



HROS



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Parishes Of The
Orthodox Church
In Indonesia -
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Patriarchate

NEWS

WORLD



Message Of
His All-Holiness
Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew
Regarding Covid-19

SINGAPORE AND SOUTH ASIA



Cyclone Amphan:
Kolkata Devastated
as Cyclone Kills
Scores In India And
Bangladesh

INDONESIA



Orthodox Mission
Journey in Bali, Kupang
NTT and Timor Leste

HOMILY



I Love You
by Fr. Stephanos
Boik Nino - All
Saints Parish
Singaraja Bali

SYNAXARION



Commemoration of
St. Justin Martyr the
Philosopher

PATRISTIC



On Repentance by St.
John Chrysostom



MESSAGE OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW REGARDING COVID-19



Brother hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

From the Phanar, from the heart of the Queen of Cities, from the City of the Great Church and of Haghia Sophia, we are communicating with each and every one of you – women, men, and children – because of the unprecedented conditions and tribulation that we are facing as a human race as a result of the global threat posed by the pandemic of the new coronavirus, called Covid-19.



The voice of the Church, of the Mother Church, cannot be silent in such times. Our words, then, take the form we have learned through the ages: through the liturgy and through instruction, with encouragement and consolation.

We sincerely thank all those who struggle with self-sacrifice, even neglecting themselves and their families, including:

- Medical and nursing professionals at the front lines, beside our brothers and sisters who are suffering,
- Researchers and scientists searching for proper medication and vaccination to deliver us from this virus, but also
- All those actively working hard to address this pandemic.

Your contribution is invaluable. It is an offering to all of society. It is a sacrifice that deserves every honor and gratitude. All of us thank you and applaud you, not only from the windows of our homes, but everywhere and at all times. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you.

In this struggle, our appointed states, governments and appropriate health authorities have the



primary responsibility for planning, confronting and overcoming this crisis. We might describe them as Commanders on the battlefield against an invisible, but now well-known, enemy. An enemy that has turned against humanity.

The burden of the responsibility, that they bear on their shoulders, by necessity demands the cooperation of us all. Now is the time of personal and social responsibility.

Therefore, our dear children, we entreat you as your spiritual father to respond faithfully and patiently to all the difficult but necessary measures proposed by our health authorities and nations. Everything is being done for our protection, for our common good, in order to contain the spread of this virus. Our liberation from this distress depends entirely on our own cooperation.

Perhaps some of you have felt that these drastic measures undermine or harm our faith.

However, that which is at stake

is not our faith – it is the faithful.

It is not Christ – it is our Christians.

It is not the divine-man – but human beings.

Our faith is firmly established in the roots of



our culture. Our faith is a living faith, and there is no exceptional circumstance that can limit or suppress it. What must be limited and suppressed in these extraordinary circumstances are gatherings and large congregations of people. Let us remain in our homes. Let us be careful and protect those around us. And there, from our homes, strengthened by the power of our spiritual unity, let each and every one of us pray for all humankind.

We will pass through this period like a journey through the desert to reach the Promised Land, where science, by the grace of God, will overcome this virus.

We are certain that, through our prayers as well, science will indeed prevail. So it is good for us to remain united in spirit, as we continue the struggle of repentance and holiness.

We see our neighbors suffering from the consequences of the virus, while others have already fallen and departed from among us. Our Church hopes and prays for the healing of the sick, for the souls of the departed, and for courage and strength to the families of the afflicted.

This trial, too, shall pass. The clouds will clear,



and the Sun of Righteousness will eliminate the deadly effect of the virus. But our lives will have changed forever. This trial is an opportunity for us to change for the better. In the direction of establishing love and solidarity.

Beloved children in the Lord, may the blessing of the Lord, through the intercessions of the All-Holy Mother of God, accompany us in our journey, transform our voluntary isolation into genuine communion, and become our prayer and destination to appreciate the meaning of this, so that we may return to that which is true, to that which is pleasing to God!

Have courage! And may God be with us!

