

# Orthodox Parish of St. Silouan of Mt Athos Southampton, Diocese of Sourozh, Moscow Patriarchate



Православной Приход Св. Силуана Афонского  
Саутхемптон, Сурожская Епархия Московского Патриархата

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL, MILLBROOK ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON SO15 OJZ TEL. 02380 428538  
RECTOR: FR JOSEPH SKINNER [WWW.STSILOUAN-SOTON.ORG](http://WWW.STSILOUAN-SOTON.ORG) WARDEN: DR PAULA NICHOLSON

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**31st Sunday after Pentecost; Tone 6.**  
**Eve of the Nativity of Christ**

*Sunday, 6th January 2013*

### Matt. 1:1-25

An account of the genealogy\* of Jesus the Messiah,\* the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, <sup>4</sup>and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup>and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,\* <sup>8</sup>and Asaph\* the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup>and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,\* and Amos\* the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup>and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

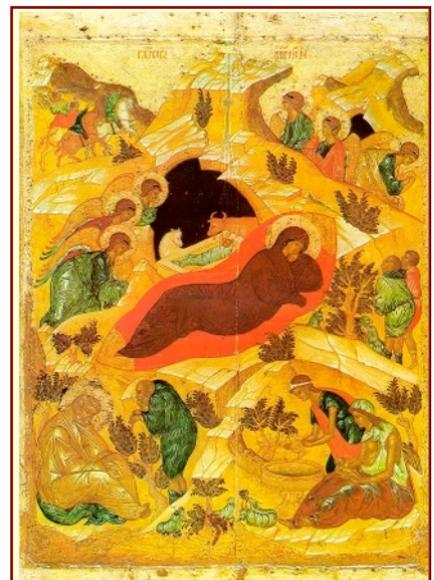
<sup>12</sup> And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup>and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup>and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim

the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup>and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.\*

<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah,\* fourteen generations.

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah\* took place in this way: When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;\* and he named him Jesus.



### Troparion

**Thy Nativity, O Christ  
our God, / has arisen upon  
the world as the light of  
knowledge; / therein those  
who served the stars / were  
taught by a star / to  
worship Thee, the Sun of  
Righteousness, / and to  
know Thee, the Dayspring  
from on high: // O Lord,  
glory to Thee!**

*Tone 4*



***Dearly beloved in the Lord, honourable pastors and God-loving laypeople, dear brothers and sisters!***

I cordially greet you with the great feast of the Nativity of Christ! Christ is born! Glorify Him!

The Holy Church now glorifies the new-born Saviour and praises Him together with the shepherds and wise men of the Gospel story. An angel proclaims the great joy, which is to all people: for today is born in the city of David a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord (Lk 2: 10-11).

The birth of a new life is always a joy, but the birth of the Son of God is a joy beyond measure, for it is the appearance of the very source of life. It is that for which man is ever searching. It is that source to which all our expectations and hopes are directed: My soul thirsts for the mighty and living God (Ps. 41:3).

The thirst for life is as natural to us as breathing, as the beating of our heart.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF ELISEY ARCHBISHOP OF SOUROZH TO THE PASTORS AND ALL FAITHFUL CHILDREN OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUROZH OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

O, how man wants to live! We devote all our powers to preserving life, to the contemplation of the flowering of the world and to the establishment of harmony in all its diversity. We are drawn to that love that unites us across space and time. Overcoming enmity, we seek peace.

Mindful of the wisdom of the ancients, we raise new generations in love.

No matter how wonderful our earthly life may be, it is, however, of value only inasmuch as it bears within itself the reflection of eternal life, life pure and radiant, filled with inexhaustible love and joy.

The prayerful exultation of the Church now unites us in this joy: the life of heaven has touched us here on earth through the newborn Christ, the Son of God. God became man, a weak and helpless infant. His child's crying and laughter are so familiar to us, He is so close to the world. The world itself is renewed and sanctified by His life, which is revealed in the depths, in the very foundations of human nature. In the Child lying in the manger in the cattedled we see the Son of God and worship Him as the King and God Who is enthroned in the heavens. Having the image of the Christ Child before us, we find in our world of poverty

and weakness the greatest riches and strength of spirit.

The Almighty God Who reveals Himself to the world in the form of a defenceless infant also grants us, those weak and spiritually impoverished people who have received Him, who believe in His Name, power to become children of God (Jn. 1:12). We become partakers of the eternal divine life, thirsting no longer for earthly prosperity, but rather for eternal life, which will be revealed in its fullness at the end of the age.

