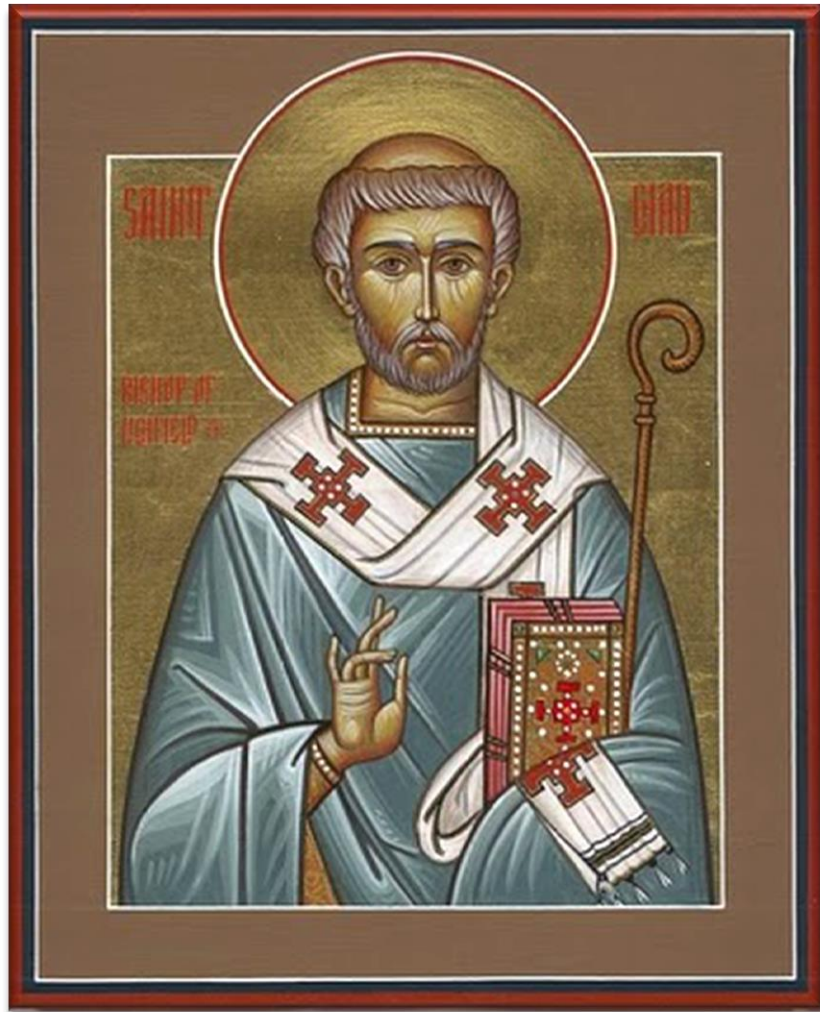


Akathist to Saint Chad The Wonderworker



**For the keeping of our hierarchs in
health and length of days
For deliverance of illnesses
For the preservation of Orthodox lands**

Kontakion 1

As a true shepherd of the flock of Christ, you brought the Orthodox Christian faith to the land of Mercia. In following the example of the Holy Apostles, you ministered to your flock, traversing the land on foot. Refusing earthly riches, you proclaimed that you are not above the common man.

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Ikos 1

Champion of truth and teacher of spiritual awakening! Thrice blessed disciple of our great father Aidan, forever we shall call upon your intercessions. Teach us to partake of your greatness, O good shepherd of the Mercian land. Your defense of the suffering is renowned, and shall be remembered forever in the hearts of all people:

Rejoice, great Apostle of the Mercian people!

Rejoice, grand Enlightener of the Midlands!

Rejoice, boast of Yorkshire, whose holiness is beholden to you!

Rejoice, you who were taught by a saint and did in turn instruct others to holiness!

Rejoice, new Aidan, frail in body but strong in spirit!

Rejoice, you teach the Wisdom of the Word, that we may receive eternal life!

