

Consecration of the Church of Saint Aidan and Saint Chad - 12th February 2011

On Saturday 12th February 2011 Archbishop Elisey consecrated our Church. Vladyka was assisted by our Dean, Fr Gennady Andreev, and our parish priest, Fr Gregory Butler. We were also privileged to have with us two priests of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese in Great Britain - Fr. Dan Ghindea, who serves the Parish of St Peter and St Paul in Nottingham, and Fr Constantin Popescu, who serves the Parish of St Makarios the Great in Leeds - making the consecration a truly pan-Orthodox event. The consecration had been preceded by a Vigil on the night before, during which all of the materials required for the consecration were assembled.

The rite of consecration itself was very moving, with much of it centring around the holy table, which had the holy relics deposited into it, and which was then baptised and chrismated. After this, the entire church was liberally sprinkled with holy water, and all four corners of the church were anointed with holy chrism. A good account of what happens during the consecration of a church can be found [here](#).

After the Liturgy which followed, Fr Gennady thanked Vladyka on behalf of the parish, remarking that this was a new beginning for our parish, and that the blessings of the consecration would surely help us all for many years. Vladyka was then presented with a book by Joseph, our church warden, and flowers by Alexandra, our parish secretary. In his speech, Vladyka pointed out that the day of the consecration fell, by happy coincidence, on the Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs - St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, and St John Chrysostom. These great men of the Church had spread the gospel throughout the world, and this is exactly what our own patron saints and hierarchs, St Aidan and St Chad, had done in these isles. Vladyka thanked Fr Gennady for organising the event and also thanked Fr Gregory for his many years of service to the Orthodox Faith in Nottingham. Finally, Vladyka thanked the rest of the clergy, the choir, and all the people who had attended the event.

During the feast after the liturgy, we were joined by Fr Vasileios Koutsogiannis of the Archdiocese of Thyateira, who serves the Greek Orthodox parish of St Mary Elousa in Nottingham. The day was rounded off, appropriately, by the baptism of Photini.

Although church consecrations are a relatively rare event in this country, a number have already taken place or been scheduled this year within our Diocese, and this is surely a great sign of hope!

Tom Cook