



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 96, October 2010 ~

PARISH LIFE: SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

The last month has been a quiet one in parish life, with the services for the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross the only gatherings at church out of the ordinary. Encouragingly, these services on Sunday and Monday September 26-27 were very well attended, particularly the evening service at which the Holy Cross was brought out from the sanctuary in a solemn procession.

On Monday October 5 we had our usual October Long Weekend BBQ at Avoca Beach, with the rain once again clearing for us. 23 adults and 32 children gathered at Heazlett Park, a mixture of parishioners and friends from Sydney. Amongst the latter were Father Daniel Metlenko and his family from Centennial Park. Those present enjoyed ball games and hired canoes and paddle boats. It was a most enjoyable day, and warm thanks are due to Paul Pereboeff for having organised it.

Parish Council met on Tuesday October 12 to hear the usual reports on parish life and administration. The parish finances are in a very healthy state, with our "Future Fund" likely to have over \$20,000.00 in it by the end of this year. The Parish Council discussed parish accounting, the legal arrangements for ownership of parish property, and in something of a digression from regular business (after Father James presented some new icons – see below) the process by which saints are canonised in the Orthodox Church. An article on this topic will be included in a future issue of the newsletter.

PARISH LIFE: SOME NEW ICONS

Early in October, two new icons were placed in church. One, a small icon, is of Holy Righteous Fyodor (or Theodore) Ushakov, Admiral of the Russian Fleet. This icon was obtained in Russia by our parishioner Katya Rubbo. Saint Fyodor was an illustrious Russian naval commander of the 18th century who spent the final years of his life in a monastery. Long revered for his righteous life as well as for his military prowess, he was formally canonised by the Russian Orthodox Church in 2000. He commanded forty naval battles and won them all, crediting God with the victory. He won many notable victories against the Turks, liberating Orthodox Christians on the Greek Islands from the Moslem yoke. Upon his retirement, he bestowed much of his wealth upon the needy, particularly war veterans. He is commemorated on October 2/15, the day of his repose, and on 23 July/5 August, the day of his canonisation.

The other icon is a copy of the wonderworking Akhtyrskaya Icon of the Mother of God, the original of which is kept in our church at Croydon. This copy was framed and given to us by Protodeacon Vasily Hadarin of the Archangel Michael parish in Blacktown. Please remember Father Vasily and his family in your prayers.

PARISH LIFE: GENERAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER

On Sunday 7 November 2010 we will have an Extraordinary General Meeting of parish members in order to elect two delegates to attend the 16th Diocesan Assembly, to be held in Strathfield on Sunday December 26 and Monday December 27, 2010. Diocesan assemblies are triennial events at which clergy and lay delegates from parishes and monasteries across Australia and New Zealand hear reports on the life and administration of the Diocese. An important task is the election of a Diocesan Council of 5 clergymen and 5 laymen to assist the ruling bishop in the administration of the Diocese. Our parish is entitled to send two lay delegates, with Father James and Father Martin attending as clergy delegates. Parish members will receive formal notice of the meeting shortly, together with nomination forms. The meeting will also be announced in church on 17 October, 31 October, and 7 November. Any parish members interested in attending the Diocesan assembly are encouraged to discuss the matter with Father James.

DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

We have three collections coming up. The first is a special collection to help cover the expenses of the forthcoming Youth Conference, to be held this year in Avoca Beach. Although this collection is to be taken up on nearest Sunday following the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, it will be taken up in our church on Sunday 31 October. An envelope is included with this newsletter. More information about the youth conference is available at www.syezd.info.

During November and December each year parishes of our Diocese are obliged to take up two charitable collections. The first of these is for the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, formerly known as the Charitable Fund of the Synod of Bishops. The mission of the fund is to assist the Synod of Bishops by means of the moral-spiritual education of youth, support of needy clergy, and the provision emergency relief. More information can be obtained from the Fund for Assistance website, www.fundforassistance.org. The money that we have collected this year for Chile and Haiti have been passed to this Fund. This year, the general collection in our parish will be taken up on Sunday November 21.

The second collection is for Orthodox Action – Sydney, a charitable organisation that assists destitute children in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union. Particular assistance is given to children's homes, orphanages, and large needy families. A collection for OA-S is always taken up on the Great Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the temple, or on the nearest practical Sunday. This year, we will take up a collection for OA-S on Sunday December 5, the day after the Feast. To assist parishioners and friends to plan their contributions, envelopes for the November and December collections will be included with the November newsletter.

