

## FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION BUCHAREST



Dear Friends,

February has seen some very wintry weather in Bucharest, as those of you who live here will know only too well, and I am happy to report that our church building seems to have weathered the storm. Despite the weather Church services were ably conducted during my absence on holiday and I managed to return as planned, although a flight cancellation, an airline suspension, and a strike-threatened airport combined to imperil my return!

Spring is approaching and with spring comes not only Easter but the **Britannia Ball**. This will be held on Saturday, 21st April, in the Hilton hotel in Bucharest. It promises to be a very jovial and entertaining occasion. The date of the Ball is the actual birthday of Queen Elizabeth II in 1926 and so will be a particularly appropriate day on which to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of her reign. Those attending will be able to write their own messages to the Monarch on pages to be bound into a book by the Diocese in Europe and presented to Her Majesty. There will also be souvenirs of the Jubilee available on the night.

21st April is also the Saturday before St George's Day and Shakespeare's Birthday on 23rd April, and ANZAC Day on 25th April, and so is an excellent opportunity for English people, Australians and New Zealanders, and lovers of English literature, as well as all who admire The Queen, to gather together and have a good time. This is a major feature of our very necessary fund-raising programme and we are very keen to involve as many people as possible. Tickets cost 100 euros each, though there is a discount of 10% on tables of ten booked a month in advance. For further information and to purchase tickets please contact Lillah Houghon on 0723737006 or Alexandra Slater at [britanniaball12@gmail.com](mailto:britanniaball12@gmail.com). Any prizes donated for the tombola and the silent auction will be much appreciated.

Another special occasion is St Patrick's Day on Saturday 17th March, when there will be an ecumenical service at 11 a.m. in church to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland. All are welcome to attend. At the service last year we were presented with our fine icon of St Patrick. This icon has had quite a busy time recently, participating in the procession of icons past the church on Orthodoxy Sunday and being filmed outside the Athenaeum by Irish television.

Our sequence of Early Music Concerts has continued with a fascinating performance of music for baroque recorder played by three talented musicians from Cluj. They brought with them a splendid variety of instruments and played them with great aplomb. The programme was very international and included English music from the first Elizabethan era. The next concert in the series will be a harpsichord recital to be given in church at 7 p.m. on Friday 30th March. Tickets cost 15 RON and will be

available on the door before the performance. The programme will consist of music composed for the royal court of France.

In addition to our Sunday services at 10 a.m. there are Wednesday celebrations of Holy Communion at 1 p.m. on 14th, 21st and 28th March. In Holy Week (Western Style) there will be services at 6 p.m. on Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion), Good Friday (Good Friday Liturgy) and Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil). On our Easter Day (8th April) there will be a Communion service at the usual time of 10 a.m. The Orthodox world will be celebrating Easter the following week, when I will be in Bulgaria, observing Holy Week and Easter with our community in Sofia.

In the meantime I wish you a holy and happy Lent and hope that you will worship with us whenever possible and in any case remember us in your prayers. We value your support and I pray that God will bless and protect you as together we await the spring and the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, whose risen presence with us we cherish and proclaim.

Best wishes,

Father Patrick