

Saint Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church, Gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 55, May 2006 ~

# ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

*Christ is Risen!*

Father James and the Parish Council greet all parishioners and friends of our parish in this season of the joyous celebration of the saving Resurrection of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## **CHURCH LIFE: ALL-DIASPORA COUNCIL**

The 4<sup>th</sup> All-Diaspora Council of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia took place in San Francisco from May 7<sup>th</sup> until May 14<sup>th</sup>. It was followed by a meeting of the Council of Bishops (all the bishops together) and then by a Synod meeting (a lesser number of the bishops entrusted with the ongoing tasks of administration). Texts of all the informative and thoughtful lectures and the official greetings heard at the Council, and of the resolutions and letter drafted by the Council, are available online at the Synod website ([www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws](http://www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws)) and at the All-Diaspora Council website ([www.sobor2006.com](http://www.sobor2006.com)). It is expected that they will be published in the church press in the near future. The materials of the All-Diaspora Council endorse the path taken under Metropolitan Laurus' leadership towards unity within the Russian Orthodox Church, and provide direction for the mission and ministry of our Church outside Russia. We now await advice as to what concrete steps will be taken with regard to these matters, and when.

## **PARISH LIFE: WINTER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

The Winter (May-August) 2006 schedule of services is available in church and on the parish website. Having passed through Great Lent and the Paschal season, we now enter a somewhat quieter period in parish life. We will have services on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> for the Great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord; after that, the next major event in parish life is our patronal feast and Archbishop Hilarion's visit in August. Elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter details are given of a raffle with prizes to be drawn on our feast day.

## **PARISH LIFE: BIBLE READING AND DISCUSSION GROUP**

As announced in the April newsletter, Father James has initiated a twice-monthly Bible reading & discussion group in response to a number of needs in parish life. The first meeting - attended by a small group of parishioners - was held at the church hall on Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>; the next will be held on Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is expected that these group discussions will run for between one and one-and-a-half hours, beginning at 7.00pm. Beginning with prayer, the first half-hour is dedicated to the reading aloud and discussion of the Bible. Father James has selected Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans as the first book to read. At the first meeting, he gave some background to the New Testament, to Saint Paul, and to the Letter itself. Those present then read in turn through the first two chapters. The idea of such an approach is to develop a habit of prayerful and thoughtful Bible reading and to deepen our knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. The English Bible version used is the Contemporary English Version (CEV), a simple modern translation. From time to time there may be comparisons with other versions, including the Russian and Slavonic texts.

The second half-hour or so is given over to a general discussion and question-and-answer session on all aspects of Orthodox Christian life. Some topics already noted for discussion include confession, frequency of Holy Communion, preparation for Holy Communion, prayers at home, icons in the church, various contemporary issues, and more. Discussion at the first meeting focused, understandably, on the important Fourth All-Diaspora Council of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. Those present considered the significance of the Council for church life now and into the future.

All parishioners are encouraged to consider making time for what is hoped will be a step forward in the life of the parish and in our individual spiritual lives. Friends of the parish are also welcome. More information is available from Father James or by emailing to [info@gosfordrussianchurch.org](mailto:info@gosfordrussianchurch.org).

## **PARISH LIFE: PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The Parish Council was due to meet on Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, but was unable to do so. The Council is now next due to meet on Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will include the ongoing discussion of budgeting and long-term planning, discussion of the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> All-Diaspora Council and subsequent Council of Bishops, and a review of parish activities over Great Lent and the Paschal season.

## **PARISH LIFE: THE WEBSITE**

Updates to the parish website have been a little less regular than usual since Holy Week; the number of services in late April prevented update at that time, and those involved have been taking a break in the couple of weeks since. It is expected that some new stories and photographs will be available around mid-May. Unfortunately, we have no photographs from Palm Sunday and our Paschal services, and so there is something of a gap in our record of parish activities. Those with digital photos of any events in parish life are encouraged to submit them for use on the website.

## **CHURCH LIFE: THE FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS IN MAY**

On Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be services in Wallsend and Fairfield to mark the feast of the translation of the relics of Saint Nicholas. This feast is the patronal festival for both parishes. Father James will serve at Wallsend on the feast day itself: vigil at 6.00pm Sunday, blessing of water at 8.15am Monday, and Liturgy at 9.00am. The main focus of festivities at Fairfield will be the following weekend, May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of that parish. Archbishop Hilarion will preside at vigil on Saturday night and Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Father James will also be serving at Fairfield that weekend as there are no services at either Gosford or Wallsend. A festive banquet has been arranged for Sunday afternoon; details of this function are on a poster in the church hall at West Gosford. All are encouraged to be part of the anniversary festivities at Fairfield.

## **DIOCESAN LIFE: PUBLICATION OF A HISTORY OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY IN AUSTRALIA**

Readers may recall a report in a previous issue of the newsletter that Archpriest Michael Protopopov, the rector of the Dormition Church in Dandenong and the Dean of Victoria, had been awarded his PhD for a history of the Russian Church in Australia. Father Michael's dissertation has now been published by Gorgias Press, and copies can be ordered by those interested. Entitled 'A Russian Presence: A History of the Russian Orthodox Church in Australia', the book has a hard cover and contains 489 pages and 284 illustrations. Copies are \$95.00 each (+\$7.50 postage & handling) and can be obtained from: A Russian Presence, 13 Conway Street, Dandenong VIC 3175. Cheques should be made out to the 'Russian Welfare Society'. It is hoped that a review of the book will appear in a future issue of this newsletter.

## PARISH LIFE: FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

With our parish feast day now the next major event in parish life, Head Sister Olga Petroff has begun to organise the usual fundraising guessing competition and raffle. This year's prizes, a number of which were donated by Larissa Hrbac (Riabkoff) & family and by Tamara Nojin, are very nice. The prizes will be as follows:

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st: Pearl necklace           | 7th: Tablecloth              |
| 2nd: Silver coffee service    | 8th: Basket of wine          |
| 3rd: Crystal bowl             | 9th: Chinese dinner set      |
| 4th: Set of champagne glasses | 10th: Soft toy               |
| 5th: Set of vodka glasses     | 11th: Beauty case            |
| 6th: Silver candlestick       | 12th: Australian travel book |

As in previous years, tickets will be specially printed to facilitate sale prior to the feast day. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to take a book or two of tickets to sell to family and friends; those interested should make arrangements with Olga Petroff. Contributions to the basket of wine are also required; these can be brought to church.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

**The sick & suffering:** Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioner Antonina (Tialshinsky), Vladimir, Vasili, Vera, Daniel, Eugenia, Daniel.

**Expectant mothers:** Helena, Tamara

**Various needs:** Knox and Juliana; George and family; Bishop Basil; the clergy and faithful of the troubled Russian Orthodox diocese of Sourozh (Great Britain)

**Preparing for baptism:** Timothy and Michelle and their children

**Newly-baptised:** child Joshua

**Newly-departed:** Nina, Trajan

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Our parish newsletter will be published monthly. 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).