

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

A Newsletter for the Russian Orthodox Community of Saint Panteleimon, Gosford

~ Number 5, 13 October 2002 ~

DROUGHT & BUSHFIRES

A Christian cannot observe the suffering that the drought is causing in rural Australia and remain unmoved. During the Divine Liturgy this Sunday we, like many other parishes, will begin to use in our services some of the petitions and a prayer from the Church's service "In Time of Drought". The prayer is one that can be used in our private prayer at home, and is printed here in both English and Slavonic:

O Master, Lord our God, Who didst hear Elijah the Tishbite because of his zeal for Thee, and for a time didst command that rain be held back from being sent unto the earth, and again at his prayer didst grant it fruit-bearing rain: Do Thou Thyself, O Master of all, Who art being entreated, out of Thy deep compassion grant abundant rain unto Thine inheritance; and overlooking our sins, do Thou send down rain upon every place entreating and praying for it. Make glad the face of the earth, for the sake of Thy poor people and infants, and animals and all others, for they trust in Thee, that Thou wilt give drink unto them in due season. For Thou art our God, a God Who showeth mercy and saveth, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Владико Господи Боже наш, послушавый Илию Фесвитянина ревности ради к тебе, и во время посылаемому земли дождю удержатися повелевый, таже паки молитвою его дождь плодоносный ей даровавый: сам Владико всех, от самого твоего благоутробия умолаемъ, дождь волен даждь наследию твоему: и согрешенная нами презрев, дожди твоя низпосли на требующая и просящая места. Возвесели лице земли, нищих ради людей твоих, и младенцов, и скотов, и иных всех: зане к тебе чают, еже дати пищу им во благо время. Ты бо еси Бог наш, Бог еже миловати и спасати, и тебе славу возсылаем, Отцу, и Сыну, и Святому Духу, ныне и присно, и во веки вековъ, аминь.

Many families in rural Australia are enduring great hardship as a result of the drought. Together with our prayers, they also need material help. Donations for immediate relief to people suffering the effects of drought are being distributed by the Australian Red Cross, and can be made at Westpac branches.

A number of homes south of Sydney were destroyed by bushfires this week. We should also remember these people in our prayers and assist materially if possible.

CHURCH LIFE: SYEZD 2002

This year's annual Russian Orthodox youth conference - Australia's 38th - is to be held at the Kampaspe Downs Country Resort in Victoria from the 19th to the 23rd of December. The cost will be \$150 per person or \$120 for those who pay before 19th of November. Our youth conferences give young people (14 and older) the opportunity to learn about our Orthodox faith and enjoy themselves in the company of other young Russian Orthodox Christians. Vladika Hilarion and many of the clergy attend, often together with a guest speaker from abroad.

For more information see the syezd website:

www.alphalink.com.au/~kocyan/syezd.htm

or contact Dima or Daniel on (03) 9544 6048 or 0438-284-605.

PARISH LIFE: A FAMILY MOVES ON...

Father James learned recently that Chris & Elena Benatar and their son Maxim, the first child baptised in our community, have returned to Perth, where they both lived before settling for a time on the Central Coast (in Narara). We wish them well for the future, and will continue to remember them in our prayers.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Metropolitan Vitaly, Archbishop Alypy, George, Tatiana, Ekaterina, Olga, Vladimir

Expectant mothers: Manefa, Victoria, Amy (Orthodox); Ethel (non-Orthodox)

Special needs: Priest Serafim & Irene, Katherine, Constantine (Orthodox); Judy & family (non-Orthodox)

Preparing for marriage: Peter & Svetlana, Daniel & Ioanna

Newly-married: Paul & Ksenia (married on 8/9), Matthew & Irene (married on 4/10)

Newly-departed: Maria (27/9) - the aunt of Vitaly & Irene Krikunov

CHURCH LIFE: AN INTERVIEW WITH HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN LAURUS

Reprinted from Orthodox America. Translated and excerpted from Pravoslavnyaya Rus', #22, 2001.

Conducted by staff of Pravoslavnyaya Rus'.

OR: Your Eminence, in your opinion, what aims facing the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (PTLQ3) require imminent resolution?

ML: Today the very same aims face the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad - which is part of the Universal Orthodox Church - as those which our Lord Jesus Christ placed before His Church from the very beginning. They are, firstly, the preaching of Christ's Gospel to the world; secondly, the spiritual nurturing of the people of God; and thirdly, the prayerful and penitent awaiting of the Second, Glorious and All-praised Coming of the Lord. Unfortunately, we Orthodox Christians of today frequently forget about these truly important aims. We concentrate our attention on that which is temporal and passing. A great amount of time is spent on empty arguments, when in fact time is given for our repentance. I

should say that the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad is undergoing attacks and is misunderstood from parties born on the left and on the right for the very reason that it is foreign to the extremes of liberalism, modernism, and ecumenism on the one hand, and militant fundamentalism and the feeling of proud complacency on the other. To go by the middle, royal path that the Church Abroad is going, is exceedingly difficult. But this is the faithful path, and we cannot depart from it.