Source: <https://www.omsgsa.org/archives/5175>





CYCLONE AMPHAN: KOLKATA DEVASTATED AS CYCLONE KILLS SCORES IN INDIA AND BANGLADESH



The eastern Indian city of Kolkata has been devastated by a powerful cyclone which has killed at least 84 people across India and Bangladesh.

Amphan made landfall on Wednesday, lashing coastal areas with ferocious wind and rain. The storm is weakening as it moves north into Bhutan.

Thousands of trees were uprooted in the gales, electricity and telephone lines brought down and houses flattened. Many of Kolkata's roads are flooded and its 14 million people without power.

The storm is the first super cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal since 1999. Though its winds



had weakened by the time it struck, it was still classified as a very severe cyclone.

Coronavirus restrictions have been hindering emergency and relief efforts. Covid-19 and social-distancing measures made mass evacuations more difficult, with shelters unable to be used to full capacity.

Amphan began hitting the Sundarbans, a mangrove area around the India-Bangladesh border home to four million people on Wednesday afternoon, before carving north and north-eastwards towards Kolkata, a historic city that was the capital of the British Raj and widely known as Calcutta.

Parts of West Bengal and Orissa (also known as Odisha) states in India, and areas in south-west Bangladesh, bore the brunt, with winds gusting up to 185km/h (115mph). At least 80 people have died in India's West Bengal state, and 12 deaths have been confirmed in Bangladesh.

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said the devastation in Kolkata, the state capital, was “a bigger disaster than Covid-19”. “Area after area has been ruined,” Ms Banerjee was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India news agency. “I have experienced a war-like situation today.”

Three districts in West Bengal – South and



North 24 Parganas and East Midnapore – were very badly hit. In Bangladesh, there are reports of tens of thousands of homes damaged or destroyed and many villages submerged by storm surges in low-lying coastal areas like Khulna and Satkhira. The authorities evacuated nearly 2.5 million people ahead of the cyclone. Initial assessments of the damage are being hampered by blocked roads and flooding in all these areas.

Source: <https://www.omsgsa.org/archives/5689>



ORTHODOX MISSION JOURNEY IN BALI, KUPANG NTT AND TIMOR LESTE

Fr. Stephanos Boik Nino - All Saints Parish
Singaraja Bali



Chapel of Sts. Peter & Paul Singaraja Bali

Beginning from a small Chapel in the Island of the Gods, the Parish of All Saints officially begun journey in 2005 at Jl, Dewi Uma No. 3, Bangkang Baktiseraga, Singaraja, Buleleng Bali, which is shepherded by Father Stephanos Boik Nino and is home to around fifty members. After ordina-



tion as Deacon on June 9th 1998 and as Priest on June 10th 1998 by His Eminence Nikitas Loulias, Metropolitan of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, Ecumenical Patriarchate, in Surakarta, Central Java, the shepherd of the flock began his ministry on August 6th 1998.

This missionary journey of the Ecumenical Patriarchate begun as a mustard seed that budded and grew in Bali, a lady named Jero Anna Maria K. Moertini Fedore, wife to Laurence Fedora in Portland, United States, that often met a Monk from Mount Athos and founder of a Monastery in the United States, Elder Ephraim. Through him, mrs. Jero Anna was called to Baptism, and on April 9th 1995, together with both children and grandchildren were baptized in the Orthodox Church of the Most-Holy Trinity in Surakarta. Out of this calling, the first Orthodox Chapel was founded in Bali on June 29th 1995, named Sts. Peter & Paul at Jl. Kresna, Gang 1 No. 1.

