



The Tower

Saint Barbara the Great Martyr Orthodox Church
<https://www.stbarbara.org.uk/>

Sunday 28th December 2025
Sunday after Nativity



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

We are all in this glorious time: the Nativity of Our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ. God's love and mercy cover the whole world. Glory be to Him for all things!

May God bless you all in all your deeds. In the previous week, we had our parish feast at the Northport Hall Cricket and Hockey Club. We had a very nice time, as usual. We all liked this place. There is always a feeling of hospitality and a warm, home like atmosphere that we enjoy so much. The children had a lot of fun and activities, and at one point even Santa came to give them presents and to check their behaviour, obedience to parents, good deeds, and plans for the future. It was all great fun, and the food was excellent. Even though it was in the middle of a strict fasting period, everyone made a great effort to provide very nice dishes.

I think we can organise more events like this at Northport Hall during the year, outside fasting periods, so we can easily gain a few kilos in body weight and share good thoughts over a pint or a glass of wine. I was recognised by all the children, even after my hard effort to look Santa like. Even the youngest one said, "Aha, you are Fr. John from the church. Are you Santa as well?" Well done to them. They are all amazing children, and they all promised to be good and well behaved to their parents and friends, and to come to church regularly.

After I was recognised, it was a very good opportunity for me to say a few good words to the children about who Santa really was, and the fact that he was a bishop in our Orthodox Church. St. Nicholas, or St. Basil in the Greek tradition, were great examples of mercy toward the poor, widows, and orphans, and at the same time great teachers and great witnesses of the Holy Orthodox Church. I do not know how much they understood of all this, but it has always been interesting to me that our modern lifestyle is perfectly happy to keep the secret about something completely fake like Santa, while completely real stories like St. Nicholas or St. Basil are often overlooked. Perhaps next year we can do something more real in the church, like having St. Nicholas come on the 6th of December.

I will say it again in simple words. Santa is a fake story, but our Orthodox stories about St. Nicholas, St. Basil, and many other great bishops are real stories. We all need to work and teach our children about the beauty of our Orthodox Tradition. This is in our hands now, and it will be in the hands of our children, so that our Holy Tradition may be passed on without distortions.

I would like to say special thanks to the choir. That was really good. The service on the 21st, the Forefeast of the Nativity, was absolutely amazing. After the services, a number of people came to me to say that the choir was simply perfect. Amen!

In no particular order, thank you all. Irina, Lee Alban, Justina, Thomas, and Tudor, and forgive me if I missed somebody. The 21st Sunday had the finest Byzantine chant. Glory to God for you.

I would like to say special thanks to one person, not to make his pride fly higher, but to make him work even harder. Tudor came to celebrate with us during this glorious time.

He came to our church as a teenager, and today he is in Romania studying theology and chanting every day in church. It is so inspiring and brings tears to my eyes to see your progress, young man. We pray for you, and you are always welcome to step up in the choir. May God bless you with many years and much work in God's field.

On the Nativity eve and on 24 of December we had amazing time celebrating Our Lord and God and Saviour incarnation.

We serve Vespertal Liturgy on the 24/12/2025 and about 25 people came and we had very beautiful Service at that time. on 25/12/2025 at the Nativity Matins and Divine Liturgy we had around 70 people at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for being part of the Services. May God bless you and keep you!

Fr. John



Announcements

- Last month our church was full with people which is really good to see but that also put pressure on the parking in the cemetery. Please park your car so that other cars can pass around you. Avoid parking around the cenotaph at the centre of the cemetery. On Sunday plenty of people visit their graves and I do receive from time to time complains about the parking. Parking in the Cemetery is important for us and we shouldn't loose it. Please be good neighbours!
- As you probably noticed some work is ongoing by the entrance of the cemetery. I believe the cemetery gate will be repaired and will be more comfortable to enter with car. Please be careful it is very narrow turn at the moment
- As mentioned in the previous Tower we plan to change the dirty carpet in the church with something that could be easily cleaned and maintained. We are looking for something like in the refectory and the kitchen area.
If you like to donate toward this project please see me or Theodoros. If you know someone who can do the job please let me know. The church will pay for his work. Any help with this will be much appreciated
- On the 6th of January, we will celebrate the Feast of Theophany. After Matins and the Divine Liturgy, we will go down to the River Dee for the Blessing of the Waters, at the usual place at Eccleston Ferry. Please come with warm clothes and proper shoes, as it is usually very muddy there.
- After the Blessing of the Waters, we will begin the blessing of your homes. Please let me know if you wish to have your home blessed, so we can arrange and plan travel around North Wales and Chester. It is good for this to be done immediately or in the first days after Theophany. Please see me or Fr. Pancratios if you have any questions or if you plan to have your home blessed.

Upcoming Services

28 Dec Sunday	10:00 11:00	Matins Divine Liturgy	Sunday after Nativity of Christ
01 Jan Thursday	10:00 11:00	Matins Divine Liturgy of St Basil	Circumcision of Our Lord St Basil the Great
03 Jan Saturday	17:30	Great Vespers	
04 Jan Sunday	10:00 11:00	Matins Divine Liturgy	Sunday before Epiphany
05 Jan Monday	18:00	Vesperal Liturgy	Feast of Theophany
06 Jan Tuesday	09:00 10:00 12:00	Matins Divine Liturgy Blessing of the River Dee	Theophany of Christ River Dee, Eccleston

Announcement

Blessing of your houses begins from 06/01/2025



Blessing of the houses traditionally begins straight after the feast of Theophany. On the 6th of January we will go down to the River Dee to bless the waters at 12am and after that we will start the blessing of your homes. Please contact me or Fr. Pancratios if you wish for your home to be blessed, so we can plan our travel in the most efficient way.

A story from our Community

In this Feast of the Nativity we all experienced a beautiful time in the church. I always liked the mixture between the everyday Christmas shopping rush and the fact that we spend more time in the church and participate in the Services.

The Feast of Nativity activate people and everybody start doing things that they usually don't. I have spend more time in the church, outside Services and number of different people came into the church. Mainly people who come to visit their graves to remember their loved one, and to make them kind of part of this Glorious Feast of the Nativity. The conversations with them can go in any direction...people asking for anything you can imagine. Usually asking to look inside in our church. I'm always curious to see their first reactions after they open the door of the church for the first time. They usually say "Oh, Wow! I didn't expect that. This is really nice?"

And after that starts the questions. Last week there was a man who asked"... What we do for the departed in this Christmas time?..." Well, I didn't ask myself this question before. I told him what we know from the church. We don't do anything special and we don't serve prayers for the departed in the church in this period. Nothing else, outside from our private prayers and the usual commemoration in Divine Liturgy, and the commemoration in the rest of the services.

This is not little at all, but he couldn't understand, because he was completely unaware about Eastern Orthodox church. He was one of this people who don't really believe, but he likes churches and he knows that there is Something... and for this reason he came to visit the graves sometime.

So, i did explain him that at the moment we are focusing in different place, and we commemorate different thing in our worship Services.

"What things?" he asked.

Nativity according to flesh of our lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, I replied.

"Is that mean, Christmas?" he asked.

That was very nice and clear question, too.

Yes, Christmas means Nativity according to flesh of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Since The Birth and Incarnation Of Christ is the Greatest and one of the biggest feasts in the Orthodox church, we leave anything else on the site for a bit, and focus on this glorious moment. God Incarnation is a greatest Feast of Joy, and is the Greatest act of love from God toward His creation. That does not mean at all that we are trying to forget, or be careless, to our departed people. Not at all!

This person left the church, and I'm not sure that he understood even a word from what I said. With my English language skills, I don't blame him at all. But as Parish priest that make think about this, and I think that is necessary to clarify some practices.

We still commemorate the departed in our private prayers, when the people bring to me small commemoration list with names, I still commemorate them in the Divine Liturgy, and we still have the petitions for the departed in the Services and we all say "Lord have mercy!".

It is kind of... we, and the departed in the same time, are focusing together on the feast of Nativity. Not simply forget for each other for some time.

We don't do organised prayer for the Departed until Theophany on the 6th of January. In this period we will pass through another Feast of Christ. Eight days after Christmas, on the New Years Day we celebrate the Circumcision of the Lord Jesus Christ and then this will lead us to Theophany. We don't bring Kolivo in this period and we don't distribute food to the congregation in memory of the departed. In fact prayers for the departed are not offered in the church in other periods as well.

- Major Feast Days of the Lord and the Mother of God, such as Christmas (Dec 25th), Epiphany (Jan 6th), the Annunciation (Mar 25th), Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost, the Transfiguration (Aug 6th), and the Dormition of the Virgin Mary (Aug 15th).
- Specific Liturgical Periods including Holy Week, Bright Week (the week after Pascha/Easter), and generally from the Saturday of Lazarus until the Sunday of Saint Thomas (inclusive).
- The Christmas Period, generally from December 18th to January 7th.
- The Feast Day of the Parish's Patron Saint.

I would like to mention, that we shouldn't serve prayers for the departed also on Sundays, because it is the Lord's Day.



The Orthodox church with wisdom created special time for this Services. Saturday is the usual place for them. It will be even better if we do them before Vespers on Saturday.

I think that is also good place to say that in this periods we also don't serve The Sacrament of the Holy Matrimony (Wedding)

We don't serve Weddings also during all fasting days including Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (because at that day we commemorate the dead). All this heavy rules, about weddings are absolutely understandable.

The people should have proper Feast after the service, and not a restricted one.

Of course, all these matters could be discussed case by case, and in some cases the priest may need blessing from the Bishop and some of them may be permitted in the periods, but as general rule we should follow the Typikon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Church put in place all rules, not to make our life difficult, but to put an order and when we Fast or Feast, to do it in the best possible way.

Fr. John

The following readings and sermon have been extracted from the Archdiocese of Thyateira & Great Britain news bulletin.

To access the full bulleting, please visit: www.thyateira.org.uk.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΌΝ ΑΝΆΓΝΩΣΜΑ

Γαλ. α΄, 11-19

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπὲρ ἔμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γάρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἦκούσατε γάρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφὴν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ Θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρὸς μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν Υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἔμοι ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἔμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα ἰστορήσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκά· πέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ Κυρίου.

EPISTLE READING

Gal. 1: 11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION

4rd Mode

“When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, “Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!”

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟΝ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ

Ματθ. β', 13-23

Ἀναχωρησάντων τῶν μάγων, ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεύγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἔξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου. Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνείλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὄροις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ Ἰερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμὰ ἠκούσθη, θρήνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὄδυρμος πολὺς· Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσίν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχελάος βασιλεύει ἐπὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ Ἡρώδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἔλθων κατώκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.



GOSPEL READING

Matt. 2: 13-23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him. And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more. But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.

And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.

And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazarene.





On the 12 of December 2025 I was kindly invited to be a guest in the Roman Catholic Church in Chester for the establishment of the new priest there. St. Werburgh's RC church in Chester is magnificent and very well known building in the Chester City Centre. Mgr. David Charters popped up one Sunday in our church to introduce himself and kindly invited me for his official introduction in St. Werburgh's church. I was very warmly welcomed in the church and had opportunity to speak with many people and clergy there. The bishop of Shrewsbury was also present. In this picture you can see me on the left, Fr. David in the middle and the third person is the eastern roman catholic priest from Ukraine. I had very nice conversation with few of the RC clergy and it was great to know the people from this very large and good Cristian community in Chester. Glory to God for all things!

SERMON ON THE GOSPEL READING

There is both tragedy and hope in today's Gospel which presents us the events that occurred immediately after the birth of Christ the Saviour, the One that 'was met with malice and temptations from the very beginning', as Saint John Chrysostom wrote in his Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew.

Tragedy, because we all feel the pain of the mothers that lost their children. There is no grater pain on earth than of a mother's losing her child. Although the Gospel does not give us the number of the children that were murdered in Bethlehem on king Herod's orders, the tradition records that fourteen thousand were killed and our Holy Fathers have ordered that they are remembered by the Church as proto martyrs that Christ first gathered into His rank.

Hope, because we see that God's plan for the salvation of mankind, announced through his prophets, could not be hindered. But, we should also remember that God has a plan to save each and one of us and neither this plan can be hindered by the devil. It is only for us to hear His voice and raise from the darkness of sin as we should take example from the righteous Joseph that hearing the voice of the angel, rose in the middle of the night and immediately left for Egypt with the Child and His Mother.

You may have noticed that these words "the Child and His Mother" are mentioned several times in today's Gospel passage. These words make us feel love and tenderness in our hearts as they remind all of us of our own mothers and of their unconditional love, care and protection. The same emotions we feel when we are watching the Holy Icon of Theotokos holding Her precious Child. I truly say to you that if there is any human form of love that may be comparable with God's love for us, this can only be the love of a mother for her child. And we should all feel grateful and joyful knowing that our Saviour knows and understands the love of a mother and the protection of a father.

In today's Gospel we see the great humility of the Son of God, who, after being born in a cave, had to flee to Egypt to save His life from the wrath of King Herod. Apart to the people through whom the devil carries out his will in the world, as was the case with King Herod, God also fulfils His plan through people, as happened with the Thotokos, with the shepherds, with the three wise men and with the Righteous Joseph. Therefore, since we know that through our deeds we can become instruments of God's will in this world or instruments of Satan, let us not stop God from working through us, but let us remain in obedience to Him, fulfilling His commandments, because «the world passes away and also its lust, but he who does the will of God endures forever» (1 John 2:17).