OR: What impediments exist today for unification between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad?

ML: When we speak of the impediments standing on the path of unification of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and the Moscow Patriarchate, it is important to remember that the position of the Russian Church Abroad in all important issues concerning contemporary church life has been formulated and stated long ago. Our position has not changed in the course of the last decades, and it remains essentially unchanged to this day. This position may be summed up in a few words: the serving of the Truth of Christ. In its relations with the Moscow Patriarchate, the Russian Church Abroad has never cared for and today does not care for its own political advantage or state of affairs. The main goal of the Russian Church Abroad is that the Truth of Christ may triumph. And if the Truth will triumph in all its purity and fullness, then the mission of the Russian Church Abroad will have been fulfilled...

We prayerfully await the cleansing of the Moscow Patriarchate of its legacy from Soviet times. We are observing this process and rejoice at every positive step in this direction. For the most part, this does not depend on the Russian Church Abroad but on the Moscow Patriarchate. Let us say that the Moscow Patriarchate has glorified the Holy Royal Martyrs, thereby removing an important issue of our disagreement. Now one of the major issues is the question of the Moscow Patriarchate's participation in the Ecumenical Movement. The more the believing Russian people in the Moscow patriarchate learn about the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, the more they will support her battle for Truth in the Church. The Russian Orthodox Church Abroad is aware that it is not she, with her weak powers, but only the pious people in the Moscow Patriarchate, who can overcome the heresy of ecumenism - just as the people obtained the canonization of the royal Martyrs from the Moscow Patriarchate. In this battle for the Truth, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad will help the pious Russian people in any way it can.

OR: What does Ecumenism mean to the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad?

ML: So-called ecumenism is the falsely understood attempt to achieve unity among all of the Christian confessions in the world, and even among all of the leaders of all of the religions in the world. The divisions among Christians were allowed by God because of our sins. At the same time, in the history of any division we see some who were right and some who were not right, for Christ has not been divided and His Holy Church has not been divided. In this way, the mystery of the Church of Christ consists in its passing through all of the divisions, or more correctly to say, through the falling away from her of the schismatics and heretics, and remaining the same as she was during the time of the Apostles. This is the Orthodox One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

OR: Is this not a harsh position to take in relation to ecumenism? How can the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad exist in prosperity in heterodox surroundings?

ML: It can exist in the same way as the young Church of Christ was able to exist during the first centuries in hostile Jewish and pagan surroundings. Naturally, we have daily, working and even cordial relations with representatives of the heterodox and even the secular world surrounding us. But we do not depreciate our Faith in order to please others. We do not enter into compromises. And when the question our hope is touched upon, we courageously and honourably witness Orthodoxy before the face of the heterodox. Orthodox ecumenists speak much of love, but true love for the heterodox and those

of other nations, according to our way of thinking, consists in not hiding from them Christ's Truth, which is sacredly preserved in Orthodoxy.

*Holy Trinity Monastery
Jordanville, NY*

GOSFORD SERVICES IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

13 October	Sunday	16 th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9.00 am
3 November	Sunday	19 th Sunday after Pentecost Saint Hilarion the Great <i>Nameday of Archbishop Hilarion</i> <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9.00 am
24 November	Sunday	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9.00 am

OTHER IMPORTANT CHURCH DATES

14 October **ПОКРОВЪ ПРЕСВЯТЫЯ БОГОРОДИЦЫ**
Holy Protection of the Mother of God
Престольный праздник в Кабраматте
Parish feast-day at Cabramatta

This year, Vladika Hilarion will be serving in Cabramatta on the feast day. The Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God will also be present. Vigil will be served at 6.00pm on Sunday 13/10. On 14/10, the day of the feast itself, there will be a lesser blessing of water at 8.00am and Divine Liturgy at 9.00am, followed by a moleben & procession. All are welcome to attend the service & the festive lunch provided afterwards.

NEW ISSUE of "Word of the Church" (ЦЕРКОВНОЕ СЛОВО)

"Word of the Church" is the official publication of the Australia-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. Copies of the latest issue (July-August 2002) are available this week. There are a number of interesting bits and pieces in Russian ("Путеводительница наша", "Одигитрия (путеводительница) Русского Зарубежья", "Из епархиальной жизни") and in English ("The Hodigitria (Indicator of the Way) of the Russian Emigration", "The Interior of an Orthodox Church", and selected ukases). Recommended reading!

Father James will be preparing this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. Try and let him know at least a week in advance if there is anything that you would like included (prayer requests, news, announcements). You can call him on 02-9721-2659 or email him at fr.james.carles@rocor.org.au.