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ in Tabor became the first Divine Liturgy on the Island of the Gods in the Chapel of Sts. Peter & Paul and was attended by mrs. Valentine's household, her three daughters, and Presbytera Theresia Nino. As time passed and the congregation increased beyond the Chapel's capacity, a decision was made to purchase a plot and build a Church. Although it was not an easy journey, the



Present day ministry at Villa Kalimera, Kuta, Denpasar Bali

Lord stretched His help for His people through a charitable elderly lady, so that the plot was acquired and the building was completed on time. The 108.8 square meter building was built by our brother Spyridon Agus in three months and five days

Other than ministering to the congregation in Singaraja, Father Stephanos continued to expand the Orthodox mission in other parts of Bali,



including in Kuta Denpasar, which was begun in 2002 in the house of a member of the congregation. Although this ministry stopped due to spatial limitation, the Liturgy was again celebrated in 2003 in a restaurant in Kuta. After successive moves, in 2020 the Liturgy is celebrated in a room in Villa Kalimera through the assistance of Mrs. Veronika



Divine Liturgy and ministry in Timor Leste

In 2004 the mission was expanded to NTT and began in a cottage belonging to the late Mr. Benediktus Bene Kaha. When the congregation increased, Father Stephanos looked for a plot and built a Church for the congregation, which was begun in 2009 on a plot of land donated by Mr. Theofilus Ndolu, was completed in 2010 and was named Agios Cosmas Aitolos

Apart from ministry to the congregation in



Home of a member of the congregation prior to the founding of the Church of Agios Cosmas Aitolos Kupang NTT

NTT, the size of the congregation in Timor Leste continued to increase, so that Father Stephanos initiated ministry there. The first Divine Liturgy at the Parish of St. Andrew the Apostle in Timor Leste was celebrated on October 25th 2013 at the family residence of Savas Marcelino de Carvalho, eventually ordained as Deacon on November 13th 2017. On August 24th 2018, Deacon Savas was ordained as a Priest by His Eminence Konstantinos Tsilis, Metropolitan of Singapore and South Asia, Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the Orthodox Parish of Agios Demetrios Medan, North Sumatera, for ministry in Kupang and Dili



"I LOVE YOU"

Fr. Stephanos Boik Nino - All Saints Parish
Singaraja Bali



Often we hear of and read news of teenage girls who abort or leave their children because they shun shame. In the past, both me and Presbyteria had been exposed to such an event. We lived with several Christian youths who daily sang and praised the Lord. A girl who lodged with us unexpectedly aborted her child. We were shocked because the fetus was placed on a dish and buried in the yard behind our lodging place

How does the Lord love us?

Does He love us in the same way as these so-



called Christian youths did?

Certainly not. The Lord's love is totally different. He loves sincerely, perpetually, and endlessly. Our life continues only through the breath that He grants us. For He so loves us His children, that He would never leave us on our own. He will always guide and be with us unto His appointed time, so that we shall not fear of anything happening in our life. As a father who keeps his child safe from fear, because he continually protects and holds his hand, so that the child feels safe with the father. Likewise the Lord is as our Father who guides our hand in every step of our life

Thus saith the Lord in Isaiah 49:15-16:

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me”

No matter what happens, the Lord shall not forget nor leave you. He holds the lives of all people in His hands

To you, the youths of the Orthodox Church in Indonesia, regardless of the problems and struggles you are facing, you are precious and honorable in the Lord's eyes. Remember that you are the Lord's own and greatly beloved of Him. Do



not fear, for He has graven your names upon the palms of His hands (Isaiah 43:1-5)

The Lord Jesus be with you always. Amen!



COMMEMORATION OF ST. JUSTIN MARTYR THE PHILOSOPHER

[Second Century]



The Holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher was born at Sykhem – an ancient city of Samaria. Justin's parents, being Greeks, were pagan. From the time of his childhood the saint displayed profundity of mind, love for knowledge and a fervent devotion to the cognition of Truth. When



he came of age he studied the various schools of Greek philosophy: the Stoics, the Peripatetics (Aristotelians), the Pythagoreans, the Platonists – and he concluded, that none of these pagan teachings revealed the way to the knowledge of the True God.

