ORTHODOXCAMRO.CO.UK/

PENTRU PROGRAMUL SLUJBELOR SI ALTE INFORMATII UTILE LEGATE DE PAROHIA ROMANEASCA DIN CAMBRIDGE, VA RUGAM SA VIZITATI WEBSITEUL PAROHIEI LA:

WWW.ORTHODOXCAMRO.CO.UK/

ORTHODOX THEOLOGY AND CONFERENCE EVENTS IN CAMBRIDGE

- TEOLOGIE SI CONFERINTE ORTODOXE IN CAMBRIDGE -

 The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge Community Lecture Days 2015	
<h1>FAITH, IDENTITY AND OTHERNESS</h1>	
 <p>28th February Dr Razvan Porumb (IOCS) The ecumenical challenge - towards active <i>metanoia</i></p>	 <p>28th March Metropolitan Kallistos Ware What does it mean to be a person?</p>
<p>25th April Revd Dr John Binns, Dr Ralph Lee (Cambridge) Orthodoxy in Africa: Themes from the Life of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church</p> 	 <p>27th June Revd Dr Andreas Andreopoulos (University of Winchester) The Transfiguration of Christ: transformation in faith</p>
<p>30th May Irina Kirillova MBE (Lecturer Emerita, University of Cambridge) The figure of Christ in Dostoevsky</p>	

The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies (IOCS)

organise each year a series of lectures and conferences on topics of relevance for Christians of all traditions, but especially appealing to Orthodox Christians interested in learning more about their faith in a contemporary setting and in meeting leading scholars in the field of Orthodox theology. In 2015, the IOCS Community Lecture Days focus on the theme of **Faith, Identity and Otherness**. Talks are delivered in English. Please see below poster for details or contact IOCS at Tel. 01223 741037 /

email: info@iocs.cam.ac.uk

Institutul pentru Studii Crestin Ortodoxe din Cambridge (IOCS)

organizeaza in fiecare an o serie de conferinte care adreseaza teme importante pentru teologia si viata crestina, mai ales cea a crestinilor ortodocsi. Aceste evenimente sunt o ocazie foarte buna pentru a afla mai multe despre credinta ortodoxa in lumea de azi si de a intalni teologi ortodocsi de renume. In anul 2015, tema generala a conferintelor IOCS este **Credinta, Identitate si Alteritate**. Conferintele sunt in limba engleza. Detalii suplimentare gasiti in posterul de mai jos sau la IOCS: 01223 741037 / email: info@iocs.cam.ac.uk

THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

- MITROPOLIA ORTODOXA ROMANA A EUROPEI OCCIDENTALE SI MERIDIONALE -



Mitropolia Ortodoxă Română
a Europei Occidentale și Meridionale



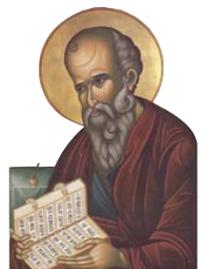
Parohia noastra face parte din **Mitropolia Ortodoxa Romana a Europei Occidentale si Meridionale**, sub arhipastoria Inaltpreasfintiei sale, Mitropolitul Iosif Pop. Pe websiteul Mitropoliei (www.mitropolia.eu/ro/) gasiti informatii importante despre evenimentele de pe cuprinsul Mitropoliei.

Nepsis, Federatia tinerilor ortodocsi din Mitropolia Europei Occidentale si Meridionale, miscare a tinerilor ortodocsi aflata sub indrumarea sinodului mitropolitan, organizeaza pelerinaje, tabere si un congres anual.

St John the Evangelist Romanian Parish Cambridge
Christmas & New Year Newsletter, 2014

Edited by Fr Dragos Herescu
Contributors:

Dr Razvan Porumb, Veronica Nitu, George Sarbu



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