Rejoice, revered father so willing to offer hope and love!

Rejoice, you walked the straight and narrow path to righteousness!

Rejoice, you who proclaim unto all the Good News that “Christ is Risen!”

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 2

Bearing great qualities of both mind and spirit, the greatest of your fruits, was the ever presence of God in you. All who approached you bore witness to it; therefore, may Christ grant us the steadfastness to emulate you in both word and deed, as we cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Following Christ's Command to "Go Forth," as a witness, you proclaimed the Gospel with holy Egbert. Owing to your labors, many in Ireland found the True Faith of Jesus Christ, and found refuge in His Holy Church.

Rejoice, new Patrick, apostolic are your endeavors and worthy is your blessedness!

Rejoice, sing Brigit and Ita, "this grand isle is hallowed again"!

Rejoice, new Kieran, sojourning on the plains of the Emerald Isle!

Rejoice, for Finnian and Nayour adore your Irish labors!

Rejoice, new Kevin, monk and solitary, robed in virtue!

Rejoice, Ireland cries out, for her land was blessed by your works!

Rejoice, new Brendan, "sailing" on foot to new lands preaching the Gospel of Christ!

Rejoice, new Columba, miracle-worker for a scattered flock!

Rejoice, for the saints of Ireland sound forth their unchanging song!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 3

Aware of your revered holiness as Abbot of Lastingham, the Northumbrian King Oswy demanded you as bishop for the See of York. Unwilling to accept such a task, you did so only in obedience to your brethren. Your humble-mindedness greatly shines forth for all the ages to bear witness, and we shall forever cry: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

O great hierarch Chad, when your episcopate was questioned by the holy Theodore, you relinquished it with great piety, calling your “unworthiness” and “only in obedience” as reason. So moved by such humility, Theodore found in you a true image of the High Priesthood, and called upon you to be bishop of Mercia in your emulation of Christ, help us to emulate you, O vessel of true Christian humility:

Rejoice, you took up the Episcopal throne through
obedience, only to relinquish it through obedience!

Rejoice, boast of men and adoration of kings!

Rejoice, you toiled onward to new lands and new tasks!

Rejoice, for Theodore of Tarsus saw your true worthiness!

Rejoice, keeper of the Faith of Christ the Lord!

Rejoice, first Bishop of Lichfield, through your works,
miracles arose and wonders came to pass!

Rejoice, you brought the True Faith to whom God has
chosen!

Rejoice, true friend of Christ, exalted in heaven and on earth!

Rejoice, teacher of God’s Truth kept undefiled within His
Holy Church!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 4

You knew well the wisdom of the Holy Fathers, that “there is nothing here for us.” You taught your flock the fleeting nature of this life, and the glory that is with God alone. Comfort us now, for we are weak, and we look to you as our model of renewal in Him, singing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

O great Enlightener of Mercia, after learning of the great martyrs who perished under Diocletian on the plains of Lichfield; you honored their sacrifice by moving the Mercian See to the place of their martyrdom, proclaiming to all the glory of them who truly follow Christ the Lord:

Rejoice, great Arch pastor, filled with love and kindness for all people!

Rejoice, celebrated witness to the heathen of Northumbria!

Rejoice, jewel of Lichfield and protector of all Mercia!

Rejoice, witness truly worthy of “God’s Call”!

Rejoice, you show to all the glory of the martyrs of Lichfield!

Rejoice, humble bishop, meekly walking the earth!

Rejoice, pious elder, humility is your virtue!

Rejoice, you served the faithful with a singular love!

Rejoice, firm protector of your people in flesh and in spirit!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 5

Arch pastor for only three years, you emulated Christ in every manner. O bearer of the Heavenly Spirit, establishing churches and monasteries, and calling a great many to “put on Christ.” We honor you, O great wonderworker and champion of Christ’s Holy Church, singing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 5

As the Venerable Bede has written, “in humility and self denial you traveled about, not on horseback, but on foot, after the manner of the Holy Apostles, preaching the Gospel in towns and open country, in cottages, villages and palaces.” Truly apostolic were your labors, O Apostle of Mercia. We look upon you as a source of inspiration to all:

Rejoice, for the Holy Apostles sing your praise!