Once, when he was strolling in a solitary place beyond the city and pondering about where to seek out the way to the knowledge of Truth, he met an old man, who in the ensuing conversation revealed to Justin the essential essence of the Christian teaching and advised him to seek out the solutions to all the questions of life in the books of Holy Scripture. “But before anything else, – said the holy elder, – pray diligently to God, so that He might open to thee the doors of Light. No one is able to comprehend Truth, unless it be given him in understanding by God Himself, Who revealeth it to each that seeketh Him in prayer and in love”

In his 30th year of life Justin accepted holy Baptism (between the years 133 and 137). From this time Saint Justin devoted his talents and vast philosophical knowledge to preaching the Gospel among the pagans. He began to journey about



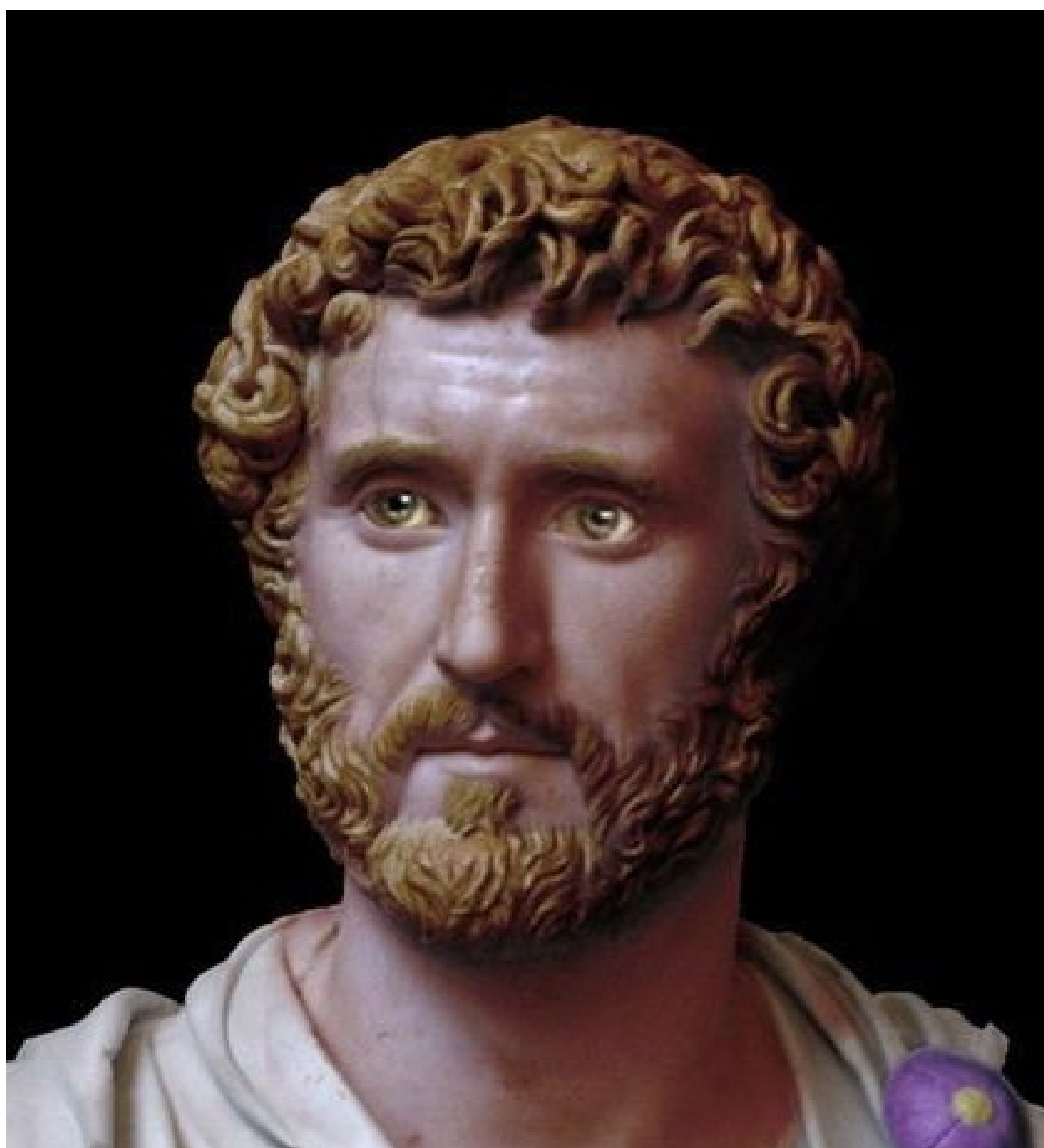
throughout the Roman empire, everywhere sowing the seeds of the faith of salvation. “Whosoever is able to proclaim Truth and does not proclaim, that one will be condemned by God”, – he wrote.

