

## Saint of the Month: St Marina of Antioch beheaded 17<sup>th</sup> July 304 AD

Marina lived in what is now modern-day Pisidia, Turkey, in the early fourth century. Her father was a pagan priest, and her mother died in childbirth. The unwanted Marina was then left in the care of a nursemaid, who was later discharged of her duties and sent to work as a shepherdess. While still a teenager, Marina made a vow of perpetual chastity to God.

One day, while Marina was tending sheep, a Roman prefect attempted to seduce her. When she refused his advances, she was denounced as a Christian. Upon refusing to sacrifice to the pagan gods, she was subjected to various tortures, including being beaten with clubs and her skin being raked with iron combs. One rather interesting torment included plunging Marina into a cauldron of boiling water, out of which she came unharmed, singing God's praises.

Again imprisoned, the devil tried to frighten her three times. Once as a dragon he attempted to devour her, holding half of her body in his mouth. Praying, she made the sign of the cross and the beast was torn apart and vanished.

Again, he appeared as a man, black as night. She seized his hair and beat him with a hammer until he left her sight. Again, he grabbed her and threatened to kill her if she would not stop praying. She whipped him, and finally a light appeared from Heaven in the form of a cross. A white dove told her to rejoice for she had vanquished the enemy, and she was completely healed. She was eventually beheaded at the age of sixteen, around the year AD 304.

Until the sacking of Constantinople by Western crusaders in the year 1204, the relics of the Great Martyr Marina were in the Panteponteia monastery. According to other sources, they were located in Antioch until the year 908 and from there transferred to Italy. Now they are in Athens, in a church dedicated to the holy Virgin Martyr. Her venerable hand was transferred to Mount Athos, to Vatopedi Monastery.

From [https://orthodoxwiki.org/Marina\\_of\\_Antioch](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Marina_of_Antioch) under licence.

# The Apostle

The Monthly Magazine of St Aidan's Orthodox Church, Henderson Street, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 2JX Issue 1: July 2023



## Welcome to the Apostle!

Our new parish magazine is named after St Aidan of Lindisfarne; in his troparion: the Apostle of the North. "Apostle" comes from the Greek word "*apostolos*" which means "a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders."<sup>1</sup> So, as Orthodox Christians, we are ambassadors for Christ. This is our mission!

How does this affect me?

Any reasonable person would feel both privilege (the mark of grace) and awe to be called to some apostolic work. But that is what *all* the baptised are called to do, in some way or another, to give witness to Christ our Lord and Saviour. In this way, the Kingdom is advanced and the Church built up. *Fr Gregory*

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1. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/apostolos.html>

## What's On at St Aidan's ...

The weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July is a Big One! On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of July we have our pilgrimage to St Chad's Well in Chadkirk near Stockport. On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of July our bishop, Sayedna Silouan, will ordain Fr Deacon Daniel to the priesthood. Here are the details:

### Pilgrimage to Chad's Well:

<https://www.aidanorthodox.com/post/pilgrimage-to-st-chad-s-well>

### Ordination of Fr Deacon Daniel to the holy priesthood:

Sunday Hierarchical Liturgy, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 10.15 am followed by a bring and share reception party and Parish Council Meeting with the Metropolitan.



## Tuesdays 8pm Weekly Zoom Bible Study

Join anytime by asking Fr Gregory to be included in his weekly email giving the Zoom link for this Bible Study on the Gospel of St Mark. This is the shortest Gospel and a good place to start for studying the New Testament. After the live session, if you miss it, the recording will be available on Fr Gregory's YouTube Channel here:-

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GregoryHallam>

## Children's Corner Word Search



*There are 19 words in this word search. Can you find them?*

## Children's Competition (suitable for 8-12 years)

Choose just one of the words you have found in the Word Search and either design a piece of art, take a photo with a short explanation or write an article for your school magazine on this word, clearly showing the Christian content. A small prize will be given to the winning entry in August. Please give your entry to Fr Gregory by 31st July.

This is where church members play a vital role. You will meet such folk in the pub, at work, on the school run, on the bus ... anywhere in fact. We do not push the gospel in their faces (so to speak) but interesting conversations often arise when, quite naturally, topics are discussed which have a spiritual dimension; even if this is unrecognised.

