

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

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

~ Number 36, 7 November 2004 ~

2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Общее Годовое Собрание Прихожан

Our parish Annual General Meeting will be held today following Divine Liturgy. The Annual General Meeting hears reports from the outgoing parish council and elects the parish council for the year to come. The agenda, reports, and associated documents have been posted out to all parish members. Only financial parish members with at least 6 months' membership are entitled to vote at the AGM.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The 2003-2004 Parish Council met for the last time on Tuesday November 2. In attendance were Father James, secretary Kate Marcotrigiano, Head Sister Olga Petroff, Bill Reid, Don Kobeleff, and George Fomin. Apologies were received from Rick & Nina Golovin and Katya Rubbo. Items discussed include:

- A report from Olga Petroff on the successful fundraising BBQ at Cabramatta. The Parish Council commented on the extent of the assistance that we have received from the Cabramatta parish, noting that their support has been not only financial; many of our icons were gifts from Cabramatta. Olga is preparing a letter of thanks to all those involved;
- The recent delivery of the "lap top" computer purchased by the Parish Council. Don Kobeleff has loaded the "MYOB" accounting program onto the new computer, and will transfer existing financial records to it. The Parish Council agreed on the importance of a monthly backup of data stored on the computer, and the need to store such records separately from the computer;
- The sisterhood's plan for a sausage sizzle on Sunday November 21, our last service before the Christmas Lent (see notice elsewhere in this bulletin);
- The conduct of business before today's AGM. Father James gave the Parish Council an overview of his report to the AGM, looking at the year past and considering plans for the future;
- The purchase of a number of plots at the Point Clare Cemetery. The Parish Council agreed that this was appropriate, and Father James will liaise with Gosford City Council to arrange for the purchase;
- A suggestion from Father James that two recent donations to the parish be used to purchase a proper baptismal font and two "плащаницы", the large "burial shroud" icons of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Most Holy Mother used for the services on Holy Friday, Holy Saturday and Dormition. The Parish Council agreed to this suggestion and Father James will now make the necessary arrangements. **Note: Anyone wishing to**

contribute to the cost of the baptismal font, a large item that is also expensive to have shipped here, is most welcome! It will be used not only for the baptism of babies, but also for the blessing of water;

- A parish donation to the Diocesan collection for the Beslan victims.

The first meeting of the new Parish Council was scheduled for Tuesday December 7.

PARISH LIFE: SAUSAGE SIZZLE ON NOVEMBER 21ST

After Divine Liturgy on Sunday November 21, the feast of the Holy Archangel Michael, the sisterhood will be having a "sausage sizzle". This is our last service before the beginning of the Christmas Lent (Рождественский пост), and a good opportunity for parishioners and friends to get together. The cost will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. We hope to see you there!

PARISH LIFE: SECOND ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION IN LATE JANUARY

Energetic parishioners Paul Pereboeff, George Karmadonoff and Victor Bendevski have now finalized the arrangements for our 2nd Annual Fishing Competition, to be held over the weekend of 22-23 January 2005. Once again at Deerubun Reserve, Bar Point, it will be possible this year to fish over the two days, starting at 6.00am on the Saturday. Lunch will be at 2.00pm on Sunday, allowing people time to arrive after church, with the award presentation at 3.00pm. Last year's fishing competition was a great success throughout the broader Russian community, and did much to raise funds and goodwill for our parish. Further details are available from Paul (0414-950741), George (0417-246026), and Victor (0410-327635). Leaflets will be available for distribution and up on the noticeboard shortly.

PARISH LIFE: READING IN CHURCH

Father James is aware that a number of people are interested in reading in church, whether in Church Slavonic or in English. He is very keen to give as many people as possible the opportunity to read, and to this end is thinking of preparing a roster of readers for the Sunday epistle (апостол) and the hours (часы). Those interested, even if they have not read in church before, should talk to him as soon as possible. Don't be shy! All that you need to be able to do is read loudly and clearly; instruction will be given concerning what and how to read. Those attending the Saturday evening services already all take turns in reading, with a mixture of Church Slavonic and English being used, depending on who is there. There are often a number of children present, and the smaller ones are (theoretically, at least!) able to sleep in the hall while their parents pray in church. These evening services are quiet and simple, and all are encouraged to attend.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick & suffering: Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Fyodor & Antonina Tialshinsky and Vladimir; Newcastle parishioners Vasili, Alexander, Antonina, Vladimir, Nina, Alexandra;

and others known to us: child Ksenia, Ioann

Special needs: Katherine, David, Paraskeva, Vera, Matthew, Tamara, Andrew

Prisoners: Dmitri, Irina, Elena & Timothy

Newly-reposed: Tanya Borodin's son & Nina Golovin's brother **Victor**, who died suddenly last Sunday. He was a great friend of our parish, and very dear to his family. **Вечная память!**

CHURCH LIFE: PASTORAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA OF HIS HOLINESS THE SERBIAN PATRIARCH PAVLE

On Friday 29 October 2004, His Holiness the Archbishop of Pec, Metropolitan of Belgrade-Karlovci and Serbian Patriarch Pavle arrived for his first pastoral visit to Australia.