Justin opened up a school, where he preached Christian philosophy. Saint Justin subsequently defended the veracity and the salvificity of the Christian teaching, persuasively confuting pagan sophistry (thus, for example, in a debate with the Cynic philosopher Crescentius) and heretical distortions of Christianity (in particular, he spoke out against the teachings of the Gnostic, Marcian).

In about the year 155, when the emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161) started a persecution against Christians, Saint Justin personally gave him an “Apologia” (Apology) in defense of Christians innocently condemned to execution – Ptolemy and Lucias, the name of a third remaining unknown. In the “Apologia” he demonstrated the falseness of the slander against Christians accused “unjustly for the mere name as loathsome and transgressive Christians”. The “Apologia” made such a favourable effect upon the emperor, that he ceased with the persecution.



Saint Justin journeyed with the decision of the emperor to Asia Minor, – where they were persecuting Christians with particular severity, and he himself distributed the joyous message about the imperial edict throughout the surrounding cities and countryside.



Roman emperor Antoninus Pius

At Ephesus occurred the debate of Saint Justin with the Rabbi Trypho. The Orthodox philosopher on the basis of the Old Testament prophetic writings demonstrated the truth of the Christian teaching of faith. Saint Justin gave an account of this debate in his work “Dialogue with Trypho the Jew”.



A second “Apologia” of Saint Justin was addressed to the Roman Senate. It was written in the year 161, soon after Marcus Aurelius (161-180) ascended the throne.

Having returned to Italy, Saint Justin, like the Apostles, preached everywhere the Gospel and by his Divinely- inspired words he converted many to the Christian faith. When the saint arrived at Rome, the envious Crescentius – whom Justin always defeated in debate – brought against him many false accusations before the Roman court. Saint Justin was put under guard, subjected to torture and accepted a martyr’s death (+ 166).

In addition to the above-mentioned works, the following array of compositions belong to the holy martyr Justin the Philosopher: “Observations about the Soul”, “Demonstration against the Hellenes”, “Speech against the Hellenes”. Saint John Damascene preserved a significant part of a non-surviving work of Saint Justin “About the Resurrection”. The church historian Eusebios asserts, that by Saint Justin were written books entitled “The Singer”, “Denunciation of all Existing Heresies” and “Against Marcian”.



The relics of Saint Justin the Philosopher rest in Rome.

Troparion Tone I

‘Thou didst empty the cup of the wisdom of the Greeks, and thou didst thirst yet again, till thou camest unto the well where thou foundest water springing to eternal life. And having drunk deeply thereof, thou didst also drink the cup that Christ gave to His disciples. Wherefore, O Justin, we praise thee as a philosopher and Martyr of Christ.’

Kontakion Tone II

‘Adorned with the wisdom of thy divine words, O Justin, the whole Church of God illumineth the world with the radiance of thy life. Having received a crown because of the outpourings of thy blood, standing with the angels before Christ pray thou unceasingly for us all.’



ON REPENTANCE

BY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM



‘Pay attention carefully. After the sin comes the shame, courage follows repentance. Did you pay attention to what I said? Satan upsets the order, he gives the courage to sin and the shame to repentance’

PARISHES OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN INDONESIA - METROPOLITAN OF SINGAPORE AND SOUTH ASIA - ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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- St. Evdokia Orthodox Parish Hausisada-Sada Tarutung
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