



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

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PARISH LIFE: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2012

On Wednesday 31 October we learned of the arrival of a baby boy, Alexander, a son for Andrew and Cindy Kfoury, and a ninth grandchild for Nick and Sophie Kfoury. Congratulations to Andrew and Cindy, big brothers Chris and Lucas, and big sister Jasmine.

On Saturday 3 November, Demetrius Saturday, a small number of people gathered for a general memorial service. In addition to the relatives and friends of those present, key figures in the life of our Russian Church Abroad were commemorated: Patriarch Alexey; Metropolitans Anthony, Anastassy, Philaret, Vitaly and Laurus; and the Archbishops of Australia and New Zealand Theodore, Savva, Theodosy and Pavel, with many others. Matushka Maria prepared a kutiya which was blessed and shared.

Many people were in church the following day, Sunday 4 November, for the commemoration of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God. There were a great many communicants, both adults and children. Placed in the middle of the church was a beautiful copy of the Kazan Icon painted by our parishioner Michael Galovic. The icon was brought to church the evening before by Bill Reid, to whom it belongs.

At the end of Divine Liturgy that day Parish Council member Ivan Teliatnikov congratulated Father James with the approach of his name day – the feast of Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, celebrated on 5 November. Ivan thanked Father James for his service to the parish and wished him good health and strength. The choir then sang "Many Years!"

On Saturday 10 November Father James baptised an adult, Elena Sokolova, and a child, Victoria Luna Ramos Potalitsyna, the daughter of Ritchie Ramos and Elena Potalitsyna. May God grant his newly-baptised handmaidens Elena and Victoria many years!

PARISH LIFE: PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council met on Wednesday 14 November 2012. At the meeting, the Parish Council agreed to give a further US\$250.00 to ROCOR's Haiti Mission to assist with salaries for school teachers; approved two new applications for formal parish membership; endorsed the printing of parish calendars for 2013; and considered the usual reports on the life and financial position of the parish.

The Parish Council spent some time considering trends in parish income over the past few years. It was noted - unsurprisingly - that income fluctuates during the church year, reflecting times of peak church attendance: Christmas and Theophany, Great Lent and Pascha, and our feast-day in August. Income is dependent on church attendance because our major sources of income are plate collections and the sale of prosfora and candles. The only other sources of income are donations, bank interest, and any fundraising activities undertaken during the

course of the year. The parish receives no income or support of any kind from any other source. From this income, the parish supports the church authorities at Diocesan and Synodal level; pays bills for electricity and other utilities; provides a small allowance to the choir director; makes special donations to charitable causes such as Haiti; purchases candles for sale; pays strata fees and for contents and public liability insurance; makes special purchases such as icons and liturgical vessels and vestments; undertakes repairs and maintenance; and meets various administrative costs such as the printing and distribution of this newsletter. To the extent possible, money is also saved into our 'Future Fund' for the eventual purchase of land and the building of a permanent church. Anyone with questions about parish income or expenditure is welcome to talk to Father James or a member of the Parish Council.

SPIRITUAL LIFE: THE NATIVITY FAST

November 28th is the first day of the Nativity Fast, the period of spiritual preparation that we observe over the 6 weeks prior to the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, or Christmas. Strictly speaking, every day from 28 November until 6 January should be one on which no meat or dairy products are eaten. Fish is permitted on every Saturday and Sunday during December except for the final Sunday, 30 December. Wine and oil are also permitted on fish days, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and also on 10, 17, 19 and 26 December. Fish, wine (or alcohol in general), and oil are all allowed on these fasting days in honour of certain saints' days; the "higher" the rank of the saint, the more we can relax our fasting. The fast becomes much stricter from the beginning of January onwards. It is acknowledged, of course, that people observe the fast in many different ways, each according to their strength. Talk to Father James if you have any questions or concerns.

PARISH LIFE: THE SUMMER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

As of Sunday 18 November the summer 2012-13 Schedules of Services will be available in church. A copy is also included with this newsletter. There will be three Sunday services during December, in addition to services early in the month for the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. In January we will have services for the Eve of the Nativity of Christ and on the feast of the Nativity itself, Christmas Day.

PARISH LIFE: NATIVITY FAST CHARITABLE COLLECTION

The Nativity Fast "money-box" collection will be to assist the building of a new cathedral dedicated to the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia in Moscow's Lubyanka, a "church-on-the-blood" at the site of the persecution and martyrdom of countless Orthodox Christians during the Soviet era. This is a wonderful project that shows the extraordinary extent of change in Russia, and one that can unite and inspire the faithful of the whole Russian Orthodox Church, whether in Russia or abroad, and whether Russian or not. The money boxes will be available in church from Sunday 2 December.

CHURCH LIFE: THE DECLARATION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF RUSSIAN BISHOPS SERVING IN THE DIASPORA

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, a Conference of Russian Orthodox Bishops Serving in the Diaspora was held in London on October 19-21, 2012, marking the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Act of Canonical Communion between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. The event gathered archpastors serving outside the canonical territory of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Moscow Patriarchate's Commission on Dialog with the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and its counterpart on the side of the Russian Church Abroad proposed this event in 2006 during their sixth joint meeting in Nyack NY. It was later approved by the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and the Holy Synod of the Moscow Patriarchate. The agenda for the conference was drafted at the time and later supplemented by other topics which proved important during the first five years of joint church life. Many of these questions had already been discussed during joint pastoral meetings on the local level, and at meetings of the Working Group on Strengthening Church Unity established by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill before the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Act of Canonical Communion, at the request of the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. This group operates under the auspices of His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion of Volokolamsk.

On October 19, 2012, after a prayer before the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God "of the Sign," the Protectress of the Russian Diaspora brought to London for the event, His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion, President of the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, opened the conference with a welcoming word on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill. He stressed the importance of the reunification achieved five years earlier, touching upon the special nature of pastoral work outside of the canonical territory of the Russian Orthodox Church, and shared his thoughts on the challenges facing this assembly of archpastors.

This was followed by a greeting by His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York. The First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia noted that the bishops abroad face a double challenge: to spiritually nourish those who hail from the former lands of historic Russia who have settled far from the homeland, and to show the truth of Orthodoxy to local populations. Metropolitan Hilarion called upon the archpastors to pay special attention to pastoral and missionary work with youth, and wished everyone at the gathering God's help in their efforts.

A secretariat was selected by the conference participants which consisted of Protopriest Alexander Lebedeff, Secretary of the Inter-Orthodox Relations Department of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia; Protopriest Nikolai Balashov, