



The Tower

Saint Barbara the Great Martyr Orthodox Church

Sunday 18th October 2026

Sunday of St Luke the Evangelist

Issue 039



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We've now reached the Sunday of St. Luke the Evangelist, one of the most influential figures in the Orthodox Church. His Gospel is baseline to every Christian around the world. You've probably noticed that we suddenly started to read from the Gospel of St. Luke on the first Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. In Orthodoxy, this is known as the Lukan jump. Actually, the change is related to the chronological proximity of the commemoration of the Conception of St. John the Baptist celebrated on September 23rd. In later Antiquity, this feast marked the beginning of the ecclesiastical New Year. Thus, the reason for starting the reading of the Lukan Gospel toward the middle of September can be understood. This is based on a vision of Salvation History: the Conception of the Forerunner constitutes the first step of the New Economy, as mentioned in the stikhera of the matins of this feast. As we know, the Evangelist Luke is the only one to mention this Conception (Lk. 1:5-24). Later on, the introduction of new feasts, especially that of the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8th), contributed to the downgrading of the significance of the Conception of St. John.

This Sunday, 18/10/2026, presbytera Vera, Ioana and I will travel to Bulgaria to participate in the Feast of St. John of Rila at the Rila Monastery. This is one of the big feasts in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and it is also my name day.

During my Ordination as a Deacon, Archbishop Gregorios, of blessed memory give me the name Ioan, the Greek version is Ioannis, and in English, simply John, and he gave me this name after this Saint, John of Rila the Enlightener of Bulgaria.

He is the main Saint and Heavenly Protector of Bulgaria. For the Feast, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be in Bulgaria and will preside the Divine Liturgy at the Monastery. This service usually gathers a lot of people from all over Bulgaria and the world. These services are always a spiritual joy for the faithful and the clergy. If anyone goes to Bulgaria, please visit the Rila Monastery. It is an amazing orthodox spiritual place in the middle of the mountains.

Fr. John

Announcements



Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Association of the Armed Forces

Divine Liturgy

Ancient worship of the Eastern Orthodox Church

OCAAF invites all interested personnel and their families, Orthodox Christian or otherwise, to a celebratory Divine Liturgy in the spirit of ecumenical fellowship. Senior Orthodox clergy will be present in addition to many senior Chaplaincy figures for this inaugural service.

Sunday 29 Nov 2026
10:30-13:00

The Royal Garrison Church,
Farnborough Road, Aldershot,
GU11 1QA

Register your attendance with this code

More information at ocaaf.org.uk



This is the first Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox Christian Association of the Armed Forces. Mainly aimed at any veterans or those connected to the military or forces within the parish, even if that's national service in their home countries. If you are interested, please see our parishioner James.

Upcoming Services

18 Oct Sunday	9.00am 10.00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	St Luke the Evangelist
21 Oct Wednesday	6.30pm 7.15pm	Vespers Catechesis	
22 Oct Thursday	6.30pm	Great Vespers	St. James the Brother of God
24 Oct Saturday	5.30pm	Great Vespers	
25 Oct Sunday	9.00am 10.00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	6 th Sunday of Luke
26 Oct Monday	8.00am 9.00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	Great Martyr Demetrios The Myrrhstreamer
28 Oct Wednesday	6.30pm 7.15pm	Vespers Catechesis	
1 Nov Sunday	9.00am 10.00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	



Liturgy • 10:00 AM * Everyone Welcome ↗ x



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**WELCOME TO THE
CHURCH OF ST
BARBARA**

A warm and welcoming Orthodox Christian
Parish in Chester, serving visitors, seekers,
and families.

Visiting for the First Time?

Announcement

New Church Website

We're delighted to announce that our new church website is now live. It includes a range of new features, including a lending library and an easy way to submit prayer requests.

The new website is also more welcoming and inviting to newcomers, with dedicated pages for newcomers and catechumens to help them learn more about our parish and take their first steps in the life of the Church.

Thank you to Mina for all his hard work creating the website!