Let us all try during this holy time of the year to keep our lives in merciful love towards the helpless. Let us not forget that everything we have comes from God who pours out His love on us. It is up to us to receive, but also to give back to God by helping those in need, for in the hand of the poor lies the hand of Christ. In our families, and especially in the great spiritual family that is the Church, we feel the love of God the Father, the grace of God the Son and the comfort and joy that God the Holy Spirit brings us, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity and our salvation.

Presbyter Alin-Alexandru Gaman

*Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of Saint Basil
The feast and commemoration of Saint Basil is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy attributed to him, the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil. This is one of ten times during the year when the Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated. The Liturgy is conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Also on this day, the Church commemorates the Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Eight days after his birth, Jesus was circumcised (Luke 2:21) in accordance with the command given by God to Abraham when He promised to make an everlasting covenant with him and all his descendants (Genesis 17:10-12).*



Christian Orthodox Thyateira Youth (COTY)

COTY is the official youth ministry of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, for ages 16-35.

To learn more visit: www.coty.org.uk.

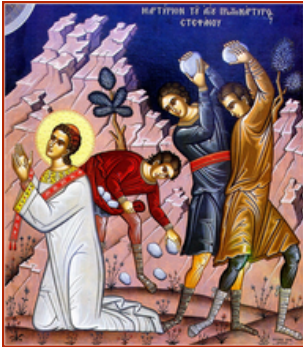
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Synaxarion

Apostle Stephen the Protomartyr



On December 27, we commemorate the holy, glorious, all-laudable Apostle Stephen the Protomartyr. The holy, glorious, all-laudable Apostle Stephen the Protomartyr was an early Christian convert from among the Hellenistic Jews, one of the original seven deacons ordained by the Apostles, and the first martyr of the Orthodox Church. The Church remembers the martyrdom of St. Stephen on December 27, and the translations of his relics on August 2.

Life of Saint Stephen

St. Stephen was a Jew living in the Hellenic provinces, related to the Apostle Paul and one of the first seven deacons ordained by the Apostles to serve the Church in Jerusalem (thus making him an archdeacon). The Holy Spirit worked powerfully through his faith, enabling him to perform many miracles and always defeat the Jews who would dispute with him. The Jews in their hatred of St. Stephen lied about him to the people. But St. Stephen with his face illumined

reminded the people of the miracles God had worked through him and even rebuked the Jews for killing the innocent Christ.

The people were enraged by what they thought was blasphemy and 'gnashed their teeth' at Stephen. It was then that he saw his Christ in the heavens and declared it so. Hearing this, the Jews took him outside the city and stoned him to death, with his kinsman Saul (later St. Paul) holding their coats while they did it. Afar off on a hill was the Virgin Mary and St. John the Theologian who witnessed this first martyrdom for the Son of God and prayed for him while he was being stoned. This occurred about a year after the first Pentecost.

When the Jews stoned St. Stephen, they left his body at the foothill of the city for two days to be eaten by dogs. But on the second night, Gamaliel—teacher of the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Barnabas—came and moved the body to his own land in Capharganda. Nicodemus, who died while weeping at this grave, was also buried there along with Gamaliel's godson Abibus and Gamaliel himself upon his repose. After many years the memory of St. Stephen's burial place had left the minds of men, until 415 when Gamaliel appeared three times to Father Lucian, priest at Capharganda. He revealed to Fr. Lucian the place of his burial and everything about it. Fr. Lucian received the blessing of the Patriarch to exhume the saints from their grave where a strong, sweet fragrance filled the cave.

St. Stephen's relics were translated to Zion and honorably buried, and many of the sick were healed by his relics. The other three relics were placed inside a church atop the cave on a hill. Eventually, his relics were translated to Constantinople.



Please consider donating!

Our parish is a self-supporting charitable community, relying solely on the generosity of our faithful, with no supplementary funding from external bodies. We rely on your donations for everything you see in the church including small salary for the priest, and don't forget all charitable work of the church and all the fundraisings organised from the Archdiocese. Remember that all our finances are in your hands. You are the owners of everything in the church including of the building and all the bills.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid Form alongside each donation as this allows the church to receive an additional 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you. Please use yellow envelopes located at the entrance of the church. If you use card payment for your donations, and you like to Gift aid your payment, please put your receipt in the yellow envelope and sing it. Thank you for your support !



Saint Barbara the Great Martyr Orthodox Church
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