

**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA  
HELLENIC COMMUNITY OF WA**



**PARISH & COMMUNITY OF STS. CONSTANTINE & HELENE**

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

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## **St. Philoumenos the New Hieromartyr (Of Jacob's Well)**

*Fr Elpidios*

The Church of Sts. Constantine and Helene has recently acquired a small piece of relic of the New Martyr Philoumenos. This relic has been placed in a special case that also houses two other pieces of relics; that of St. Eustratios, whose feast day we commemorate on Dec 13, as well as that of the martyrs of St. Sava's Monastery near Jerusalem, whose feast day we commemorate on May 16.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem has decided that the feast day of St. Philoumenos be commemorated on November 29 each year, for this was the day that the saint was martyred. On this day each year our parish will be conducting the Divine Liturgy followed by with an *artoclasia* service. The relic of the saint will also be carried around the Church in a procession allowing the faithful to have the opportunity to venerate the saint's relic at the end of the service.

So who was St. Philoumenos? When did he live? What type of martyrdom did he experience? The following information will give us a better understanding of who St. Philoumenos was as well as reminding us that saints continue to exist even in our current day and age.

The holy Hieromartyr (priestmartyr) of the 20th century, Philoumenos the Cypriot, born in 1913, came from the village of Orounta of the province of Morphou. From a young age, he along with his brother Elpidios (who also became a priest) apprenticed the sacred letters of Christ near their grandmother. They namely studied the lives of the Saints and hymns of the Church. The Saint at the time, along with his brother left for the Monastery of Stavrovouni and stayed there for five years. Afterwards, they both left for Jerusalem. Saint Philoumenos stayed in Jerusalem for 46 years in which he was eventually given the duty of guarding the holy shrine of Jacob's Well. It was at this well that Christ had the famous dialogue with the Samaritan woman outlined in the gospel of John and which is read on the fifth Sunday after Easter.

Now the week before the saint's death a group of local fanatics came to the monastery at Jacob's Well claiming it as a Jewish holy place and demanding that all crosses and icons be removed. The saint responded by pointing out

that the floor upon which they were standing had been built by Emperor Constantine before 331 A.D. and had served as an Orthodox Christian holy place for sixteen centuries before the Israeli State was created, and had been in Samaritan hands eight centuries before that. The group left with threats and insults. After a few days, on 29 November 1979, during a torrential downpour, a group broke into the monastery as the saint was conducting the Vespers service. The piecemeal chopping of the three fingers with which he made the Sign of the Cross showed that he was tortured in an attempt to make him deny his Orthodox Christian Faith. His face also was cloven in the form of the Cross and various church and holy items were defiled. The body of the Saint was handed over to the Orthodox six days after his death, but retained its flexibility and was buried in the cemetery of Mount Zion. After four years, as is customary, his body was exhumed. It was found to be substantially incorrupt and had a beautiful scent. Then, the tomb was closed and was reopened during the Christmas of 1984, when the body was found to be partially incorrupt and was placed in a glass shrine in the northern part of the sacred Holy Altar in Mount Zion. The Hieromartyr Philoumenos was ranked among the Saints of the Church of Jerusalem on 30 August 2008, and hence then, his incorrupt body was transferred to the pilgrimage of Jacob's Well where he found martyrdom for the love of Christ.

A particular father of the monastery of St. Sava of Palestine by the name of Seraphim said about the Priestmartyr Philoumenos, "He was a holy man. He lived a righteous life, and that is why God made him worthy to become a martyr, giving him with the incorruption and fragrance of his body the grace of healing as an affirmation from above of his being in the land of the Righteous".

The Well of Jacob, where St. Philoumenos was martyred is "a historically and spiritually important monument for three monotheistic religions", notes the Metropolitan Morphou Neophytos and explains: "because of the well of Jacob it is a sacred place for the Jews, and because of the famous dialogue that took place between the Samaritan Woman (St. Photini) and Christ it is a holy site for Christians, and Muslims consider the site holy, because Jacob is one of the prophets of Islam".

The Hieromartyr Philoumenos, as related by his successor, Fr. Justin, "kept the Christian pilgrimage Christian". The Metropolitan of Morphou added that the Palestinian Authority gave permission to the inauguration of the church of St. Photini and the chapel of St. Philoumenos. Metropolitan Neophytos notes, "It was the most important event for me in the ten years that I have been bishop". There was contrition at the sacred services which took place in an atmosphere of great devotion, as Bishops and priests

from the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, clerics from the Metropolis of Morphou, the Monks of the Monastery of St. Nicholas Orountas who had written the life of the Holy Hieromartyr, clerics from Greece and a multitude of faithful from Greece and Cyprus all participated..."