Rejoice, you walked the earth preaching the Word of God!

Rejoice, radiant wanderer of Christ’s Church!

Rejoice, O “Nicholas of the Isles”, image of meekness whose love brought renown!

Rejoice, wise witness, traversing the Midlands with cheer and Christian hospitality!

Rejoice, heavenly patron of Lichfield!

Rejoice, faithful companion of Christ on earth!

Rejoice, great Enlightener, for your memory deserves a place in every heart!

Rejoice, through your life and labors the Church accomplishes Her Divine task!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 6

Following the Apostle Paul’s charge to “Pray without ceasing,” you sought solitude at the bottom of the well. Gaining spiritual wisdom in unceasing prayer, you obtained the greatest gift, beholding the Uncreated Light, and we sing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 6

While hunting their quarry, the heathen sons of Wulfhere found you praying in silence. So impressed by your sight, a frail old man upon his knees, face

glowing in prayer, they knelt before you and asked your blessing. They found true holiness in earthly flesh, and asked to be baptized into Christ. Then the wicked Wulfhere, the Mercian King, having fallen into the hands of the evil one, was filled with great anger and slew them both. Seeking the same for you, he approached your humble cell and bore witness to a great sight, a blinding light, the Uncreated Light that shone upon you. We follow the cry of King Wulfhere, “holy hierarch Chad, have mercy on me!”

Rejoice, hallowed vessel of the Uncreated Light!

Rejoice, the power of the Holy Spirit came upon you!

Rejoice, the wisdom of the Holy Fathers is championed by you!

Rejoice, for the martyrs Wulfhad and Ruffin, sons of Wulfhere, sing your praise!

Rejoice, the saints exult, for their knowledge is shown forth in you!

Rejoice, for the toil of your hands built houses of God!

Rejoice, spiritual father gifted with the Light of Christ!

Rejoice, teacher of the sanctified and bulwark of the truth!

Rejoice, dearly loved Mercia, land blessed with the milk and honey of grace!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 7

O miracle-maker! Healing ailments of the flesh and pangs of the soul, proclaiming the Word of God on foot! Boast of God’s elect and glorious intercessor! How can we who are sinful recall such great feats, when our own souls are filled with evil and mold? We cry to you, beseech our Eternal Lord, the Holy and Divine Word, to fill our iniquitous hearts with Christian love and virtue, singing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 7

Giving help to the helpless, and hope to the afflicted, your miracle-working relics bear the healing grace of God. He has given you the power to work wonders. In you His greatness is shone forth; thus now and forever we join the angelic hosts in song, glorifying Our Father in the heavens:

Rejoice, O blessed miracle-maker of the Isles!

Rejoice, abundant grace shining forth from your holy relics!

Rejoice, aid us towards the bond that you have with the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, exalted healer of the spiritually sick!

Rejoice, you who help us turn base desire toward noble purpose!

Rejoice, champion of truth and teacher of godliness!

Rejoice, Ireland sings and Britain rejoices in your ministering!

Rejoice, the saints of the Isles sound forth their unchanging song!

Rejoice, our Most Holy Lady Theotokos smiles upon you!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 8

O Divine and sacred temple of the Holy Spirit! We cry to you, for our sorrow is great, and we are worthy of every judgment that befalls us. But perchance if you should intercede on our behalf, we may be assuaged of suffering. We entreat you, O holy hierarch, show us the way to joy and beauty, as we sing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 8

During great tempests you preached to your people, “God thunders forth from the heavens, He rouses the faithful to look to the future judgment.” “Examine your hearts, and do well, that you may never be struck down!” O you faithful, heed these great words, let us remember our iniquities and let us sing:

Rejoice, Father Chad, earthly teacher of Christ’s most sacred

mysteries!

