

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

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

~ Number 42, April 2005 ~

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

The Ladies' Committee has agreed on Monday April 25th - the Anzac Day public holiday - as a general clean-up day at church. This will be a major clean-up, with everything in the church and hall being thoroughly washed, scrubbed and polished in preparation for our celebration of Pascha on May 1st. Many hands make light work, so all are asked to attend. The Ladies' Committee will prepare a list of tasks and ensure that everyone has something to do. A light Lenten lunch will be served for all those working.

CHURCH OPEN EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

With the commencement of the parish school this year, the church will now generally be open every Saturday morning. Those wishing to see Father James, confess in preparation for receiving Holy Communion on Sunday, have a moleben or pannikhida served, or simply to light a candle and pray quietly in church, are welcome to do so. The church is open between 9.00am and 12.30pm.

ВЕЛИКОПОСТНОЕ ПОСЛАНИЕ ВЫСОКОПРЕОСВЯЩЕННОЙШЕГО МИТРОПОЛИТА ЛАВРА, ПЕРВОИЕРАРХА РУССКОЙ ЗАРУБЕЖНОЙ ЦЕРКВИ

Дорогие о Господе братья и сестры, проводя душеспасительные дни святой Четырдесятницы, возрадуемся со Святой Церковью наступлению «Богодарованного времени покаяния», да не опечалит нас начало Поста, печалиться надо о грехах, а не о том, что настало время их врачевания, ибо, как поет Святая Церковь: «Прииде пост мати целомудрия, обличитель грехов, проповедник покаяния, жительство ангелов и спасение человеков». Пост богоустановлен - это Божий дар, период молитвы и воздержания, время ограждения себя от всего греховного и второстепенного, стяжание Единого на потребу.

Пост это не только воздержание от скоромной пищи, но, главным образом, время выявления своих основных греховных язв и избавления от них. Церковь поучает нас: «Пост не воздержание от брашен точию совершим, но от всякия вещественные страсти отчуждение...». Увидеть свои вещественные страсти можно только чистым умом, и пост с молитвой есть лучшее средство для очищения ума. Пост это также удаление от развлечений. Жизнь наша в сей «электронный» век полна разных распыляющих сознание развлечений, крепко обосновавшихся во многих

православных домах, развлечений засоряющих души страстными образами, лишаящих верных «Богодарованного времени покаяния».

В эти очистительные дни поста, дорогие братья и сестры, оставим свои развлекательные экраны, ослепляющие наш духовный взор, затворим двери чувств на все суетное, оставим вражду, споры, разделения, все лишнее, тленное и душевредное, и тогда пост для нас действительно станет Великим, и принесет нам великую пользу.

Таким образом, пройдя душеспасительную Четырдесятницу, мы сможем с чистой совестью и с ясными очами веры встретить Христа Распятого и Воскресшего, и сподобимся достойно облобызать Его Божественные раны и поклониться славному Его из мертвых Воскресению!

+Митрополит Лавр
Великий пост, 2005 г.

GREAT LENTEN EPISTLE OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN LAURUS, FIRST HIERARCH OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

Dear in the Lord brothers and sisters, while travelling through the salvific days of the holy Great Lent, let us rejoice together with the Holy Church on the arrival of the "God-granted time of repentance," and may we not be saddened by the arrival of Great Lent, but saddened by our own sins, for the time has come to heal them. As the Holy Church sings: "The fast is here, the mother of chastity, the accuser of sins, the advocate of repentance, life of angels and salvation of men." Lent is established by God — this is a divine gift, a period of prayer and abstinence, a time to protect oneself from all that is sinful and secondary, seeking only the One we need.

Lent is not only the abstinence from non-lenten food, but mainly a time to reveal our fundamental sinful sores and removing them. The Church teaches us: "Let us not keep the fast by merely abstaining from foods, but [let us put away from us] every material passion". One can only see ones material passions with a clean mind, and fasting and prayer are the best means to cleanse the mind. Lent is also removing oneself from entertainment. Life in this "electronic age" is full of all sorts of amusements which debilitate our consciousness; this has firmly established itself in many Orthodox homes, they are forms of entertainment that litter our souls with images of passion, which deprive the faithful of "the divine time of repentance".

During these cleansing Lenten days, dear brothers and sisters, let us leave behind our screens and monitors which blind our spiritual sight, let us close the doors of our senses to all that is useless, let us abandon enmity, quarrels, divisions, all that is extraneous,

corrupt and harmful to the soul, and then Lent for us will truly become Great, and will bring us great benefit.

In this way, passing through the salvific Forty-day Lent, we will be able with a clean conscience and with the clear sight of faith to greet the Crucified and Resurrected Christ, and will be able to worthily kiss His Divine wounds and prostrate ourselves before His glorious Resurrection from the dead!

+Metropolitan Laurus
Great Lent, 2005

GARAGE SALE

On Saturday April 16th there will be a fundraising Garage Sale in Schnapper Road, Ettalong Beach. Anyone with goods for sale or with an hour or two spare to assist should talk to the head of the Ladies' Committee, Olga Petroff (4342-4241).

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick & suffering: Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Antonina Tialshinsky, Zoran, Vladimir; Newcastle parishioners Vasili, Alexander, Antonina, Vladimir, Nina, Alexandra; and others known to us: child Ksenia, Ioann

Special needs: Konstantin, Margaret, Maxim & family, Phillip & family, Katherine, David, Paraskeva, Vera, Matthew, Tamara, Andrew

Departed: Newly-departed George (Kraihin), whose 40th day falls on April 14th; Fyodor; Nun Maria

SERVICE OF ANOINTING («СОБОРОВАНИЕ») ON SUNDAY APRIL 17TH

The Holy Mystery of Anointing with Oil for the healing of sickness is mentioned in the Holy Bible by Saint James, the Brother of the Lord. He says, "If you are sick, ask the priests to come and pray for you. Ask them to put olive oil on you in the name of the Lord". Ideally, seven priests together perform this mystery, but it can be done by less, and even by one priest alone. In the service of Anointing with oil there are seven epistle readings (readings from the "Letters" in the New Testament) and seven readings from the Holy Gospel. The priests pray that God will bless the oil (which is usually mixed with wine) and that it will be for the healing of the soul and body of the person to be anointed. There are also prayers for the forgiveness of sins, the ultimate cause of all sickness. The sick person is then anointed on the forehead, nostrils, cheeks, lips, chest, and both sides of the hands. During Great Lent, our Russian churches have a service of general anointing in which everyone comes to be anointed for the healing of **spiritual and physical sickness**. This is an important part of the preparation for the celebration of Pascha. Some church writers say that this Holy Mystery in part absolves us from those sins that we have forgotten or are unaware of. All are encouraged to attend our service, scheduled for 5.00pm on April 17th. The service will take about 3 hours. This is the first time that the service of general anointing has been served in Gosford.

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

April is even busier than March, with over 20 services scheduled. Please note that the service scheduled for the morning of Monday 25th - the Anzac Day public holiday - has been cancelled to allow for a thorough clean-up of the church before Pascha.

2 nd April	Saturday	Matins with the bringing out of the cross	6.00 pm
3 rd April	Sunday	3rd Sunday in Great Lent: Holy Cross Divine Liturgy	9.00 am
8 th April	Friday	Matins for the Departed	7.00 pm
9 th April	Saturday	Commemoration of the Departed Divine Liturgy; General pannikhida	8.30 am
10 th April	Sunday	4th Sunday in Great Lent Vespers, 4 th Passia	6.00 pm
13 th April	Wednesday	Matins with the Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete	6.00 pm
16 th April	Saturday	Matins	6.00 pm
17 th April	Sunday	5th Sunday in Great Lent: Saint Mary of Egypt Divine Liturgy	9.00 am
20 th April	Wednesday	General service of anointing: «Соборование» Great Compline	5.00 pm
22 nd April	Friday	Matins	7.00 pm
23 rd April	Saturday	Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy	8.30 am
24 th April	Sunday	Matins with the blessing of palms & pussy-willows PALM SUNDAY Matins	3.00 pm 6.00 pm
25 th April	Monday	Great & Holy Monday Vespers, Hours, Typika & Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts CANCELLED Church clean-up NEW Matins NEW SERVICE	8.00 am 7.00 pm
26 th April	Tuesday	Great & Holy Tuesday Matins	7.00 pm
27 th April	Wednesday	Great & Holy Wednesday Matins	7.00 pm
28 th April	Thursday	Great & Holy Thursday Divine Liturgy	8.30 am
29 th April	Friday	Great & Holy Friday Vespers with the bringing out of the shroud Matins with the lamentations before tomb of Christ	4.00 pm 6.00 pm
30 th April	Saturday	Great & Holy Saturday Vespers with Divine Liturgy Procession, Midnight Office, Paschal Matins & blessing of Easter cakes and eggs	8.00 am 8.30 pm

From March 2005, our parish newsletter will be published to coincide with the first service of each month. If you wish to receive it by post or email, please talk to Father James (0428-639156) or Katya Marcotrigiano, the parish secretary (4369-1765). Information and prayer requests for inclusion in the newsletter can be given to Father James or emailed to info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.