

# Happy Pascha to all !

**Y**es, have a happy feast of Holy Pascha: may it renew joy in your heart and soul, and bring peace in the midst—for some of you with immediate particular connexions with Ukraine and Russia—of terrible war and suffering.

We know from the teaching of Christ and his Holy Church that true joy comes only by passing through suffering. That is, the Resurrection of Christ came only through his going the way of the Cross.

The same is true in our experience. Our penance in the Great Fast (Lent) before Pascha is an attempt to remind ourselves of this teaching and experience.

So in Great and Holy Week—Holy Monday to Holy Saturday—try to keep close to Christ, not just through restraint of our eating, but also through participation in just as many of the many services as we can manage.

By doing that we can all join our slight suffering with Christ, as well as our friends and brothers and sisters in the Holy Faith, particularly those in our own congregation.

**God bless you all, dear People of God, and grant that the Holy Trinity may draw us all together in the saving grace of our Holy Orthodox faith.**

*Father Alexander*

*Alexander*

## **CHURCH GIVING SUNDAY**

**10 April 2022**

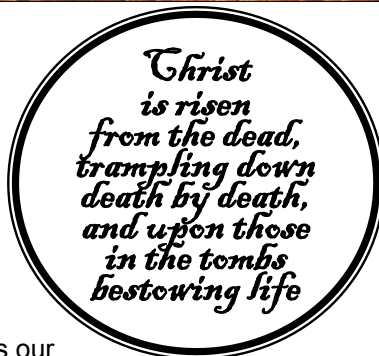
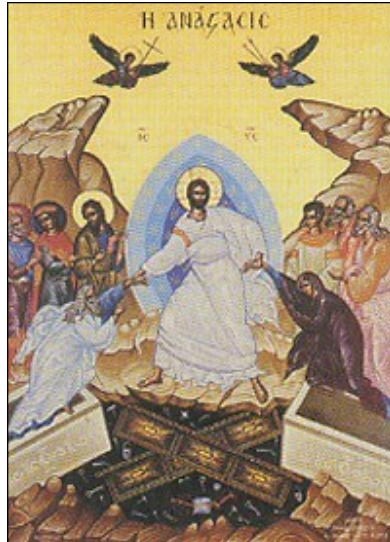
Several years ago, in 2016 to be exact, Archimandrite Philip came to this parish by our invitation, and taught us about the value of **regular committed giving**, as he had experienced it in his own parish of Lincoln. His Eminence is encouraging all the parishes of the Diocese to do the same, so that each parish can take its full part in responsibility for its own and diocesan affairs and duties.

In this parish **we keep one sole Sunday in the year** - in April - for a sermon on the subject and the clergy encourage the people that day to commit themselves (in private and with discretion).

God bless you in your thoughts and prayers to work out effectively by how much you should support the work of St Martin's church and parish.

### **THE APPEAL REMAINS OPEN**

*We are grateful to those continuing to support the Appeal.  
God bless you.*



### **HOLY & GREAT WEEK**

**Lazarus Saturday, 16 April**  
9.30 am Liturgy of St John  
4.30 pm Great Vespers  
**Palm Sunday, 17 April**  
9.45 am Mattins & Palm Blessing  
10.30 am Liturgy of St John & Procession  
**Holy Monday, 18 April**  
6.00 pm Bridegroom Mattins  
**Holy Tuesday, 19 April**  
6.00 pm Bridegroom Mattins  
**Holy Wednesday, 20 April**  
6.00 pm Holy Anointing  
**Holy Thursday, 21 April**  
9.00 am Liturgy of St Basil  
6.00 pm Twelve Gospels  
**Holy Friday, 22 April**  
12 noon Vespers & Deposition  
6.00 pm Mattins & Procession  
**Holy Saturday, St George, 23 April**  
9.00 am Liturgy of St Basil  
10.30 pm Acts of the Apostles  
11.30 pm Midnight Office  
**HOLY PASCHA, 24 April**  
12 midnight Procession & Mattins  
1.00 am Liturgy of St John  
3.00 pm Agape Vespers  
**Confessions: after any service or by appointment**  
**Flowers: women & girls invited to decorate the Epitaphion on Holy Friday at 9.30 am.**

### **OTHER SERVICES**

Wednesdays 6 & 13 Apr 9.30 am	Presanctified Liturgy	St Martin's
Friday 8 Apr 6.00 pm	Akathist (complete)	St Helen's
Friday 15 Apr 6.00 pm	Vespers	St Martin's
Bright Friday 29 Apr 9.30 am, Life-giving Spring	Holy Liturgy	St Helen's

### **St Martin's Church, West Stockwell Street CO1 1HN**

### **St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh Street CO1 1UB**

*Both temples are off the High Street, but accessible from there only on foot. St Martin's is 100m down behind the Town Hall. St Helen's is 200m down behind the George Hotel. Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd, behind Fenwicks department store, and very close to St Martin's. Little street parking available.*

#### **SERVICES IN ST MARTIN'S CHURCH**

**Saturday: usually Great Vespers 4.30 pm      Sunday: Divine Liturgy 10.30 am**

*Confessions: Saturday 5 pm, after Vespers, or by arrangement  
Holy Marriage, Holy Baptism, Funerals, Memorials etc: by arrangement*

**Parish Priest: Father Alexander (Alistair) Haig**

17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB

01-206-530-530    Mob: 07-947-047-201    Eml: parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk

**Deacon: Father Mark Shillaker** 07-917-161-295    Eml: markshillaker@gmail.com

**Readers: George Harrison** 07-869-488-842, **Catalin Fliscu** 07-815-682-820

**Churchwardens: Dusan Radunovic** 07-880-778-385, **Jon Kanaar** 07-596-221-079

**Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen: Registered Charity No: 1134418**

**IBAN: GB05BUKB20226780219819      Bank Account Sort Code: 20-22-67**

**Bank Account No: 50349364      Appeal Account No: 80219819**

**Parish Website:** <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>

**Appeal Website:** <http://orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk>



**St George the Great Martyr, the Victory-bearer, will not get much of a look in this year, liturgically speaking. This is because his feast falls on 23 April, and this year that date is Great and Holy Saturday, which will be filled with the even-greater glory of the Descent of Christ into hell, and his glorious Resurrection for all mankind.**

**It is a pity of course, that St George will be almost totally ignored, for he is a fine Saint, much-loved in East and West. Since the fourteenth century he has been Patron of England, and of the great Royal Chapel at Windsor. He is also Patron of several other nations.**

**He was a soldier in the Roman army, and, more than fighting for the Romans, fought for Christ and ultimately was executed for Christ, so that we venerate him as a Martyr. Certainly a historical figure, he died about 303 AD. Within twenty years, St Constantine built a church to him.**



**Ukrainian/Russian relations: support for those in need**

We have people of several Orthodox countries and ethnicities in our church community. After advice in several places:

- I have decided that the parish will not officially support any particular charity, since it could have - entirely naturally - a political bias which might upset others here.
- **Instead, I encourage you to be as generous as you can to whichever charitable fund you personally desire to support.**

**Reproduction of a famous picture of St Martin given to the parish**

Margaret Haig has had a framed reproduction of EL GRECO's tucked away for years, waiting to give it to our parish when we managed to purchase the building. So at last it came to Colchester with her early in March, was presented to us, and blessed. The master, born Domenikos Theotokopoulos in Crete in 1541, was later nicknamed **El Greco, The Greek**. He painted St Martin in 1599, and by then was long settled in Spain. It is certainly not a conventional icon, and I intend to place it in the tower room, as not really suitable for Orthodox devotional purposes, but a beautiful object in itself.

The master started in a much more iconographical style in his youth, but when he left his home, Crete, Greece, and the

influences of Orthodox Christianity, he became one of the great artists of the Renaissance, centred in Italy. He belonged to a generation of Greeks living in the period soon after the Muslim conquest of Constantinople, who fled westwards to escape being part of the Turkish empire. It appears that he died a Catholic, though some historians claim he died Orthodox.

I am very grateful to Margaret for this gift of a great master for our church, which is dedicated to St Martin, a great saint, who has been an inspiration to many in both East and West, to Orthodox, Catholics, and Anglicans, and even to some Protestants. Do have a good look at the picture, which at the moment is placed at the front of the church. It may help you to understand iconography if you compare the style with our parish icon of the same subject which was painted for us by Chrysoulla Psomas.

**Fr Mark meets Police about Ukrainians and other minorities in Colchester**

As we are all of course aware, the current war in Ukraine has resulted in many people, including families with children being forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in other countries. Many families from the affected regions have come to the UK in recent weeks and more are expected.

Father Alexander and I were recently contacted by Essex Police who are keen to support any refugees and people more generally from minority groups who may have experienced racially motivated abuse or become the victims of hate crime because of their ethnic background or religious beliefs. Father asked me to meet with Deputy Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston to talk about our parish and our diverse community.

Rob came to St Martin's Church recently to meet me and we talked about a range of issues; Orthodoxy in Colchester and the surrounding area; the different nationalities represented among our people, and more generally the challenges faced by Christians and members of other religious groups living in modern Britain. Rob is keen to reassure all people in our parish that Essex Police are there to listen to and support anyone affected by hate crime in any form, whether racially or religiously motivated.

I will ensure that a poster with contact details for Rob's team is available to view in church on the notice board; and I would also add; please do speak to me or Father Alexander if you have any concerns or questions. **Father Deacon MARK**

**Father ALEXANDER writes:**

*\*On the subject of refugee Ukrainians Fr Mark is to meet another official, and will report on that in due course.*

*\*\*I have also been asked to look out for a house with three bedrooms that is needed for a several-generation Ukrainian family.*

*\*\*\*Someone else asked about whom to contact with accommodation offers: I imagine that it is best to contact one's local authority.*

*\*\*\*\*If you have other advice, let me know.*

**APRIL DAYS**

Fri	1	S Agilbert, Bishop of Dorchester & Paris
Sun	3	LENT 4, S John Climacus
Sun	10	LENT 5, S Mary of Egypt
Mon	11	S Guthlac, Hermit of Crowland
Wed	13	S Martin, Pope of Rome
Sat	16	LAZARUS SATURDAY
Sun	17	ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM
Mon	18	GREAT & HOLY WEEK—see front page
Fri	22	GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY
Sat	23	GREAT OF HOLY SATURDAY
Sun	24	HOLY PASCHA, THE RESURRECTION
Mon	25	BRIGHT WEEK
Mon	25	H Apostle & Evangelist Mark
Tue	26	Martyrs Raphael, Nicholas & Irene of Lesbos
Fri	29	Mother of God, Life-giving Spring
Sat	30	H Apostle James, son of Zebedee

**A Word from the Fathers**

Today [Holy Saturday] there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages.

God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled.... The Lord goes into them holding his victorious weapon, his Cross... And grasping his [Adam's] hand he raises him up, saying: Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.

**Ancient unknown preacher**