





Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 5—11 October 2025

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER	2nd SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 6: 31-36 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
2025 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 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.	
MONDAY 6 OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.00—9.00pm  TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. * Downstairs in the building behind the Church  Find St Vasilios Greek Orthodox Parish Brunswick on Facebook and Instagram @stvasiliosgreekorthodoxchurch
SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER	GOSPEL READING: Luke 8: 5-15 EPISTLE READING: Tit. 3: 8—15

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.

HOLY APOSTLE THOMAS—6 OCTOBER Troparion

You were a disciple of Christ And a member of the divine college of Apostles.
Having been weak in faith you doubted the Resurrection of Christ.
But by feeling the wounds you believed in His all-pure passion:
Pray now to Him, O all-praised Thomas to grant us peace and great mercy.

RIGHTEOUS PELAGIA—8 OCTOBER Kontakion

With fasting didst thou consume thy body utterly; with vigilant prayer didst thou entreat thy
Fashioner that complete forgiveness of thy former deeds be granted thee, which, O Mother, thou didst receive.
The path of repentance hast thou shown to us.

THE HOLY APOSTLE JAMES – 9 OCTOBER

James, the son of Alphaeus, was one of the Twelve Apostles. He was the blood-brother of the Apostle and Evangelist Matthew. He was a witness of the true words and miracles of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and a witness of His suffering, Resurrection and Ascension. After the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the lot fell to James to preach the Gospel of Christ in Eleutheropolis and the surrounding areas, and then in Egypt, where he suffered for his Saviour. With great power in word and in deed, James disseminated the saving news of the incarnate Word of God, destroying idolatry, driving demons out of men, and healing every infirmity and disease in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. His labour and zeal were crowned with great success. Many pagans came to believe in Christ, churches were built and

organized, and priests and bishops were ordained. James suffered in the Egyptian town of Ostracina, being crucified by the pagans. Thus, this great and wonderful apostle of Christ took up his abode in the Heavenly Kingdom, to reign eternally with the King of Glory.

2nd SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 6: 31-36

Give—Second Sunday of Luke

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God, Amen.

"I must assert my rights," I say to myself, "I must get what I deserve." And in whatever sphere of my life I happen to be—my professional life, my family life, my society life, my Church life—I protect *my* privileges, I hold onto what I ought to have. And I expect others to do the same. But in the ensuing mess and misery we bring on ourselves, others continue to take what is mine: so I act pre-emptively, I act against them before they can act against me, and my wealth is preserved. "Do unto others," is our motto, "before they can do unto us."

When I act in such a way, I am taking part in a long tradition of humanity: from as far back as we can tell, members of our race have been trying to preserve their rights over others. Yet there are still the oppressed, still the marginalised, still the afflicted: further, despite all the scientific and technological advancements we have made, we are still subject to death. This way of life just *does not* work.

"As you wish that men would do to you," says the Lord, "do so to them." Christ turns on its head the paradigm of life in this world. Lest there be any confusion in what he is commanding us, he goes on,

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

All these things—whatever their value and whatever their worth—do not mark us out as Christians. If we are to be worthy of the name *Christians* then we must not live according to the standards of this age but according to the *Kingdom* where we may partake of Life. So the Lord explains to you and he explains to me what we must do to receive life, "love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return."

I must change, I must repent, I must turn to the living God. Because, if I try with all my might to hold onto what I deserve, I will discover that what I deserve is death. But if I follow the path set out for me by the Lord, if I follow his commandments, I can unite myself to him and he will say to me, along with all the citizens of the Kingdom, "your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High."

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, *give*. Give your time, your attention, your affection, to God and to your neighbour. Give your energies, your talents, your abilities, to God and to your neighbour. Give your heart, your mind, your soul, to God and to your neighbour. Because in giving we, paradoxically, receive from the Lord and that which we receive is far greater than anything we offer—we receive Life and Immortality.

To our crucified and risen Saviour, who has shown us the path to salvation, Jesus Christ be all glory, honour and might, together with his Unoriginate Father and the All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit. Amen.

<https://orthodoxeastleigh.uk>

THE TWO COCOONS

A family brought in two cocoons that were about to hatch. They watched as the first one began to open and the butterfly inside squeezed very slowly and painfully through a tiny hole that it chewed in one end of the cocoon. After lying exhausted for about ten minutes following its agonizing emergence, the butterfly finally flew out the open window on its beautiful new wings. The family decided to help the second butterfly so that it would not have to go through such an excruciating ordeal. So, as it began to emerge, they carefully sliced open the cocoon with a razor blade, doing the equivalent of a Caesarean section.

The second butterfly never did sprout wings, and in about ten minutes, instead of flying away, it quietly died. The family asked a biologist friend to explain what had happened. The scientist said that the difficult struggle to emerge from the small hole actually pushes liquids from deep inside the butterfly's body cavity into tiny capillaries in the wings where they hardened to complete the healthy and beautiful adult butterfly. *The lesson?* WITHOUT THE STRUGGLE, THERE ARE NO WINGS.