

THE ANCIENT BRITISH (CELTIC) CHURCH
SYRIAN ORTHODOX “JACOBITE” CHURCH OF ANTIOCH (FERRETTE LINE)

The Gospel was first preached in Antioch in Syria by Jewish converts returning there from Jerusalem after the Day of Pentecost, and later by refugees who fled Jerusalem during the persecution at the time of the martyrdom of St. Stephen. St. Barnabas brought St. Paul from Tarsus and they went to Antioch (“the disciples were called ‘Christians’ first at Antioch” (Acts 10:26)), and then on to Rome. St. Barnabas consecrated as his successor in Antioch St. Evedius, who was in turn succeeded by St. Ignatius, called ‘Theophoros’. The 125th Patriarch of Antioch, counting from St. Peter, was Ighnatiyus Ya’qub II (1847-1872).

In 1866, with the sanction of Patriarch Ignatius Ya’qub (Jacob) II of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch, Mar Julius (Jules Ferrette) was consecrated by Mar Boutros ibn Salmo Mesko) who later became Patriarch [Ignatius Peter IV](#) of Antioch, and dispatched to form an indigenous (British/Celtic) Orthodox church in Western Europe, which was not in any way subject to the Syriac Orthodox Church or the Patriarch of Antioch. The consecration was witnessed by the British Consul at Damascus. Mar Julius was given the title of Bishop of Iona.

Returning to England, Mar Julius received Rev. Richard Williams Morgan, an Anglican priest, into Orthodoxy. Fr. Morgan, a Welsh nationalist and renowned folklorist, took the name Mar Morien I (the Welsh for Pelagius), and set about re-establishing the Ancient British (Celtic) Church.

Mar Ighnatiyus Butrus IV al-Ma’usili, Metropolitan of Emesa (Homs), afterwards Patriarch of Antioch and of All the Domain of the Apostolic Throne, with approval of Moran Mar Ighnatiyus Ya’qub II, Patriarch of Antioch and of All the Domain of the Apostolic Throne, on 2 June 1866 consecrated:

1. Raimond (Jules) Ferrette, Mar Julius, Bishop of Iona for the Syrian Orthodox (Jacobite) Patriarchate, who in 6 March 1874 consecrated:
2. Richard Williams Morgan, Mar Morien I, 1st British Patriarch, Ancient British (Celtic) Church, who in 22 June 1879, assisted by Frederick George Lee, Thomas Wimberly Mossman, and John Seccombe, consecrated:
3. Charles Isaac Stevens, Mar Theophilos I, 2nd British Patriarch, Ancient British Church, who on 4 May 1890, assisted by A. S. Richardson of the Reformed Episcopal Church consecrated sub conditione:
4. Leon Checkemian, Mar Leon, 3rd British Patriarch of the Ancient British Church and First Primus of the Free Protestant Episcopal Church who in 1897 consecrated:
5. James Martin, Mar Jacobus I, Archbishop of Caerleon-upon-Usk, FPEC, who on 25 July 1915 consecrated:
6. Benjamin Charles Harris, Bishop of Essex, FPEC, who on 17 November 1944 consecrated:
7. Charles Leslie Saul, Mar Leofric, Archbishop of Suthronia in the Eparchy of all Britons of the Protestant Evangelical Church of England, who on 6 June 1946 exchanged consecrations with:
8. Wallace David de Ortega Maxey, Mar David I, Supreme Hierarch of the Catholicate of the Americas, Bishop of the Apostolic Episcopal Church, who on 21 July 1947 assisted by Frederick Littler Pyman and Mathew Nicholas Nelson consecrated sub conditione:
9. Lowell Paul Wadle, Archbishop of the American Catholic Church, who on 22 June 1957 consecrated:
10. Herman Adrian Spruit (Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch)