



Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 7—13 July 2024

SUNDAY 7 JULY St Kyriaki, Great-Martyr	2ND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, Matthew 4: 18-23 Matthew 9: 36, 10: 1-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at 10.30am until Church dismissal. We have classes for ages ranging from Syrs 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.	
MONDAY 8 JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 9 JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
★ Please note that our Thursday TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS will be having a short winter break. Recommendation date will be advertised in our Bulletin.	
FRIDAY 12 JULY <i>St Paisios the Hagiorite</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
SUNDAY 14 JULY	GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5: 14-19 EPISTLE READING: Titus 3: 8-15

The Holy Great- Martyr Kyriake July 7

The Holy Great- Martyr Kyriake suffered for Christ at Nicomedia during the time of a persecution under Diocletian. She was the only daughter of the pious Christians Dorotheos and Eusebia, who had given a vow to dedicate their daughter to God.

At the beginning of the persecution Saints Dorotheos and Eusebia were separated from their daughter and given over to trial under the governor Justus, but Saint Kyriake was sent to Nicomedia to the co-ruler of Diocletian -- Maximian Hercules. The holy martyr firmly endured the tortures, praying to God. The Lord worked many miracles to bring the idol-worshippers to their senses: idols fell down in the pagan temples, just as they brought the saint there; wild animals brought to the martyr lay down peacefully at her feet. Seeing this, many pagans were converted to Christ. When the sentence of death was read, Saint Kyriake requested time for prayer. After a final prayer she peacefully died, delivered by the Lord out of the hands of the Roman executioner

Apolytikion of Great Martyr Euphemia 11 July

*O Euphemia, Christ's comely virgin, thou didst fill the Orthodox with gladness and didst cover with shame all the heretics;
for at the holy Fourth Council in Chalcedon, thou didst confirm what the Fathers decreed aright.
O all-glorious Great Martyr, do thou entreat Christ God that His great mercy may be granted unto us.*

St Paisios the Hagiorite 12 July

Has been declared Patron Saint of the Holy Archdiocese of Australia by His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.

Apolytikion

*O Protector of Australia, vigilant guardian and resplendent pillar of Mount Athos,
we the faithful let us praise the holy Paisios,
and beseeching his intercessions before God, crying out with one voice,
deliver us, O father of all, from the arrows of the vengeful one.*

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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.

2nd Sunday of Matthew Matthew 4:18–23

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. Matthew 4: 18-23 (Gospel of Second Sunday of Matthew)

We heard today the Gospel reading which is read on the feast day of our patron saint, St Andrew the Apostle. St Andrew is known as the first-called, and today's Gospel reading describes this call.

St Andrew, as we know from Sacred Scripture, was a fisherman, and at the time Jesus called him he was in the boat with his brother Peter. When Christ called them, he didn't simply say, 'come after me', but, 'come after me and I shall make you fishers of men'.

This wasn't merely a play on words, but points to an important spiritual truth. God doesn't call us all in the same way, nor to the same end. He knows and sees the character and abilities of each one, and accordingly appoints to each the role and ministry he ought to have. As St Paul tells us, God 'gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ' (Eph. 4:11–13). The same apostle also says elsewhere, "the body is not one member, but many" (1 Cor. 12:14). The one Body of Christ, the one Church, consists of many members, and in order for this body to be whole, in order for the work of the Church to be carried out, the participation of each member, with the abilities each one brings to the table, is indispensable. "The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you" (1 Cor. 12:21).

This is perhaps something we all know and take for granted. What we often don't consider is that this is not only true of our strengths, but equally true of our passions and weaknesses. That the wordsmith should write, that the wise should teach, that the one with a good voice should sing... this we know. But we also need to know that the temperamental, the fornicators, the envious, and the cowardly will also find their calling in the Church. Not, of course, without change, not as they are; but we should recognise that the passions we have within us are not essentially bad in themselves — they become evil through misuse and distortion. When we say that a Christian must war against the passions, the goal of this war is not to make the passions disappear, to uproot them completely from within us, but rather to war against the passions so as to tame them, so as to subdue them, in order to transform them, that they might return to their intended use.

In Christ, anger is transformed into zeal for truth and justice. Instead of envying the earthly goods of others, we envy the virtues of the saints. In Christ, the selfish desires of fornication are transformed into love for God and neighbour. Instead of fearing the temporal death of the body and cowering before the hardships of life, we will fear only the eternal death of the soul, and in this we will also find the peace we previously lacked. Let us draw courage, then, from the fact that Christ calls the fisherman to fish. He calls us not despite our weaknesses, but because of them.

The previous Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost, it was the Sunday of All Saints, and in some places the second Sunday after Pentecost is devoted to all the local saints — of Cyprus, of Greece, of Russia, and here All Saints of Britain. This beautiful custom teaches us exactly what was just said. No matter who you are and where you find yourself, you will always and everywhere find the opportunity and possibility not only to be saved, but to become a saint, which is the goal of every human life. Amen.

Fr Kristian Akselberg

<https://www.standrewsgreekorthodoxcathedral.co.uk>



"In all your works, either at home or at the place of your service, do not forget that all your strength, your light and your success are in Christ and His Cross; therefore, do not fail to call upon the Lord before beginning any work, saying: Jesus, help me! Jesus, enlighten me! Thus your heart will be supported and warmed by lively faith and hope in Christ, for His is the power and glory unto ages of ages."

St. John of Kronstadt (My Life in Christ: Part 1)