



Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 19—25 October 2025

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER	3rd SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 7: 11-16 <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 20 OCTOBER <i>St Gerasimos of Cephalonia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos• 6.30pm Divine Liturgy in English
SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER	GOSPEL READING: Luke 8: 26-39 EPISTLE READING: 2 Timothy 2: 1-10

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.

St Gerasimos of Cephalonia, 20 October

Apolytikion

O believers, let us praise the protector of the Orthodox,
The God-bearing Miracle-worker lately appearing to us, the incarnate Angel,
Divine Gerasimos. For he has rightly received from God the ever-flowing Grace
of performing healing. He strengthens those with diseases and he heals those
with demons. And therefore he pours out healings to those who honour him

SAINT GERASIMOS OF CEPHALONIA

Saint Gerasimos was from the Peloponnesus, the son of Demetrius and Kale, of the family of Notaras. He was reared in piety by them and studied the Sacred writings. He left his country and went throughout various lands, and finally came to Cephalonia, where he restored a certain old church and built a convent around it, where it stands to this day at the place called Omala. He finished the course of his life there in asceticism in the year 1570. His sacred relics, which remain incorrupt, are kept there for the sanctification of the faithful.



3rd SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 7: 11-16

O Lord, Do you know my pain?

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and Of the Holy Spirit, Amen

O Lord, Do you know my pain?

O Lord, Do you see my struggle?

I am lost in the world; will you find me and bring me home?

Gifts are something we do not deserve, but rather are given to us because of love. Divine Love, the Love of God sees all that we are, all that we will be, and what will become of us. One mystery of life is that the divine patience and love of God gives us true freedom, and choice, even though God knows already what is to come.

This morning's Gospel reading is from St. Luke chapter 7 and begins this way...

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her....

In the days of Christ, a woman was unable to support herself without a man to provide for her. In this case, this widow lost her only son. Her grief was twofold because she not only lost her son, but she also lost the only means for her support being also a widow. Her tears from sorrow were very large and painful. She herself did not approach the Lord, but it was Our Lord who approached her out of compassion and brought back her son to life.

In the Gospel the Greek word used for compassion is ἐσπλαγγνίσθη. This word in Greek latterly means "moved with compassion". Compassion in the Greek language is not only defined as a deep awareness and sympathy of another's suffering, but also moving to action because of compassion.

God many times in our lives acts on our behalf even though we have not yet asked. He has compassion on our suffering, acting to heal us even when we are at times not asking. Prayer connects us with the One who already knows our true needs.

Christ's coming compassion is prophesied in

Isaiah 49.13: *Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.*

Throughout the scriptures there are many examples of Christ's compassion. Jesus had compassion on the crowds, for the sick, for the hungry, for ignorance, and for true needs, and to give us eternal life through Himself taking on our suffering and sin.

Let us now ask ourselves:

Are we ever alone? Never, for we can always be intimately close to God and we have only to open our hearts in prayer to know that He is there. If we seek the world rather than God and reject Christ we build a callous over our heart where we no longer feel God's touch, warmth and compassion. We must be cautious because we can still reject the Lord who dwells so close to us, and welcome the enemy to come within us leading to our destruction.

Is our suffering going unknown? No, for God has compassion and love for us beyond our comprehension.

Is our suffering meaningless? No, for if we bear it with faith, we transform this darkness of our life into saving light that moulds and bonds us to God. Our suffering becomes our cross which leads to resurrection and heaven, through God's Gifts and Grace.

The Gospel Concludes this way...

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

Let us now affirm:

We are not alone.

We are truly loved by God more than we can comprehend.

We may weep for a period of time in this life, but through Jesus Christ our Lord and God who destroyed death by His death our tears will turn into eternal joy. Our suffering will turn into healing and blessing. Our death will turn into true life and we will dwell in the kingdom of God.

This world sometimes appears to have prison shackles on us because of this suffering and sinful worldly existence; however these shackles cannot hold the spirit from prayer and communion with God. In prayer we can begin to truly know God, His Love, His unending Compassion and the Kingdom of God.

Pray and find God who is waiting for you at the gates of your heart.

Pray and be free.

Pray and feel God's love and peace.

Pray and enter the Kingdom of God even while living this life.

Pray as often as you can during your daily life.

And every day take time to be in a place of quietness and solitude and pray even for a short time.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner.

Amen.

By Fr Ted Toppses

<https://agiasmos.blogspot.com>