Some of us find this prospect of responding to people's questions and concerns rather daunting. What if they ask a question to which I do not know the answer? I am not well informed about my faith—how can I then deal with these matters? The answer is two fold. First, in the situation itself and afterwards you need to pray: "what Lord should I say Lord?" - and then simply open your mouth and He will give you the words. Second, take every opportunity that the parish provides (and there are plenty provided here at St Aidan's!) to become better informed about Orthodox Faith and Life. Speak to the clergy and they will help you. Don't be shy! Dig deeper and you will find pure gold. Cast your net into the deep and many little and great fish will be caught into the net of the kingdom, a net not torn.

So, making disciples is also how we become Orthodox, including those of us who are Orthodox Christian already. Good fishing!

### Fr Gregory



## Looking back and forward ...

The last month has been a bumper month for baptisms with the following folk being received into the Church:

4<sup>th</sup> June Rhys Wynne and Simon Leitch-Devlin  
 25<sup>th</sup> June Jonathan Walters  
 2<sup>nd</sup> July Alistair, Cassie, Remi and Sienna Scrymgeour

Later we have these baptisms ...

9<sup>th</sup> July Leela Hiyabel Michael  
 6<sup>th</sup> August Pamela Arnold

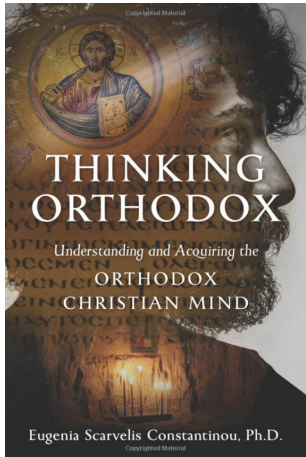
We have a number of enquirers and soon-to-be catechumens waiting in the wings for their formal instruction.

With so many people being received, we have set up a team of lay catechists, properly experienced and trained to assist the clergy. These are David Green, Oana Dragan, Daniel Polson, George Weymont, Aaron Malloy and (in training) Kameliya Konstantinova. Praise God that we are being blessed with so much growth in our community, not just in numbers but in depth of commitment to our Lord.



The Scrymgeour Family Baptism

## Book of the Month



*Book Review: Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Mind by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou*

In the foreword, Archpriest John McGuckin writes: "[Seek] that 'inner mind that grows on one, and in one, as a person accommodates him or herself to the growing culture of Orthodoxy

which being in the Church nurtures and fosters within a person." This is what St. Paul called 'that mindset which was in Christ Jesus,' the phronema [pronounced FROH-nee-mah] Christou (Phil 2.5). How this grows in us, and what it entails for those who wish to develop it, is the key subject of this book [p. xii].

Dr. and Presbytera Eugenia writes: "The Orthodox phronema allows us to accept who we are (our limitations) and who God is (the Unlimited) so that we may simply exist in the presence of God, worshipping the All-Holy Trinity.... [p. 16]....The Incarnation was the union of the human and divine in Christ. Through this union within His person, Jesus sanctified human nature and made it possible for us once again to be united with God... The cross is never separated from the Resurrection" [p. 55].

"All of us will fail. All of us will fall. Repeatedly. The greatest threat to our salvation is not falling but a lack of humility... We must continually check and reevaluate ourselves.... Do not forget [you] are called to 'be transformed by the renewal of your mind.'" [Rom 12.2] [pp. 102-103].

**Father Emmanuel** (please see me if you would like to order a copy)

Available from Amazon and Eden Books

## Becoming Orthodox Christian

All of us, including the baptised are BECOMING Orthodox. This is a process that never ends. Even after death, St Gregory of Nyssa taught that our ascent to God will be unending. However, we do need to make a start and that is what conversion and repentance are all about. Without this, "becoming Orthodox" would be just a question of increasing the numbers in church; church growth as a mere exercise in arithmetic. This is why at St Aidan's we take preparation for baptism very seriously indeed. The ascended Christ commissioned the Apostles to "... make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you ..." (Matthew 28:19-20) So, becoming Orthodox is about becoming an obedient disciple of Jesus Christ, whereby through conversion and repentance new birth may be found within the Church which is Christ's own very Body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

In order, therefore, that we as a community might be effective in making disciples, followers who stick to the way of the cross, some teaching, preparation and discernment needs to take place before baptism. For young people and adults this involves attending catechumenate sessions, usually by Zoom as this best suits people today. For infants we expect those parents without a history in our community to attend in person three sessions at the end of the Liturgy.

How do we reach out to find new disciples? Some just come and see as a result of their own spiritual journeys and explorations. Others may need encouragement to ask the deeper questions of life. Why am I here? Where am I headed?