(Source: <http://full-of-grace-and-truth.blogspot.com/2009/09/st-philoumenos-new-hieromartyr-of.html>)



Above: St. Philoumenos at Jacob's Well

(Taken from: <http://brianakira.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/st-philoumenos-the-new-martyr-of-jacobs-well-01.jpg>)



Above: The Church of St. Photini at Jacob's Well in Nablus as it appears today. Nablus is a Palestinian city in the northern West Bank, approximately 63 kilometers (39 mi) north of Jerusalem. The church has a chapel dedicated to and the holy relic of St. Philoumenos the New Hieromartyr who served there. There is also a chapel dedicated to St. Justin the Martyr, who was from Nablus.

(Taken from: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b2/Church\\_of\\_Bir\\_Ya%27qub.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b2/Church_of_Bir_Ya%27qub.JPG))

**Castellorizian Ladies Association**

**"Megisti" of WA.**

# **Christmas Lunch**

***Date:* Tuesday 7 December 2010**

***Venue:* Burswood Casino Resort, Burswood.  
Atrium Restaurant**

***Time:* 11.45am**

***Cost:* \$50.00 including soft drinks**

**For Tickets contact:**

**Fay Katris (92255471)**

**Christine Drimatis (94011903)**

**Rose Kalaf (92715505)**

**STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELENE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**JUNIOR CLASS FOR 4-12 YEAR OLDS  
SENIOR CLASS FOR 13-16 YEAR OLDS**

**TIME: 10.00 – 11.00AM**

*In the classroom adjacent to Fr Elpidios' office*

*Classes conducted during the School Term*

*All children welcome to attend*

**Sts. Constantine & Helene  
Weekday Divine Liturgies**

**8.00am - 10.00 am**

Thurs	25 Nov	Great Martyr Catherine
Fri	26 Nov	St Stylianos of Paphlagonia
Mon	29 Nov	St Philoumenos the Newmartyr
Tues	30 Nov	Apostle Andrew the First Called
Sat	04 Dec	Greatmartyr Barbara
Mon	06 Dec	St Nicholas of Myra
Wed	08 Dec	St Patapios
Thur	09 Dec	Conception of St Anna Mother of the Theotokos
Mon	13 Dec	St Eustratios
Wed	15 Dec	St Eleutherios and his mother St Anthia
Fri	17 Dec	St Dionysios of Zakynthos
Mon	20 Dec	St Ignatius the Godbearer

**The Supplication Service to the Theotokos  
Is recited every Tuesday morning at 9am**

## **PARISH NEWS**

### ***Infant Baptisms***

Congratulations to:

Nick Wenn and Natusha (nee) Petrelis on the baptism of their daughter Sophia. The godmother was Maria Karageorge.

George Stavrianos and Anne-Marie (nee) Johansen on the baptism of their daughter Athena. The godmother was Athena Nestoriadis.

Spiros Christou and Alexandra (nee) Friese on the baptism of their daughter Iliana. The godfather was Spiros Christou.

Charles Kampanelli and Christine (nee) Alebakis on the baptism of their daughter Anthea. The godmother was Androulla Kampanelli.

Saul Greer and Evgenia (nee) Ioannidou on the baptism of their son Alexandros. The godfather was Sotirios Ioannidis.

Greg Winning and Mary (nee) Tolia on the baptism of their son Gabriel. The godfather was Paul Papa-adams.

Paul Drain and Eve (nee) Gionis on the baptism of their son Alexandros. The godmother was Chrysanthi Simitzis.

Brad Davison and Alexandra (nee) Nestoriadis on the baptism of their daughter Athena. The godmother was Anne-Marie Stavrianos.

Nikolaos Souris and Panagiota (nee) Papamihalopoulos on the baptism of their daughter Theofania. The godfather was George Souris.

Vasilios Zempilas and Lisa (nee) Fogliani on the baptism of their son Apostolos. The godmother was Fotini Creemers.

### *Adult Baptisms*

Congratulations to Anne-Marie Johansen who was recently baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church. Anne-Marie received the name *Anna* – the mother of the Theotokos commemorated on July 25. The godmother was Spiridoula Stamelos.

Congratulations to Kylie Mcghie who was recently baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church. Kylie received the name *Ekaterina* . The godmother was Maria Coate.

### *Marriages*

Congratulations to the following newly weds who were recently married at the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helene:

- Julian Pritchard and Jessica (nee) Kounis. The *koumbara* was Georgia Bouhlas.
- Andrew Geroudis and Maria (nee) Gimisis. The *koumbara* was Paraskevou Geroudis.
- George Stavrianos and Anne-Marie (nee) Johansen. The *koumbara* was Spiridoula Stamelos.

