

# The Forerunner

[www.saintjohnnewken.org](http://www.saintjohnnewken.org)

Vol 58, Nos. 4 & 5 - April / May

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He Must increase.....and I must decrease. (John 3:30)

## **IT IS PASCHA, NOT EASTER!**

by Fr. Michael Harper

I hear occasionally from someone who sometimes accuses the Orthodox Church of being "foreign", and so unsuitable for the British. A few days ago he sent me a card saying "the word in English is Easter". My reply was "the word in Greek (and, therefore, English), is Pascha".

This is a much more important subject than a mere dispute about words. If the word in English is Easter, then one is bound to ask "what word?" Was there some word which, when translated into English, became "Easter"? The plain answer is "no". There is one simple reason for this, Jesus Christ in the days of his flesh never visited these shores, and his words were not written in English. He spoke Aramaic, and his sayings were recorded in Greek, as were the words of the other NT writers like Paul and Peter. An example of the desire to replace the word "Pascha" with "Easter" is the King James version translation of Acts 12:4 which describes the arrest of Peter by Herod and his intention "after Easter to bring him forth to the people". The Greek word

here is pascha, and all modern translations rightly now translate the word "passover"

We need to realise also that there is no equivalent word for "Easter" in the Greek language, for one simple but important reason, the word is an Anglo-Saxon word for a pagan festival. The word in its original use is entirely pagan. According to the English Church historian Bede, it derives from a pagan spring festival in honour of Eastrā or Ostara a Teutonic goddess. It has no associations whatsoever with Christ, His death and Resurrection, or indeed anything Christian. Is it not, therefore, unsuitable to be used to describe the greatest day in the life of the Church? The French, Italians and Spanish do not make the same mistake. Their words come from the proper source — Passover, which in Greek is the word "Pascha".

Pascha is derived from the Jewish word Pesah which means "Passover". And here there is a direct link with the New Testament. In 1 Corinthians 5:7 we read, "for our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed". According to St John, Christ was crucified at the very time that the paschal lambs were being killed. There is another link with the Old Testament because of the importance to the Jews of the Feast of the Passover. The verbal form means to protect and to have compassion as well as "passover". The experience of the Israelites was literally a "passover", but it was also an experience of both God's compassion for his people, and a great act of protection, as for example, the passage through the Red Sea. The crucifixion and later Resurrection of Christ took place

during the Passover Feast. So for Christians Christ was clearly the Paschal Lamb, the fulfilment of all that the Passover had foreshadowed since the first Passover which celebrated the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Let us remember that because the word "Pascha" is in its origin a Hebrew word, by using it we are a witness to the Jewish community, for whom the Passover is still one of the most important words in their religious faith.

Orthodox believers living in the West have always been under pressure in all directions to conform to western ways, ideas and practices. There is nothing new in this. The Crusades were the worst and most blatant attempt by the West to bring the East to heel. But the pressures continue, albeit in more subtle ways. And one example of this is our constant temptation to drop the word "Pascha" and for clarity (and sometimes charity) use the western word "Easter". But perhaps the time has come for us to make a stand against this. In our increasingly secular and pagan society the use of a pagan word, of which no one knows the meaning, is hardly suitable to describe the greatest day in the Christian year. When most people knew the Christian meaning of the word "Easter" one could perhaps make out a case for using the word. But not today!

### **To be practical**

There are still some for whom the word "Easter" has all the right resonances. Let us not want for a moment to deprive them of that blessing. Easter for them does not mean hats, chocolate eggs, parades or watching football;

it means the Cross of Christ and his glorious Resurrection.

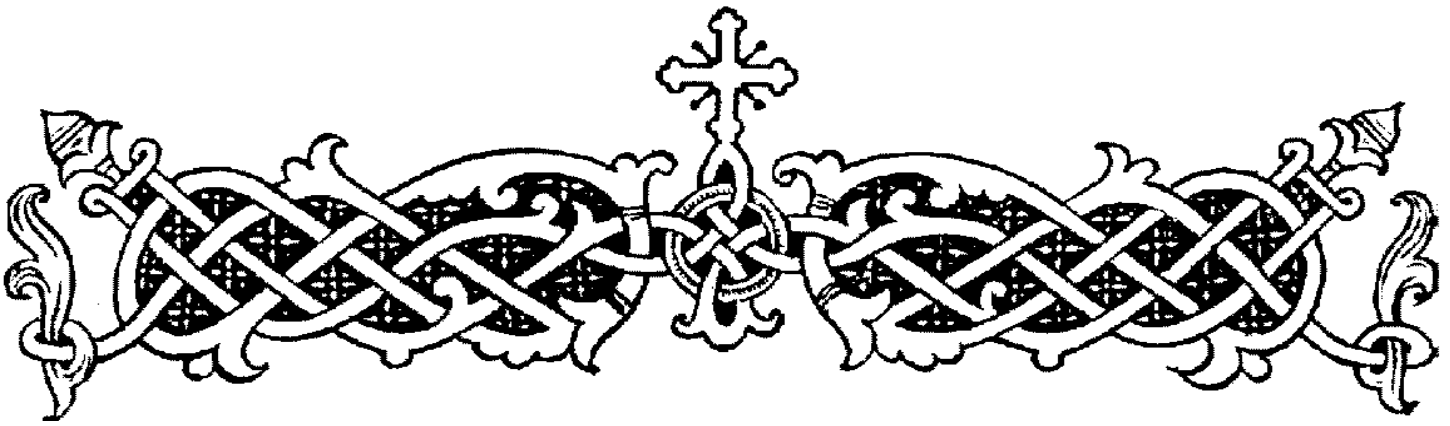
But let the Orthodox stick to the right word, which is "Pascha". Let us use it in our own circles, and discard the pagan word "Easter". We should do this — not to be different, but to be truthful.

However, when we are in mixed company, for the sake of clarity (and charity) let us use both words, if possible with a simple and humbly presented explanation. For example — "We shall soon be celebrating Pascha — or as you call it 'Easter'". Or, "we shall soon be celebrating Easter, or as we call it 'Pascha'".

We should encourage the West to unite with us in using the right word, which is Pascha.

And finally, let us not get dragged down with a dispute about mere words. St Paul warned believers in his day "to avoid wrangling about words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening" (2 Timothy 2:14). The important matter here is not what the Festival is called, but the reality of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. Yes, Christ is Risen! If we can agree there, then what we call it, important though that is, can be seen in its proper perspective.

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**  
**TRULY, HE IS RISEN!**



## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Roll Pickup – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Pre-sanctified Liturgy – 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - Lazarus Saturday Liturgy - 9:00 AM

- Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday**

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

- Diocesan Holy Unction

(St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral) – 5:00 PM

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Hours and Gospel – 9:00 AM

Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy – 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – **HOLY THURSDAY**

- Vesperal Liturgy – 9:00 AM

- **Matins with 12 Passion Gospels – 6:00 PM**

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – HOLY FRIDAY

- Royal Hours – 8:00 AM
- **Vespers with Burial Service – 3:00 PM**
- **Matins with Lamentations – 6:00 PM**

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – HOLY SATURDAY

- Vesperal Liturgy – 9:00 AM

## **PASCHAL SERVICES**

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 PM**

Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – Bright Monday Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – St. Thomas Sunday**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Grave Blessings**

**Mt. Airy – 2:00 PM**

**Union – 3:00 PM**

Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

## **MAY**

Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – Moleben, St Panteleimon - 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of Myrrh-bearing Women**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of the Paralytic**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> - Perogie Workshop**

**- Morning – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**- Evening – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – Perogie Workshop and Pickup

- Workshop – 8:00 AM – Done

- Pickup – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – Moleben St Panteleimon, 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of the Blind Man**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – Vespers (Ascension) – 6:30 PM

**Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Ascension Liturgy – 9:00 AM**

Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday of Fathers of the 1st Council**

**-Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

## **Altar Candles**

**Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**: were donated in memory of Theodore Woycio by Margaret Woycio and sons.

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - were donated for the health of Fr. Paul and Fr Nikolai, as well as Matushka Helen, and Matushka Liudmyla from the Youth Group.

**Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** – were donated for the health of Michael, Ronald Kremer, by Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen.

**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** – were donated by Mark Kennedy and Megan Kennedy for the health of Natasha Miller on her first Birthday!

**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** – were donated by Joan Hughes in memory of John Klos.

**3 Candles at St. Panteleimon** were donated by Garrete M. Blubaugh and Nancy J. Blubaugh for the health and well-being of Philip Carilli.

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** – were donated by Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen Ziatyk in memory of Pauline Ziatyk.

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** – were donated by Robert and Barbara Haught for the health and well-being of Becky Hanes on her birthday!

