



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 103, May 2011 ~

PARISH LIFE: MAY 2011

On Sunday 1 May, Thomas Sunday, three year-old Jana Druganova was baptised at our church. The second child of Nikolay and Evgenia Druganov, and a younger sister to Anna, Jana was baptised in honour of the Holy Myrrhbearer Ioanna, one of the women who brought fragrant oil to the tomb of Christ, only to find the tomb empty. Jana's godparents were Olga Bulakh and Paul Douriaguine. God willing, Jana will receive Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday 15 May. Congratulations to the newly-baptised handmaiden of God Jana, and to her parents and godparents!

Parish Council met on Tuesday 10 May. Issues discussed included the Diocesan requirement for parish clergy, the Parish Council, and the Auditing Committee to have criminal history checks, and for clergy and the senior altar servers to have Working with Children checks. It was also decided that as many other parishes have tithes (or membership fees) far higher than \$20, our tithe would be increased to \$30.

Other matters discussed included the need for an individual parish councillor to take responsibility for risk management in the parish, and the commencement of payment of Diocesan levies from August 2011, our parish previously having been exempt. It was decided that an amount of \$73.45 collected for the Geelong parish iconography be increased by way of a parish donation to \$200.00, and that the amount of \$477.90 collected for Northern Sydney Central Coast Health be increased to \$500.00.

Regarding plans for the purchase of an investment property by the parish, Parish Council decided that Father Martin will begin to develop a business case and report back to Parish Council.

The minutes from the parish Annual General Meeting held in February were ratified by Metropolitan Hilarion in April. In ratifying the minutes, Metropolitan Hilarion invoked God's blessing on the clergy, Parish Council, Sisterhood, choir, and all parishioners and worshippers at Saint Panteleimon's.

We had another baptism on Saturday 14 May, that of the new-born infant Michael Shchelokov. Baby Misha is a fourth child for Sergey and Irina, and a younger brother for Nikolay, Anna, and Barbara. His godparents were Paul Douriaguine (once again!) and Elena Fauris. May God grant his newly-baptised servant Michael many years, and bless his parents and godparents! It is expected that he, too, will receive Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday 15 May.

PARISH LIFE: KIDS FUN FISHING DAY

A Kids Fun Fishing Day has been organised for Sunday 29 May, 2011, from 12pm to 4pm. The location will be near the Patonga Wharf, Patonga Dr, Patonga. The cost of \$20 per family includes a Sausage Sizzle @ 1pm. Please bring fishing rods & bait. For further details and to register please contact Paul Pereboeff by telephone on 0414 950 741 or email fishingcomp@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au . All are welcome!

PARISH LIFE: WINTER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

A new Schedule of Services for the winter months will be available in church as of the weekend of 14-15 May, and copies will be posted out with this newsletter. Important dates in the forthcoming schedule for our parish will be the Great Feast of our Lord's Ascension on Thursday June 2, the commemoration of All Saints (also the Day of Youth of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad) on Sunday June 19, our patronal feast of the Great-Martyr Panteleimon on Tuesday August 9 with festive Divine Liturgy on Saturday August 13, and the Great Feast of our Lord's Transfiguration on Friday August 19.

Established by our Synod of Bishops in 2008, the Day of Youth of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad is a celebration intended to include all three main socio-cultural groups of the youth of our Holy Church: young people living in Russia, young Russians abroad, and those who have converted to Orthodoxy in the countries of the Russian Church Abroad. A committee to organise parish activities for the Day of Youth of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad will be formed soon. Anyone interested in being involved should speak to Father James.

CHURCH LIFE: COLLECTION FOR CHRISTCHURCH PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS

A collection to assist the St Nicholas parish in Christchurch, New Zealand will be taken in our parish on Sunday 29 May, following the devastation that occurred in the city as a result of a 6.3 earthquake in February of this year. The church building sustained damage in the earthquake. The collection is to coincide, to the extent possible, with the May feast of St Nicholas. Envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter and are also available at church.

CHURCH LIFE: CONTRIBUTION FOR COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Our parish, together with all the parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, has been asked to contribute funds to assist defray the costs of the Council of Bishops in New York. As a parish of 100-200 people, the prescribed contribution is \$250.00. The Council of Bishops is convoked annually, if possible, in accordance with Church canons, and is the highest law making, administrative, judicial and controlling body in the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. Matters that come within the authority of the Council of Bishops includes the publication of epistles, the election of the First Hierarch, and questions of a general ecclesiastical nature. We expect to inform readers of the decisions of the Council in the June newsletter, and also to print the Conciliar Epistle in Russian and English.