Saint James the Brother of God as a Model for our Lives

Saint James the Brother of God was the first Hierarch of Jerusalem. He was the son of Joseph, the betrothed of the Most-Holy Theotokos, by his first wife and was considered by the Jews as the brother of the Lord. Besides this, he was called the Brother of God for the following reasons: "First, for his wonderful state of being and many virtues, on account of which he was also called 'Just'. Second, because he was not numbered among the chorus of the Twelve Apostles and did not have the privilege to be called an Apostle, he was thus given the privilege of being called 'Brother of God'. Third, he made Christ an heir to share in the paternal estate, while the other three brothers refused to do the same" (St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite, The Seven Catholic Epistles). He was honored more than all of his brothers, which is shown by what the sacred Chrysostom says about the relatives of Christ according to the flesh. That is, he was called by all believers "Master" (Bishop), and Saint James is "considered the first Master of all" (op. cit.) He was honored also by all the Apostles, and his opinion was taken into serious account, as witnessed in the Acts of the Apostles.

The only letter he wrote he did not send to the faithful of a particular local Church, but to all the faithful of the universe, to all the Jews who believed in Christ and were scattered in every part of the world, which is why it is called a Catholic (Universal) Epistle. "In this letter he teaches, first, the differences between temptations: which temptations occur to man through the concession of God and which ones through man's desire. Second, that Christians should show their faith not only with words but especially through works. Third, he orders that the rich should not be preferred in the Church above the poor, but rather to rebuke the rich as proud. Fourth and last, while the Saint comforts those who suffer injustice and motivates them towards forbearance and to be patient until the Second Coming of Christ, he sets forth before them Job as an example of the usefulness of patience, and instructs the sick to invite the priests to anoint them with oil. And all believers should strive to bring the way of truth to those who have been deceived, because to them is given payment from the Lord, which is the remission of sins" (op. cit.).

Saint James wrote the first Divine Liturgy, which is devout and preserves the way of worship of the first Christians of Apostolic times. It is celebrated today, the day of his feast, but also on the second day of Christmas.

The Brother of God James, according to Saint Theophylact, was called "Less" in contrast to the Apostle James who was the brother of Saint John the Evangelist, who was called "Great" because he was numbered among the Twelve Apostles. "Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome" (Mark 15:40). The second Mary mentioned is the Theotokos, who is called the mother of James and Joses.

The end of his life was martyric. Because of his divine zeal he led many to the knowledge of God, so the Jews threw him from the pinnacle of the Temple, and when they saw him still alive they stoned him to death.

The letter of Saint James the Brother of God is an amazing text that brings true consolation and unspeakable joy to the soul and repels all forms of despair. It sets forth the best way of interpersonal relations. It stresses that people should not be divided into groups depending on the money or status they hold, but they should demonstrate to all the same respect because they are icons of Christ. It indicates the way of purification, the healing of the soul of the passions, so the nous can be illumined and man can gain personal knowledge of God. He does not fail to stress the value of the presence of the Priest - the Healer - and the use of tangible matter, such as oil, which is sanctified and through it the uncreated Grace of God acts.

He also speaks of human wisdom and contrasts it with the wisdom that "comes from above", which he calls pure, peaceful, lenient, deferential, full of compassion and good fruit, impartial and sincere, because it is free from the passions, which cause strife, fights, messiness "and every vicious thing".

There are those who are wise according to God and those wise according to the world, but there are also those who possess both types of wisdom. Besides, human wisdom enriches the intellect, while the enhyposstatic wisdom of God, which is Christ Himself, enriches the heart with uncreated Divine Grace and is graced with all the goods longed for by man and are listed by the Apostle Paul - love, joy, peace, etc. By reason a person understands the letter in the way they hear it or read it, but with an illumined nous they have the ability to penetrate the depth of what is said or read and in this way understands the spirit of the text and its deeper meaning in order to interpret it correctly.

The study of the life and letter of Saint James helps the believer to be inducted into the perspective of therapy, whereby they will acquire the true knowledge of themselves, the empirical knowledge of God and true communion with our fellow men.



