

+ Orthodoxy—the faith that began with Christ and his Apostles, and continues to the end of time +

**Orthodox Parish of
St Helen of Colchester**
Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 216 **JANUARY 2015**



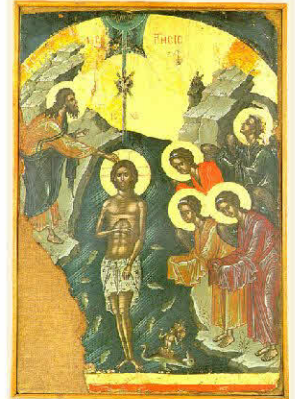
WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S 9.30 am Divine Liturgy
THURSDAY 1 JANUARY
CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST
& ST BASIL THE GREAT
TUESDAY 6 JANUARY
HOLY THEOPHANY
WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY
ST MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR
& VIRGIN-MARTYR AGNES OF ROME
FRIDAY 30 JANUARY
THREE HIERARCHS & ECUMENICAL TEACHERS

Blessing of the River
Sunday 18 January 11.30 am
Procession from Church after 10.30 am Holy Liturgy



Blessing the River 2014

THE THEOPHANY ICON shows Christ being baptised by John, the Forerunner and Baptist, at the River Jordan. Above Christ is shown the coming forth of the Father's Word *This is my beloved Son*, and the Holy Spirit in the form of the Dove. Thus the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity are revealed for the first time. The Holy Angels gather in adoration of the Triune God. The faithful collect some Holy Water after the Great Blessing in Church, and request the Priest to bless their home.



HOLY THEOPHANY
Tuesday 6 January
9.30 am Holy Liturgy and
Great Blessing of the Water
Bring a bottle for Holy Water

Who is God? What is God like? - Theophany helps answer our questions

Many people argue today over the existence of God, whether there is a god or not. The problem is that they treat the matter as a philosophical problem.

It must not be denied that there is a definite place for philosophy—for thinking, creative thinking, discussion, about the meaning of life.

But the feast of Theophany, 6 January, shows that belief in God is really a matter not of philosophical thought or discussion, so much as of *revelation*.

For *Theophany* means *Revelation of God*. And revelation is received by faith not by thought.

This is what makes it so hard for *non-believers* to *believe*. They are trying to *understand*. They are often trying - totally sincerely and nobly - to *understand, to grasp the truth*.

They are genuinely, honestly, grappling with the problems of philosophy.

Yet what happened at the River Jordan, teaches that human beings can really only deal with the

deepest problems of their life by faith, by revelation of God himself - *not by understanding but by acceptance*.

Jesus of Nazareth goes down to the River to be baptised by his cousin John. John knows that he is not worthy to baptise Jesus. Jesus is without sin and has no need of baptism.

But Jesus insists, and for his obedience John has this revelation: the Voice of the Father from heaven, the Dove, the sign of the Spirit from the Father, the Son standing meek and holy in the River standing for humanity which (oh, so sinful) needs what Jesus is receiving on humanity's behalf.

Here then is the first revealing of the Holy Trinity. The truth of the life of God had been forecast in the Old Testament.

But now, at the River, the New Testament, i.e. the life of Christ, shows to those who have *faith not philosophical understanding* that the exis-

tence of God is to be found in *Three Persons in One God*.

Belief in this revelation of the Three-fold God is our salvation. And belief means not so much the intellectual, philosophical, understanding of the mind as this spiritual humility of the soul.

It is the accepting by the

humble soul of the *revelation* of God.

The humble soul *accepts*, as children *accept* - the touch-salvation, *accepting*, innocence of children that Christ taught us was indispensable for salvation, for entrance into his Divine Kingdom.

Father Alexander

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
17 January
St Antony
the Great
10.00 am

St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh St, High St
St Helen's is 200m. down behind the George Hotel in the High Street, but accessible from there only on foot. By car: leave Middleborough Roundabout (between dual carriageways Westway and Balkeme Hill), to Northgate; go straight along St Peter Street to Castle Park; continue round, up into Maidenburgh Street. Nunns Road NCP is the nearest car park.
Saturday: Great Vespers usually 4.30 pm (check before coming)
Sunday: Hours 10.15 am, Divine Liturgy 10.30 am
Confessions: Saturday 5 pm, after Vespers, or by arrangement
Holy Marriage, Baptism, Funerals, Memorials etc: by arrangement
Parish Priest: **Father Alexander (Alistair) Haig**
17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB
Tel: 01-206-530-530 Mob: 07-947-047-201 Eml: parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk
Rdr Andreas Moran, 6 Woodlands, Welshwood Park CO4 3JA Tel: 01-206-865-697
Rdr Alexander Haig Jr, detached service in Winchester parish
Churchwardens: David Davies 01-473-745-167 Dusan Radunovic 01-206-710-073
The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418
Parish Website: <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>
(At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CO15 1LE
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