PARISH LIFE: PHOTO ALBUMS ON CHURCH WEBSITE

Our website content coordinator Susanna Bendeviski has created a Photoshop album of various church events from the past year. The album covers major feast days, church camps, and the recent long weekend picnic. The photos are available for viewing via the church website at: <http://www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au/>

PARISH LIFE: DONATIONS TOWARDS OUR AIR-CONDITIONING

In the September newsletter it was noted that details of the donations towards our new air-conditioning units would be published in the next issue of the newsletter. Of the \$6595.00 that was collected through Olga Itsikson's efforts, details are as follows:

Date	From Whom	Amount
4/7/2010	1 st collection in our church	\$1585.00
18/7/2010	2 nd collection in our church	\$630.00
27/7/2010	Fraternity of the Holy Cross	\$225.00
1/8/2010	L. Scherbakoff	\$50.00
1/8/2010	3 rd collection in our church	\$130.00
7/8/2010	Saint Sergius Russian Relief Fund	\$2000.00
7/8/2010	Collection at lunch on our feast-day	\$870.00
22/8/2010	Strathfield parishioners	\$1105.00
		\$6595.00

May the Lord bless for their kindness all those who responded to our appeal for help!

PARISH LIFE: SERVICES IN JANUARY 2011

Many have already begun to ask about services in Gosford during January 2011. God willing, we will have the following services:

Saturday January 1: Matins 6.00pm

Sunday January 2: Saint John of Kronstadt, Liturgy 9.00am

Thursday January 6: Vigil 6.00pm

Friday January 7: Christmas Day, Liturgy 9.00am

Saturday January 15: Matins 6.00pm

Sunday January 16: Liturgy 9.00am

Monday January 17: Matins 6.00pm

Tuesday January 18: Theophany Eve, Liturgy 9.00am, with Great Blessing of Water

Parish homes will be blessed in the course of this week, January 17-21.

Sunday January 30: English Liturgy 9.00am

CHURCH LIFE: ARCHPRIEST GEORGE LAPARDIN HONOURED FOR 20 YEARS OF PRIESTLY SERVICE

Archpriest George Lapardin has been honoured for 20 years of priestly service. The past twenty years have been spent in service at the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral in Strathfield. An interview with Fr George can be accessed on the ROCOR website at: <http://www.rocor.org.au/>

CHURCH LIFE: METROPOLITAN HILARION PARTICIPATES IN THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

In early October, Metropolitan Hilarion participated in the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. It is the first time that a Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia has participated in a regular session of this body. Reports on the meeting can be accessed at: <http://www.patriarchia.ru/db/text/1291988.html>.

CHURCH LIFE: BISHOP AGAPIT TO VISIT NEWCASTLE

Readers will recall an article in the September parish newsletter about the visit of Bishop Agapit of Stuttgart to Newcastle. The Newcastle parish has extended an invitation to us all to join them on this festive day. For many of us, it will be a chance to farewell Bishop Agapit, as his visit to Australia ends on 7 November 2010. Bishop Agapit's visit to Newcastle will be just over a week after the feast of the Holy Protection, a day of great importance in Wallsend. The first Russian Orthodox parish in the Hunter Valley, established in the Greta Migrant Camp in 1949, was dedicated to the Protection of the Mother of God. It would be a great encouragement to our friends there if as many of us as possible could join them on the occasion of Bishop Agapit's visit. The trip to Wallsend is only one hour from West Gosford. The Wallsend church, dedicated to Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, is at 3 Irving Street. You can learn more about the church at www.stnicholaswallsend.org.au. To assist with catering, those intending to stay for lunch are asked to contact the Head Sister of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Anna Pavlova Morhun, on 4963-1814 or 0413-588964.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Subdeacon Vitaly (Lupish) and Nun Euphrosyne; our parishioners Nestor, Natalia, Michael, Tatiana, Nina, Natalia and Boris.

Expectant mothers: Natalia, Maria, Anastasia, Ioanna, Kira.

Departed: Patriarch Alexis, Metropolitan Vitaly, Metropolitan Laurus, and former parishioners and benefactors Irene (Claydon), Victor (Manjetny), Vladimir (Dmitrieff), George (Fomin), Irina (Kamenev), Nun Maria, George (Kraiuhin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan), Elena (Yakupova), Lydia (Ustimko).



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