Synaxarion

Saint James the Apostle, brother of Our Lord

According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife that the latter had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matt. 13: 55). But some say that he was a nephew of Joseph, and the son of his brother Cleopas, who was also called Alphaeus and Mary his wife, who was the first cousin of the Theotokos. But even according to this genealogy, he was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother because of their kinship.

This Iakovos is called the Less (Mark 15:40) by the Evangelists to distinguish him from Iakovos, the son of Zebedee, who was called the Great. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, elevated to this episcopal rank by the Apostles, according to Eusebius (Eccl. Hist., Book II: 23), and was called Obliah, that is, the Just, because of his great holiness and righteousness. Having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of the Passover at the prompting of all, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus, and he proclaimed with a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven. On hearing this testimony, many of those present cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." But the Scribes and Pharisees cried, "So, even the just one hath been led astray," and at the command of Ananias the high priest, the Apostle was cast down headlong from thence, then was stoned, and while he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club wielded by a certain scribe. The first of the Catholic (General) Epistles written to the Jews in the Diaspora who believed in Christ was written by this Iakovos.

Apolytikion of James (Iakovos), the Brother of the Lord

Fourth Tone

As the Lord's disciple, O righteous One, you received the Gospel, as Martyr, you have unwavering courage, as the Lord's brother, you have forthrightness, as Hierarch, intercession. Intercede with Christ our God, that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion of James (Iakovos), the Brother of the Lord

Fourth Tone

O wondrous Iakovos, God the Logos, only-begotten of the Father, who dwelt among us in latter days, declared you, the first shepherd and teacher of Jerusalem, and faithful steward of the spiritual mysteries. Wherefore, we all honor you, O Apostle.

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

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

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ

Κολ. δ´, 5-11, 14-18

Ἀδελφοί, ἐν σοφίᾳ περιπατεῖτε πρὸς τοὺς ἔξω, τὸν καιρὸν ἐξαγοραζόμενοι. Ὁ λόγος ὑμῶν πάντοτε ἐν χάριτι, ἅλατι ἡρτυμένος, εἰδέναι πῶς δεῖ ὑμᾶς ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἀποκρίνεσθαι. Τὰ κατ' ἐμὲ πάντα γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τυχικός, ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἀδελφὸς καὶ πιστὸς διάκονος καὶ σύνδουλος ἐν Κυρίῳ· ὃν ἔπεμψα πρὸς ὑμᾶς εἰς αὐτὸ τοῦτο, ἵνα γνῶ τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν καὶ παρακαλέσῃ τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν· σὺν Ὁνησίμῳ τῷ πιστῷ καὶ ἀγαπητῷ ἀδελφῷ, ὃς ἐστὶν ἐξ ὑμῶν. Πάντα ὑμῖν γνωριοῦσιν τὰ ὧδε. Ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Ἀρίσταρχος ὁ συναιχμάλωτός μου, καὶ Μάρκος ὁ ἀνεψιὸς Βαρνάβα, περὶ οὗ ἐλάβετε ἐντολὰς· ἐὰν ἔλθῃ πρὸς ὑμᾶς, δέξασθε αὐτόν· καὶ Τησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Ἰούστος, οἱ ὄντες ἐκ περιτομῆς· οὗτοι μόνοι συνεργοὶ εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, οἵτινες ἐγενήθησάν μοι παρηγορία. Ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Λουκᾶς ὁ ἱατρὸς ὁ ἀγαπητὸς, καὶ Δημᾶς. Ἀσπάσασθε τοὺς ἐν Λαοδικεῖᾳ ἀδελφούς, καὶ Νυμφᾶν, καὶ τὴν κατ' οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἐκκλησίαν. Καὶ ὅταν ἀναγνωσθῇ παρ' ὑμῖν ἡ ἐπιστολή, ποιήσατε ἵνα καὶ ἐν τῇ Λαοδικαίῳ ἐκκλησίᾳ ἀναγνωσθῇ, καὶ τὴν ἐκ Λαοδικείας ἵνα καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀναγνῶτε. Καὶ εἵπατε Ἀρχίππῳ, Βλέπε τὴν διακονίαν ἣν παρέλαβες ἐν Κυρίῳ, ἵνα αὐτὴν πληροῖς. Ὁ ἀσπασμὸς τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ Παύλου. Μνημονεύετέ μου τῶν δεσμῶν. Ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν. Ἀμήν.