Travelling with His Holiness are three other bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Since arriving, Patriarch Pavle has visited Serbian Orthodox churches in Melbourne, the Monastery of Saint Sava, in Elaine (Victoria) and the Monastery of Saint Sava in Hall (ACT). He has also met with His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Today, Sunday 7 November, His Holiness will serve Divine Liturgy on the site of the future Saint Sava College at Varroville in Sydney's southwest, near Camden. Tens of thousands of people, including clergy and laity of the Russian Orthodox Church, are expected to attend, where His Holiness will consecrate the foundation stone of the first Serbian Orthodox school outside of the Former Yugoslavia. Tomorrow, Monday 8 November His Holiness will serve at the Church of Saint George in Cabramatta.

Biography of His Holiness the Serbian Patriarch Pavle

The spiritual leader of the Serbian Orthodox people was born Gojko Stojcevic on September 11, 1914 to Stefan and Ana Stojcevic, in the village of Kucani, in the county of Donji Miholjac, Slavonia (present-day Croatia). He graduated with high honours from high school in Belgrade, and continued postgraduate studies at the Orthodox Theological Faculty at the University of Athens from 1955 to 1957. During his stay in Greece, he studied the New Testament and developed an expertise in liturgics, which resulted in the Patriarch becoming one of the most prolific liturgical writers in the Serbian Church. He was tonsured a monk in 1948 and took the name Pavle (Paul). During the 1950/51 academic year, the then Father Pavle was appointed a lecturer at the Prizren Seminary, a position which he retained until his election to the Patriarchal Throne. On May 29, 1957, the Holy Assembly of Bishops elected Father Pavle as the Bishop of Raska-Prizen.

From that day to the present, he has faithfully shared in the plight of his suffering people. Bishop Pavle wrote and warned of the present exodus of Serbs from Kosovo, the attacks of the Albanians on Serbian monasteries, the rape of nuns, the desecration of Serbian cemeteries and overall suffering of the Orthodox in Kosovo and in Metohija. In 1989, the then Bishop Pavle was personally beaten by several Albanian youths in Kosovo. The extent of his injuries required nearly 3 months of hospitalisation. However, in the spirit of

Christian forgiveness, he refused to press charges. On December 1, 1990, the election of Bishop Pavle as the Archbishop of Pec, Metropolitan of Belgrade-Karlovac and Serbian Patriarch was met with great joy and expectation, both by clergy and laity.

It is not without reason that Patriarch Pavle has been referred to as a "saint who walks." The simplicity of his lifestyle and his personal humility has found favour with all who are familiar with this virtuous man. For instance, all of the Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church have a car, which they use to travel through their dioceses. The one exception is Patriarch Pavle. When asked why he never obtained an automobile, he replies: "I will not purchase one until every Albanian and Serbian household in Kosovo and Metohija has a car." His Holiness has assisted the publishing of many Orthodox Christian works, the most monumental being the translation of the New Testament (published in 1984) under his supervision. This was the first official Serbian translation of the New Testament approved by the Serbian Orthodox Church. Patriarch Pavle exemplifies simplicity in his lifestyle and is the embodiment of humility and personal holiness, a most worthy helmsman to guide the "Ship of the Church" in these troubled times.

The Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and the Serbian Orthodox Church have always enjoyed a close relationship, the Serbian Church having given much spiritual and material help to our church abroad in the difficult times of the 1920's and 1930's. Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky), our first First Hierarch abroad, is buried in Serbia, and Saint John of Shanghai attended seminary there. We rejoice with our Serbian orthodox brothers and sisters in Christ at this, the first visit of their Patriarch to Australia.

A LETTER FROM RUSSIA

The following letter was recently received via our new church website:

"Dear brothers & sisters: With great pleasure we have learnt that there are Russian people abroad who also belong to the Orthodox Church. Unfortunately the only information we have is that Patriarch Alexey wants to unite the Russian Orthodox church in Russia and the Russian Orthodox church Abroad. We know nothing about the Russian people abroad, about the descendents of the emigrants, about their life. We don't know if they follow current events in Russia, if they have kept Russian customs and traditions, the Russian language and the language of the Russian Orthodox church. Our Sunday School at the Church of Apostle John teaches children English. Our children would like to find friends from Russian families abroad, the descendants of the emigrants. We will be glad to answer any letter".

Deacon Andrew Popov, Headmaster, Sunday School

Father Andrew's email address is bratsv.AI@mail.ru. This may be an opportunity for some of our younger parishioners to find a "pen-pal" in Russia, and to share with Russian children something of Russian Orthodox life here in Australia.