

Lincoln Orthodox Christian Messenger

No 59. Saint Matthias Church, Burton Rd, LN1 3TX. MARCH 2010

Lent & Pascha

7th THIRD SUNDAY of LENT
Veneration of the Cross 10 am

14th FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT
St John of the Ladder 10 am

21st FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT
St Mary of Egypt 10 am

25th Thursday. ANNUNCIATION

HOLY WEEK

28th PALM SUNDAY
9.30am Holy Baptism,
Procession & Liturgy.

On Sunday, Monday & Tuesday of this week: Vespers and Bridegroom Matins. at 6 pm in Fr Philip's Brigg Chapel, 11 Winston Way, BRIGG, DN20 8UA.

30th Great Tuesday.
Confessions at St Matthias,
2 pm - 7 pm, Fr George.

Confession with Fr Philip by appointment
Tel: 01652.655250

31st GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY.
6.00pm blessing of Holy Oil and
Anointing.

Bring a small clean bottle to take some of the healing oils home for your own use throughout the year.

1st APRIL: GREAT HOLY THURSDAY.
9.00 am Vespersal Divine Liturgy
of the Last Supper.
6.00pm Service of 12 Passion
Gospels.

2nd APRIL: GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY.

7am at Brigg Chapel: Deposition Service
11.40am meet outside Bailgate
Methodist Chapel, Lincoln, with icons, for
outdoor procession to the City Centre.
6.00pm EPITAPHION SERVICE

**3rd APR: GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY,
11.00 pm PASCHAL VIGIL.**

continuing through midnight into Pascha.
Christos Anesti !. Christos Voskrese!
Christus Surrexit! Christ is Risen !
**Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom
& Holy Communion.**



4th APR: SUNDAY of HOLY PASCHA.
11.00 am Divine Liturgy and
Holy Communion for those
unable to come at midnight.

*Feast in the Hall begins after Sunday
Liturgy. Bring some food and drink and
join the Community in a great Feast.*

Parish priest: Fr Philip. Tel: 01652.655250.
Assistant priest: Fr George Tel: 01636.626417.

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Email.fathergeorge@macace.net

Great Lent is now upon us.

It is a time for what Fr. Alexander Schmemmann called “**bright sadness.**” It is a time to turn away from Sin and return to God. Sin means “missing the mark.” For practical purposes, sin is separation from God. And separation from God is spiritual death – because life can only exist where God is present.

Great Lent is the time when we try to reverse the effects of sin in our lives. We are “**consumers,**” filling ourselves with everything. Possessions, wealth, sexual adventures, drugs, food and too much alcohol. All to satisfy our urges.

During Great Lent, we **fast** in order to restore the proper balance between our desires and the basic needs that God provides for our well being . Food is reduced not because it is bad, but because in truth we only need a little. Most of us eat far too much. By fasting food is restored to its proper place.

Prayer is also important during Lent. Hunger that grows with our fast should be transformed by prayer into a hunger for God. Jesus is “ the Bread of Life “ and the Fountain of Holiness. Fasting without prayer is a waste of time.

Almsgiving is essential in Lent. This is how we practice the Commandment “*Love your neighbour as yourself.*” Almsgiving, which means helping people in need, stops us from thinking about ourselves all the time and makes us think of other people.

But probably the most difficult thing we have to do to in Lent is....

.....to make our **Confession.**

Confession of our sins to God in the presence of his priest is an important part of the Orthodox Christian way of life. We do not **baptise** ourselves. We do not **chrismate** ourselves. We do not give ourselves **communion.** For all these things we go to our Church and our priest. It is the same when we know we have done wrong - or refused to do the good. We do not forgive ourselves. We ask our priest to help.

First, we must **admit** our sins to ourselves.

It is a well known fact that bad people often think they have done nothing wrong - but good people and holy people are very much aware of their faults and want to be set free from them.

Second, we must truly be **sorry** for our sins. One of the tests of our sincerity is the ability to confess those sins to another human being. We can be so proud that we refuse to confess our sins because we are worried about what someone else might think about us.

Third, we must try our hardest, with God’s grace, to **overcome** our bad and selfish habits. We must struggle and strive not to surrender to temptation.

But why should we confess to the priest?

Sin separates us from God and eternal life. Confession to the priest overcomes and heals this because the priest is the sacramental presence of Christ in the Church. Christ our God gives power and authority to his ministers to forgive sins in His Name. [*Gospel of John 20.23*]

We get the most benefit from Holy Communion if we first confess our sins.

Videos of our Lincoln church may be found here
<http://www.youtube.com/user/allsaintsoflincs>

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