EPISTLE READING

Col. 4: 5-11 ; 14-18

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my aff airs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him, and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, See that you fulfil the ministry which you have received in the Lord. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.



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.
Instagram: COTY_org



ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟΝ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ

Λουκ. ι', 16-21

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Ὁ ἀκούων ὑμῶν ἐμοῦ ἀκούει, καὶ ὁ ἀθετῶν ὑμᾶς ἐμὲ ἀθετεῖ· ὁ δὲ ἐμὲ ἀθετῶν ἀθετεῖ τὸν ἀποστείλαντά με. Ὑπέστρεψαν δὲ οἱ ἑβδομήκοντα μετὰ χαρᾶς λέγοντες· Κύριε, καὶ τὰ δαιμόνια ὑποτάσσεται ἡμῖν ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου. Εἶπε δὲ αὐτοῖς· ἐθεώρουν τὸν σατανᾶν ὡς ἀστραπὴν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ πεσόντα· ἰδοὺ δίδωμι ὑμῖν τὴν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ πατεῖν ἐπάνω ὄφειων καὶ σκορπίων καὶ ἐπὶ πᾶσαν τὴν δύναμιν τοῦ ἐχθροῦ, καὶ οὐδὲν ὑμᾶς οὐ μὴ ἀδικήσῃ. πλὴν ἐν τούτῳ μὴ χαίrete, ὅτι τὰ πνεύματα ὑμῖν ὑποτάσσεται· χαίrete δὲ ὅτι τὰ ὀνόματα ὑμῶν ἐγράφη ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. Ἐν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἡγαλλιάσατο τῷ Πνεύματι ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν· ἐξομολογοῦμαι σοι, Πάτερ, Κύριε τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅτι ἀπέκρυψας ταῦτα ἀπὸ σοφῶν καὶ συνετῶν, καὶ ἀπεκάλυψας αὐτὰ νηπιίοις· ναί, ὁ Πατήρ, ὅτι οὕτως ἐγένετο εὐδοκία ἐμπροσθέν σου.



GOSPEL READING

Luke 10: 16-21

The Lord said to his disciples, He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me. The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name! And he said to them, I saw satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.



For your prayers

5 Oct	Kevin Mitache Feodor Litman	Baptised this day in 2018 Laid to rest this time in 2015
6 Oct	Ciprian Amadeus Gujba	Baptised this day in 2013
8 Oct	Arlo Christos Mandrallis	Baptised this day in 2017
10 Oct	Marius Daniel Bota Rhiana Dumitru Salariu Andonis Niko Koamis Margo Aimeloglou	Baptised this day in 2010 Baptised this day in 2010 Baptised this day in 2021 Laid to rest this time in 2008
11 Oct	Antoniou Niko Koamis Jozef Tarnowski	Baptised this day in 2015 Baptised this day in 2020
12 Oct	Jacob Knox Lekky Papastavrou	Baptised this day in 2008 Laid to rest this time in 2018

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 a small salary for the priest, all charitable work of the church, and all the fundraisings organised by the Archdiocese. All our finances are in your hands. You are the owners of everything in the church including the building and all the bills.

Please consider supporting your Parish by donating monthly via standing order:
<https://www.stbarbara.org.uk/church-membership>

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 the envelopes located at the entrance of the church. If you use card payment for your donations, and you'd like to Gift aid your payment, please select this option on the card machine once your payment is complete.

Thank you for your continous support !



Author: Fr John
Editor: Magdalena-Melangell Andic
Saint Barbara the Great Martyr Orthodox Church
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