**3 Candles at the Golgotha** were donated by Margaret Woycio and family in memory of Walter (Vladimir) Woycio.

**New Resurrection Candle** was donated by Dawn Miller in memory of Alan Kennedy.



**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**: Were donated by Matushka Mila for the people of Ukraine!

**Memorial Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**: Were donated by Alexandra Eframo, in memory of Wasyl, Pauline, & Fred Eframo & Anna Golubowska.

**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** – were donated by Mary Eror in memory of Anna Sprock, and those departed of th Sprock, Eror, and Scarano families.

**Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**: Were donated for the health and well-being of the Rusnak Family. God grant them many years!

**Memorial Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Were donated by Andrew and Missy Rusnak in memory of the newly-departed Metropolitan Philip.

**Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** – were donated in memory of Charles Soulcheck, donated by Marlene Wray and Linda Soulcheck.

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**: Were donated for the health and well-being of Subdeacon Harry and Catherine Papaila.

**Memorial Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**: Were donated by Emily Havaran for the health and well-being of Susan Lauher and family.

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Fr. Nikolai in memory of the newly departed, Archpriest Alexander Atty.

**3 Candles at St. Panteleimon** are donated by Samantha, Zackary, Jackie, and Damian Ziatyk for the health and well-being of Dorothy and Don Chlodney.

## Falling Asleep

Walter Woycio fell asleep in the Lord, on Friday, February 28th. Please remember to keep Walter in your prayers. May God grant him rest where there is no more pain, nor sorrow, but life everlasting!

## Memorial Donations in Memory of Walter Woycio

Mr. and Mrs. Harry and Catherine Papaila

Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Dorothy

Mrs. Margaret Woycio and Family

Catherine Litvak

Greg Nesteruk

## Assessment Increase

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 all those in attendance at the special parish meeting agreed to an increase in the parish assessment of \$10 for each of the next three years. Meaning 2014's assessment will be \$210, assessments for 2015 will be \$220 and 2016 onward will be \$230. This decision was made to better fund the normal parish costs in response to an increase on the Archdiocesan level.

## Perogie Making

The next Perogie workshop will be May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Thank You!

**Stuffed Cabbage making 2/13:** Fr. Paul, Fr. Nikolai, Matushka Helen, Julianne Dailey, Leon Parshook, Becky Hixson, Elaine and Richard Duncan, Don Rywak, Dorothy and Don Chlodney

**Stuffed Cabbage Dinner 2/15:** Don and Dorothy Chlodney, Barbara Haught, Fr. Nikolai, Bruce Parshook, Alexis Parshook, Mark and Sue Kennedy, Evelyn Herrick, Valerie Kennedy, Seraphim and Mary Joyce, Nick Bia, Matthew Kowasic, Jean Trebilcock, Dawn Miller, Pam Kraynik

**Perogies 2/24 - 2/25:** Fr. Paul, Fr. Nikolai, Dorothy and Don Chlodney, Julianne Dailey, Barbara Haught, Alexis Parshook, Nick and Debbie Bia, Peter Kiproff, Don Rywak, Pam Kraynik, Frank Kaminsky, Mark and Sue Kennedy, Valerie Kennedy, Evelyn Herrick, Jean Trebilcock, Bruce and Linda Parshook, Kita Georgevich, Leon Parshook, Becky Hixson, Elaine and Richard Duncan and Subdeacon Harry Papaila.

**Rolls:** Don and Dorothy Chlodney, Barbara Haught, Becky Hixson, Valerie Kennedy, Leon Parshook, Fr. Nikolai

**Perogies 3/31 - 4/1:** Fr. Paul, Fr. Nikolai, Matushka

Mila, Alexis Parshook, Dorothy and Don Chlodney, Julianne Dailey, Peter Kiproff, Don Rywak, Pam Kraynik, Frank Kaminsky, Nick and Debbie Bia, Becky Hanes, Mark and Sue Kennedy, Beverly D'Amico, Evelyn Herrick, Valerie Kennedy, Marilyn Lucas, Jean Trebilcock, Janet Breckenridge, Bruce and Linda Parshook, Audrey Bartkowski, Kita Georgevich, Ellie and Leon Parshook, Becky Hixson, Marion Kuniak, Elaine and Richard Duncan and Subdeacon Harry Papaila.

## Paschal Donation

As is always the case, the Church relies on the donations of all those within her family to help fund her general operation. Please consider donating during this Paschal season using the attached envelope. May God bless preserve and keep you all!