Rejoice, unyielding pillar of Christian Orthodoxy!

Rejoice, wise elder, choosing truth above all else!

Rejoice, steadfast teacher, we hearken unto your wisdom!

Rejoice, you help us to see the greater purpose beyond the cycles of life!

Rejoice, healer of those stained with wrath!

Rejoice, meek father, championing the divine truth!

Rejoice, for your children seek your heavenly intercession!

Rejoice, you whose prayers are heard by the Eternal One!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 9

Giving yourself to ecclesiastical truth and purity of doctrine, you beseech the faithful to practice humility, self-denial and the continuous study of divine Scriptures, not only in word, but also in deed. Grace shines forth from you holy Chad, and we sing forever: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 9

Knowing full well God's will, you remained unwavering in faith, a model of virtue for all Christians to emulate! Hearken unto our cry, when we call upon you in our daily struggle with the enemy. We look upon you as our inspiration, and pray that the angels may come unto us, as of old they came unto you:

Rejoice, wise monk and bishop, who learned of the saving grace through unceasing prayer!

Rejoice, you found inner peace in the angelic habit!

Rejoice, for the Cherubim honor you with song!

Rejoice, for the saint's marvel at you!

Rejoice, new Anthony, monastic robed in the warmth of the Spirit!

Rejoice, for the Seraphim shines your light to all mankind!

Rejoice, for our souls are enriched by your prayer!
Rejoice, for the Angels chariot your soul to Abraham's
Bosom!
Rejoice, for you have found favor in the eyes of God!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 10

With the threat of the plague, you choose to stand fast and remain with your flock rather than flee, only to fall victim to the same suffering. O protector and defender of the infirm and afflicted! Your body became a prison house of pain and torment. You gave your life for your people, and thus forever receive a great reward in the heavens, a crown of victory, and we sing: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 10

Seeking your return to your heavenly home, God sent His angels to bring you unto Him. O wonder and valiant champion of the Church. Angels chariot you, and men honor you! Help us in our time of need, and beseech God to illumine our souls with His Divine Light:

Rejoice, clairvoyant elder who foresaw your own repose!
Rejoice, valiant warrior and defender of your flock!
Rejoice, teaching all the care of others!
Rejoice, righteous confessor, sacrificing yourself to be with
your flock!
Rejoice, holy Abba, western example of the eastern ideal!
Rejoice, strong rampart of the Orthodox Faith!
Rejoice, you recapture the Grace of God by burying
the passions of the flesh!
Rejoice, instructing us to oneness with God through heartfelt
prayer!

Rejoice, you urge us to become the “perfect man matured with the fullness of Christ!”

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 11

You revealed true Christian love to your people, O holy Arch pastor, shepherding and caring for your flock in both soul and body. A servant worthy of God’s call! We join the angelic hosts in their song, “Glory to Your Power, O Lord,” crying: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 11

Your faithful shall forever love and honor you, O father and hierarch Chad. When frightened and tortured by the evil one, we know full well that your heavenly intercessions can break the bonds of the devil’s assaults. O conqueror of demons and boast of Angels let us sing with joy:

Rejoice, spiritual soldier of the unseen warfare!

Rejoice, you rise above the pull of shadow!

Rejoice, for demonic hosts are enraged by their weakness before you!

Rejoice, advocate of the Light, who did not cower before the darkness!

Rejoice, for evil recoils at the mention of your name!

Rejoice, for we hear your sweet song to the Eternal Lord!

Rejoice, O saint of God, righteous keeper of the True Faith, present within the Church!

Rejoice, for God has truly blessed you, sweet bishop of the lost sheep!

Rejoice, for we, your flock, call upon you, “pray to God for us”!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 12

The innocent and the just know well your greatness, for many have come to your tomb, seeking your protection. We honor you, O great warrior of Christ! We have witnessed your wonders, help us now in our suffering as you did help your flock in Mercia. We beseech your prayers, great confessor of the Church of Christ, in wiping away the many stains of sin; intercede on our behalf to God to forgive us our iniquities. And we shall forever cry: **Alleluia!**
(People sing Alleluia!)

