

## GLOSSARY

**Aer:** A large embroidered cloth which is used to cover the chalice and *diskos*. Just before the Great Entrance, the *aer* is removed and placed on the shoulder of the deacon. During the Creed, the *aer* is waved over the Holy Table.

**Altar:** The area behind the iconostasis. Often also called the sanctuary.

**Amen:** This is a Hebrew word which is translated as 'so be it' or 'this is right.'

**Antidoron:** This is a Greek word which means 'instead of the gifts.' *Antidoron* is blessed at the Liturgy and given to those Orthodox Christians who have not taken Holy Communion.

**Antimension:** (see picture on p.63) A cloth printed with an icon of the burial of Christ. The *antimension* has the relics of a martyr sewn into it and is signed by the bishop. An *antimension* is essential for the Divine Liturgy.

**Archimandrite:** Originally, a monk in charge of a number of monasteries. These days, the title is given to senior hieromonks.

**Asterisk:** (see picture on p.66) Placed on top of the *diskos* representing the Star of Bethlehem. It also serves a practical purpose of keeping the chalice veil from touching the Lamb.

**Canon:** A section of matins that contains hymns for the day. There are nine sections in the canon called odes.

**Chalice Veils:** Special cloths that are used to cover the chalice and *diskos* during the Liturgy. They can be seen clearly at the Great Entrance.

**Church Fathers:** Important saints of the Church who taught the Orthodox Faith. The writings of the Church Fathers are essential reading for all Orthodox Christians.

**Consecration:** The changing of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ during the Divine Liturgy.