### *Funerals*

Our deepest sympathy to the families of the following people who recently reposed in the Lord:

- Athanasios Begos aged 86
- George Varnavides aged 74
- Despina Kalaf aged 100
- Alexandra Zissis aged 76

## **Archbishop's Feast Day**

On Friday 26 November His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos will be celebrating his feast day. On behalf of the Parish & Community of Sts. Constantine & Helene we would like to wish His Eminence a blessed and holy feast day. May God, through the intercessions of St Stylianos of Paphlagonia, grant His Eminence many years and strength to continue his work in Australia.

## **Christmas Carols & Concert**

**Quarry Amphitheatre**

**Friday 17 December 2010**

**7pm**

**Purchase Your Tickets Now  
By Calling Fortis on  
0419 185 404**

## **Historical Findings of Major Religious Significance in Kastellorizo**

**Dr Paul Boyatzis**

Whilst carrying out routine maintenance work to the walls of the Cathedral of Saints Constantine and Helene in Kastellorizo, stone structures have been unearthed which may well be part of an earlier Church on the site believed to have been built by Saint Helene on her return journey from the Holy Land following her find of the Holy Cross.

Tradition has it that following the finding of the Cross and returning to Constantinople, Saint Helene took refuge in the safe harbor of Kastellorizo in order to avoid the treacherous seas that prevailed, as it was a common practice with sailors of times gone by. It is believed that by way of thanks giving the devout Christian and mother of Emperor Constantine, commissioned the building of a small church on the island.

Various photographs taken by me during my recent visit to Kastellorizo reveals an arched structure on the south eastern wall of the Church building with a cross at the apex which according to the island's well known priest, Father George Maltezos, may well be the entrance to the small original Church.

According to Father George permits for extensive excavations are imminent and if the findings are as suspected the significance for Kastellorizo and indeed for Christendom as a whole is mind boggling.

A reason for my visit to Kastellorizo with family and friends, including Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell and wife Jean, was to participate in the commemorative services on the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Empire Patrol Disaster, 29 September 1945.

The religious significance of the Patron Saints of Kastellorizo, Saints Constantine and Helene, in the lives of Kastellorizians is well known. Indeed our parish Church here in Perth is named in keeping with the Cathedral in Kastellorizo, even though of totally different structure.

The current Gothic church building was erected in 1835 on the site of yet another church (apart from the purported initial St Helene's dedication) and has a magnificent interior and superb marble *iconostasion*. The roof structure is supported by 12 ornate giant monolithic granite pillars which were transported by barges from Patara of Lycia (now Turkey). The pillars date from antiquity and formed part of the Temple of Apollo.

## **Εισόδια της Θεοτόκου**

**(21 Νοεμβρίου)**

Η ευσεβής Άννα σύζυγος του Ιωακείμ, πέρασε τη ζωή της χωρίς να μπορέσει να τεκνοποιήσει, καθώς ήταν στείρα. Μαζί με τον Ιωακείμ προσευχόταν θερμά στον Θεό να την αξιώσει να φέρει στον κόσμο ένα παιδί, με την υπόσχεση ότι θα αφιέρωνε το τέκνο της σε Αυτόν. Πράγματι, ο Πανάγαθος Θεός όχι μόνο της χάρισε ένα παιδί, αλλά την αξίωσε να φέρει στον κόσμο τη γυναίκα που θα γεννούσε το Μεσσία, το Σωτήρα μας Ιησού Χριστό. Όταν η Παναγία έγινε τριών χρόνων, σύμφωνα με την παράδοση, η Άννα και ο Ιωακείμ, κρατώντας την υπόσχεσή τους, την οδήγησαν στο Ναό και την παρέδωσαν στον αρχιερέα Ζαχαρία. Ο αρχιερέας παρέλαβε την Παρθένο Μαρία και την οδήγησε στα Άγια των Αγίων, όπου δεν έμπαινε κανείς εκτός από τον ίδιο, επειδή γνώριζε έπειτα από αποκάλυψη του Θεού το μελλοντικό ρόλο της Αγίας κόρης στην ενανθρώπιση του Κυρίου. Στα ενδότερα του Ναού η Παρθένος Μαρία έμεινε δώδεκα χρόνια. Όλο αυτό το διάστημα ο αρχάγγελος Γαβριήλ προμήθευε την Παναγία με τροφή ουράνια. Εξήλθε από τα Άγια των Αγίων, όταν έφθασε η ώρα του Θείου Ευαγγελισμού.

*(<http://www.saint.gr/2010/11/21/3671/saint.aspx>)*

**ΑΝ ΠΕΘΑΝΕΙΣ ΠΡΙΝ ΠΕΘΑΝΕΙΣ  
ΔΕ ΘΑ ΠΕΘΑΝΕΙΣ ΟΤΑΝ ΠΕΘΑΝΕΙΣ**

*(Παροιμία Ορθοδόξων Μοναχών)*