According to the word of the Apostle, the whole creation groans and travails in pain together (Rom. 8:22), and we on our earthly journey endure many labours in our spiritual growth. We accept these sufferings as a mother is racked with pain in giving birth to her child. We are all being born into a new life, eternal life, in which there are no sinful cares, but in everything grace and truth.

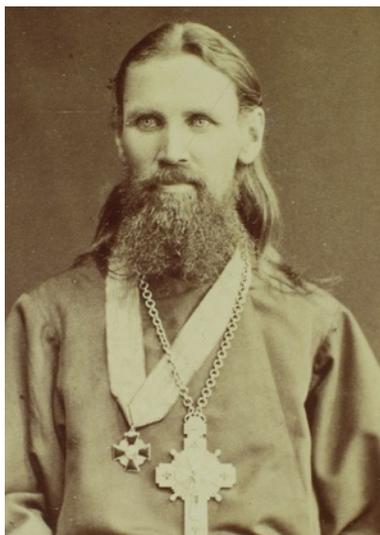
My very dear fathers, brothers and sisters! We rejoice now, glorifying the Nativity in the flesh of Christ our God! May the divine Child and Saviour illumine our hearts with the radiance of divine mercy and truth.

**+ Elisey  
Archbishop of Sourozh**

*The Nativity of Christ.  
2012/13. London.*

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## ON DESPAIR. ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT.



**On 2nd of January we celebrate the memory of St. John of Kronstadt, who reposed on this day 105 years ago. To honour his memory and to help combat the post-New Year's doldrums, we offer selections from his priceless diary, *My Life in Christ*, on the subject of despair.**

Never despair in God's mercy by whatever sins you may have been bound by the temptation of the Devil, but pray with your whole heart, with the hope of forgiveness; knock at the door of God's mercy and it shall be opened unto you. I, a simple priest, am an example for you: however I may sometimes sin by the action of the Devil, for instance, by enmity towards a brother, whatever the cause may be, even though it may be a right cause, and I myself become thoroughly disturbed and set my brother against me, and unworthily celebrate the Holy Sacrament, not from wilful neglect, but by being myself unprepared, and by the action

of the Devil; yet, after repentance, the Lord forgives all, and everything, especially after the worthy communion of the Holy Sacrament: I become white as snow, or as a wave of the sea, by the blood of Christ; the most heavenly peace dwells in my heart; it becomes light, so light, and I feel beatified. Then, indeed, I forget all troubles, anxieties, and the oppression of the enemy, I become entirely renewed, and as though risen from the dead. Do not then despair, brethren, whatever sins you may have committed, only repent find confess them with a contrite heart and humble spirit. Glory, O Lord, to Thy mercy! Glory, O Lord, to Thy long-suffering and forbearance!

You feel straitened upon earth from all sides. Everything betrays you; your relations, friends, acquaintances, riches, the pleasures of the senses, your own body; all the elements — earth, water, fire, air, light — play you false. Cling, therefore, to God alone, “with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning,” [James 1:17] Who alone is Love.

You, sinner, who have fallen into the depths of evil, when you represent to yourself the multitude of your sins and fall into despair and hardness of heart, remember that the heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into the world for your salvation from sins and from eternal condemnation for them. Turn then with faith to this Mediator before God for men, imploring Him from the depths of your soul to wash away by His all-cleansing Blood, shed for us on the cross, your iniquities

too; turn zealously to repentance, confessing your sins before His priest as before Himself, that you may be justified, after which, if the minister of the sacrament of penitence finds you prepared and fit, draw nigh to the holy cup and you shall be cleansed of your sins: peace shall flow into your soul like a river, and you shall be the son of the heavenly Father, “who was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.” [Luke 15:24, 32]

Believe firmly that the wickedness of the Devil in you and your own wickedness will never conquer the unspeakable, infinite mercy of God. Great is the wickedness of the Devil in you, but the mercy of God is infinitely greater. Therefore, in times of doubt, incredulity, blasphemy, malice, envy, avarice, covetousness, involuntary hypocrisy, entreat the Lord with hope, and be sure that His infinite goodness will incline Him to have mercy upon you, if you turn from your wickedness.

When the darkness of the accursed one [the devil] covers you — doubt, despondency, despair, disturbance — then only call with your whole heart upon the sweetest name of Jesus Christ, and in Him you shall find all — light, strengthening, trust, comfort, and peace; in Him you shall find the greatest mercy, goodness and bountifulness; all these mercies you will find contained in His name alone, as though in a rich treasury.