CHURCH LIFE: APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM AMERICA

We have received two appeals for assistance from our brothers and sisters in Christ in the United States. With the Australian dollar so strong in relation to the US dollar, it is a good time to make a donation to a church project.

The first appeal is from the twenty monks and novices who belong to the monastic community at the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, the spiritual heart of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. The monastery requires extensive repairs to roofing and the installation of new heating tanks. The brethren are aiming to raise US\$50,000 to cover the cost of this work, and have undertaken to pray for all those who assist the monastery in this important work. For further information on how to donate, please contact info@jordanville.org.

The second appeal is from the Western American Diocese of our church. The 'Russian River Appeal' seeks assistance to repair the significant church located on the banks of the Russian River in California. Founded by the ever-memorable Archpriest Philaret Astrakhan, this small church is dedicated to the Kazan Icon of the Theotokos. Situated near Fort Ross, which is the famous first Russian settlement in the region, and often used for training, hosting youth conferences and for diocesan retreats, the church requires extensive repairs. For further information on how to donate, and for online donations, go to <http://www.sfsobor.com>. Photographs of the church and the work undertaken so far can also be viewed online.

CHURCH LIFE: PATRONAL FEAST AT WALLSEND

All are encouraged to visit the St Nicholas parish in Wallsend, Newcastle, for the forthcoming feast of St Nicholas the patronal feast of that parish. This is the parish in which Father James serves when he is not at Gosford. For those who have not visited Wallsend before, the parish was founded in 1952 by Orthodox Russians, Belorussians and Ukrainians who left Europe after World War 2. It is one of the oldest parishes in our Diocese. The current church was built by the parishioners themselves in the 1960s. Vigil with the blessing of loaves, wheat, wine and oil will be at 6.00pm on Saturday 21 May. Blessing of Water will be at 8.15am on Sunday 22, the day of the feast itself, and Divine Liturgy will be at 9.00am. A moleben to St Nicholas and a procession around the church will follow. There will be a festive BBQ lunch afterwards in the lovely grassy churchyard at Wallsend. Only 88 kms and one hour's drive from West Gosford, or 114 kms and one hour and ten minutes from Berowra! Please let Father James know if you are planning to attend so as to assist with catering.

PARISH LIFE: WINTER CAMP PLANNED FOR JULY 1-3

Parishioners and friends are reminded that we will have a winter camp at Crosslands, Galston Gorge, on the weekend of July 1-3. This is the first week of the winter school holiday. At this stage, it is planned that the camp will be held in honour of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco. More information will be made available soon. Those with ideas for the camp or who are willing to help should talk to Father Martin or Matushka Marie.

COMMUNITY LIFE: RUSSIAN LANGUAGE PLAY-GROUP

Over the past month, a number of young families in the parish have spoken to Father James about the possibility of a playgroup with Russian-language activities. Such a playgroup could gather together Russian-speaking and other families with the assistance of the parish. The benefits are evident: opportunities for friendship, mutual support, and the education and development of the children. Those interested in further discussing this suggestion are encouraged to make contact with one or more of the following interested people: Natasha Borodin (0433-228301), Pavel Nekuchaev (0405-833130) or Natasha Nekuchaev (0450-447554).

PARISH LIFE: FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

A parish presence on the social networking applications Facebook and Twitter have been created. This will help get information about church life out to many parishioners and friends much more quickly than by means of the newsletter or the parish website. Photographs, service schedules and news will be the focus.

Search for 'Gosford Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Panteleimon' on Facebook to "like" the page, or to become a follower on Twitter, search for "GosfordChurch".

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

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

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 (Krauhin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan), Elena (Yakupova), Lydia (Ustimko).

Families with new babies: Sergey and Irina, baby Michael and older children Alexey, Anna and Varvara; Anton and Oksana and their first child, a baby boy also named Michael.

Expectant mothers: Daria.

Travelling: Nikolai and Olympiada.



4/7 Comserv Close
West Gosford NSW 2250
PO Box 3356
Erina NSW 2250

www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au
info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au
newsletter@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au