Ikos 12

Holy hierarchs Chad and Cedd, righteous priests Caelin and Cynebil, O thrice-blessed brothers of Christ, duly united in true Orthodox manner as ministers to do His Will! You are true models of brotherly love, rightly adorning His Holy Church. Hearken unto our prayers as we joyfully sing:

Rejoice, sainted brethren of Christ's Church on earth!

Rejoice, for you were tutored in holiness by the great Aidan of Lindisfarne!

Rejoice, tabernacles of the Divine Spirit in Northumbria!

Rejoice, precious pearls in pagan lands blessed by your works!

Rejoice, saints of the West, so too glorified in the East!

Rejoice, for you truly carried out the command to "be your brother's keeper"!

Rejoice, shining forth in the West like unto Basil, Gregory and Peter, the great brothers of the East!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Cedd, great bishop of London!

Rejoice, holy Caelin and Cynebil, righteous priests in the north!

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 13
(To be read three times)

O holy bearer of the Uncreated Light, blessed through unceasing prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ. Divine example of true Christian humility, great Apostle of Mercia, as Arch pastor you proclaimed the Gospel of Christ. O spiritual warrior and champion of the Church in the West, as a converser with heavenly hosts, you were carried up to the heavenly courts with angelic song. O holy hierarch and Confessor Chad may our soul's forever cry: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

Ikos 1

Champion of truth and teacher of spiritual awakening! Thrice blessed disciple of our great father Aidan, forever we shall call upon your intercessions. Teach us to partake of your greatness, O good shepherd of the Mercian land. Your defense of the suffering is renowned, and shall be remembered forever in the hearts of all people:

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Rejoice, revered father so willing to offer hope and love!

Rejoice, you walked the straight and narrow path to righteousness!

Rejoice, you proclaim unto all the Good News that "Christ is Risen!"

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Kontakion 1

As a true shepherd of the flock of Christ, you brought the Orthodox Christian faith to the land of Mercia. In following the example of the Holy Apostles, you ministered to your flock, traversing the land on foot. Refusing earthly riches, you proclaimed that you are not above the common man.

Rejoice, holy hierarch Chad, great wonderworker for all ages!

Prayer of the Akathist to Saint Chad of Lichfield

O Jesus Christ God, the Divine Logos, we beseech you that we may be deemed worthy to recall the works of your great wonderworker and hierarch Chad. We pray that we may find grace through his great piety, humility, unceasing prayer, fasting and obedience to his brethren. We seek his counsel and intercessions before your glorious Throne. We ask you, our God, to grant us humility, love and steadfastness in faith and teaching. Bestow good thoughts and intentions upon us and upon our brothers and sisters, and especially upon our enemies who wrong us. Help us in times of need to call upon holy Chad's humility to Saint Theodore. As a model of obedience, holy Chad relinquished the See of York, feeling unworthy of such an honor, and so was rewarded with a great See in Mercia and, more, precious humility. Help us, O Almighty God, to emulate humble Chad and preserve us from selfish and vain thoughts. Help us never to forget those that suffer the downtrodden and the unfortunate. Be a hand for us, when in humility, we step aside for others. Keep us, for the sins of pride, vanity and lust are hard to battle and conquer, and only through you are they truly defeated. May we learn to love one another in You, O Christ, and may we strive for concord through you with those before us and around us. May we put aside all earthly cares and come to the knowledge of Your Eternal Truth. You are the Divine Architect who did shape this vast universe and whose power is limitless. We humbly beg you, forgive us our sins, for your power is great and we are weak. Remember humble Chad's prayers for our sake, and have mercy on us in your dread Judgment. For yours is the kingdom

and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

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Glorifying God Through His Light

50 Hour Prayer Vigil

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