*Excerpts compiled from: My Life in Christ or Moments of Spiritual Serenity and Contemplation, of Reverent Feeling, of Earnest Self-Amendment, and of Peace in God, St. John of Kronstadt.*

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## NEW ICONOSTASIS

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

We continue to ask for your support in helping us to raise funds to pay for our new beautiful handpainted iconostasis.

**The cost of the new icon screen is £10,000, which we still have to pay. So far we managed to raise £3000.**

We have set up a separate bank account devoted totally to



fund the Iconostasis. If you wish to contribute, please, send your donations to:

**Bank: NatWest  
Organisation: Orthodox  
Parish of St. Silouan**

**Acc. No: 45159726  
Sort code: 60-20-45**

Alternatively, you can send a cheque payable to Orthodox Parish of St Silouan (**Icons a/c**) to the Treasurer, **Elvira Patrascu, 10 Monarch Way, West End, Southampton, SO30 3JQ.**

Holy Father Silouan, pray to God for us!

*The Parish Council*

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## NEWS

### Our Life

First parish wedding: on 4th November 2012 - Boriss Igorevich Svecov and Olga Gennadevna Svecova.

Nicholas Kessel (son of Anastasia and David) was baptised at the Cathedral on 16th December - Godparents were Mirjana Cabunac and Angelos...

Thank you to Moiko Lu-fachun for generous contribution of the lampadas and brackets for the iconostasis.

God grant them Many Years!

Eternal remembrance to Brian John Dyas and Brian Patrick Sampson.

### Parish Annual General Meeting

The parish will be holding its AGM after the Liturgy on February 3rd. This is an opportunity for everyone who would like to be involved in the parish to contribute ideas and offer support. The meeting is open to everyone who would like to stay for it. However, voting on specific issues is restricted to members of the Parish Assembly. If you would like to join the Parish Assembly, and are eligible to do so, please speak with Fr. Joseph, or me this weekend. We encourage the support and involvement of all the people who attend our services, so please feel free to come forward with any ideas or offers of support.

### Prayer requests

We would like to remind you that there is a book, where you are welcome to put down names of those who are in need of prayer. You can find it at the back of the Hall.

### Help needed

We need help to set up each Saturday evening before the Liturgy, and to clear things away on Sunday afternoons.

### Collections for homeless

During winter months we will be collecting non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries for the St. James Hostel for the homeless. A box for this purpose will be left at the back of the hall.

### The Choir

We are looking for people to join our choir. The choir meets for practices on a regular basis. No previous choral experience is required - only an ability to sing and a desire to take part in this aspect of parish life.

For further details on singing with the choir, please contact Paula or Yulia.

## SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The work of the Parish is entirely self-financed. We receive no financial help from the Diocese, the State or any other external source. As such, we are in need of the support of our parishioners and friends to enable the Parish to carry out its mission.

To facilitate this kind of regular giving, we invite you to establish a Banker's Standing Order, for direct deposit of regular contributions into the parish's account.

**Bank: NatWest**

**Name of organisation:  
Orthodox Parish Of St  
Silouan**

**Account number: 45137943**

**Branch sort code: 60-20-45**

*Thank you and God Bless!*

## January Calendar

### January 2nd

Repose of Righteous John of Kronstadt (1908)

### January 4th

Great-martyr Anastasia of Rome, Deliverer from Bonds, and her teacher Martyr Chrysogonus and others (304)

### January 7th

The Nativity according to the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

### January 8th

Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

### January 9th

Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

### January 11th

The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem

### January 14th

Circumcision of the Lord. St Basil the Great.

### January 15th

Repose of St Seraphim of Sarov

### January 19th

The Holy Theophany. The Baptism of The Lord

### January 20th

Synaxis of St John the Forerunner. St Brannock of Braunton (Devon)

### January 31st

Venerable Anthony the Great

### Services in 2013:

**February 3d, March 3d,  
April 7th**

## Contributors

We invite our parishioners to contribute material to this Newsletter. Your ideas, news, announcements, writings could be interesting to reader. Any requests for prayers are very welcome. Please send your contributions to Evelina [benevelina@mac.com](mailto:benevelina@mac.com)

Texts for this edition were taken from [www.pravoslavie.ru](http://www.pravoslavie.ru), <http://silouan.narod.ru/indexe.html>, <http://oca.org/> and other sites.