



## Parish Information Bulletin

### Program for 5 - 11 June 2022

<b>SUNDAY 5 JUNE</b>	<b>FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL, John 17: 1-13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy</li></ul>
<b>2022 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES</b> (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) <b>Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at 10.30am until Church dismissal.</b> We have classes for ages ranging from 5yrs to teenage years. Lessons are taught in a relaxed, friendly environment. Please bring your children along to learn of their rich Orthodox faith and come close to God and His Love.	
<b>MONDAY 6 JUNE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall</li></ul>
<b>THURSDAY 9 JUNE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8.00—9.00pm ➡ <b>TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME</b> Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. - In Church Hall, upstairs behind the Church</li></ul>
<b>SATURDAY 11 JUNE</b> <i>Saturday of Souls</i> <i>Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas, Revelation of Axion Esti, St Luke the Surgeon, Holy Martyrs of China</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy</li></ul>
<b>SUNDAY 12 JUNE</b>	<b>GOSPEL READING: John 7: 37-52, 8: 12</b> <b>EPISTLE READING: Acts 2: 1-11</b>

### Telephone Contact Numbers

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Fr Athanasios and  
Fr Ephraim are available  
at the Church every  
Monday to Friday  
between 4.00 and 6.00pm  
for Holy Confession and  
any spiritual need.

### Sunday of Fathers of First Ecumenical Council

The seventh Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. This day commemorates the 318 God-bearing Fathers who gathered in Nicaea in 325 at the request of the Emperor, Saint Constantine the Great, to address the heresy of Arianism together with other issues that concerned the unity of the Church.

Arius was a Protospyter of the Church of Alexandria, and in 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son of God saying that He was not the true God, consubstantial with the Father, but rather a work or creation of God and different from the essence and glory of the Father. He also taught that the Son of God had a beginning. These teachings shook the faithful at Alexandria. The Bishop of Alexandria, Alexander, attempted to correct Arius through admonitions, cut him off from communion, and finally deposed him in 321 through a local council. Arius continued with his heretical teachings, creating controversy and division in the churches of other cities, which led to a theological and ecclesiastical crisis throughout the Christian Church.

Moved with divine zeal and concern for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, equal to the Apostles, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was in this place that the bishops of the Church gathered in 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God. The Fathers composed the holy symbol of Faith, the Nicene Creed:

"We believe in one God. The Father Almighty. Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end."

The Fathers also anathematized Arius for his heretical beliefs and teachings, cutting him off from the Church. Recognizing the divine Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honour, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

## Revelation of Axion Esti

*It is truly meet to Bless thee, O Theotokos, Ever-Blessed, and Most Pure, and the Mother of our God. More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim. Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word. The true Theotokos, we magnify thee.*

One evening a Monk was Praying the Service of the All-Night Vigil in his Cell. He heard a knock on the door, opened it, and welcomed in a Monk unknown to him, with the name of Gabriel. They both Prayed together, standing before the Eleousa Icon of Our Most Holy Mother of God. At one point of the Service, the visiting Monk chanted something the other Monk hadn't heard before, he chanted "It is truly meet to Bless thee, O Theotokos, Ever-Blessed and Most Pure, and the Mother of our God...". Then he continued with the rest of the verse "More honourable than the Cherubim...". At this time the Most Holy Icon of Panagia was shining with a Heavenly light. The Monk often chanted this Hymn and he really liked the new version he just heard, so he asked the visiting Monk Gabriel to write down the words. Having no pen or paper in the Cell, the Monk Gabriel took a roof tile and wrote the words of the Hymn onto it with his finger. The Monk then recognised this visitor to be the Holy Archangel Gabriel. Archangel Gabriel, before leaving, said to the Monk, "Sing in this manner, and all the Orthodox as well." The Monk told his Abbott about this beautiful event, and they shared it with the Brotherhood. And as the Holy Archangel Gabriel instructed, we continue today to Chant this Heavenly Prayer to Our Most Holy Lady. The Eleousa Icon of Our Most Holy Mother of God, before which the Monk Prayed together with Archangel Gabriel and revealed the Hymn of Axion Estin, is on Mount Athos. The roof tile with the Hymn written on it by the Archangel Gabriel is in Constantinople. Over the years, many copies have been made of this Holy Icon, two of which are in Australia. One is at the Holy Pantanassa Monastery in Sydney.

<https://www.stparaskevi.org.au>

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## 11 JUNE : ST LUKE THE BLESSED SURGEON

*St. Luke of Crimea was an Archbishop in the Russian Orthodox Church during Soviet times and an regular prisoner on account of his faith, suffering extended physical torture in Soviet gulags for as long as 2 years at a time. He is called the "Blessed Surgeon" because in addition to his work in the Church he was also a practicing doctor and professor of medicine, known internationally for his research on anaesthesia and his innovative surgical techniques. St. Luke reposed in the Lord in 1961, and his prayers and relics are known to heal many people today of physical maladies.*

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## JUNE 11 : THE HOLY MARTYRS OF CHINA

*In the year of our Lord 1900, when the Empress Dowager reigned over the vast country of China and supported the Boxer Rebellion against all foreigners, two-hundred twenty Orthodox Christians in Peking died as martyrs, although a few others lost courage and renounced the truth of the Gospel. Leader of the martyrs was the Priest Metrophanes Tsi-Chung. Many others followed his example and became martyrs with him, by various means, among whom were his wife Tatiana and sons Isaiah and John, Isaiah's fiancée Maria, also Paul Wang, the teacher Ia Wang, the eight year old boy John, Clement Kui Lin, Matthew Chai Tsuang, his brother Witt, Anna Chui, and many others, whose names are known by the Lord of life who awards the crowns.*

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## Prayer for the Dead

Life of souls in the other world is described in the Bible and for our Church are realities.

Luke 16:22-26, Matt 10:28, Matt 22:13, 1Cor 13:12, 1Cor 15:51, Phil 1:10, Heb. 12:22, Rev 2:10, 3:5, 21:8.

The departed have not forgotten us nor are they indifferent to us.

Those who have pleased God with their holy life, the Saints, pray for us; the rest need our prayers.

Prayers for the departed are as ancient as the Christian Church (2Tim 1:18); in early Liturgies (Liturgies of St. James, St. Mark).

Christianity is a religion of love. Praying for the dead is an expression of love. We ask God to remember our departed because we love them.

It is our duty and obligation to pray for the forgiveness of the departed and our Church offers prayers for them at funerals, burials, services and at Holy Eucharist. We are also given the opportunity to pray for the departed three Saturdays before Lent and at Pentecost where all the dead are remembered - our forefathers; lost souls, forgotten souls; and all who have gone before us. We ask our Lord, to have mercy on their soul and trust in His loving kindness to hear our prayers.

## Kneeling Prayers for Holy Pentecost

On the day of Holy Pentecost, at the end of the Divine Liturgy, we will pray the Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost.

Before each Kneeling Prayer, the priest will say, "On bended knee let us pray to the Lord."

What will we be asking from God in these three prayers?

### **Prayer of the First Kneeling:**

We ask God to hear us, accept us, forget our sins, purge our sinful thoughts, entrust us to guardian angel, grant us forgiveness; and cleanse us by the Holy Spirit.

### **Prayer of the Second Kneeling:**

We ask God to teach us how to pray, and what to pray for.

### **Prayer of the Third Kneeling:**

For our departed loved ones, in which we ask God to: give rest to their souls, place their names in the Book of Life, and forgive their sins.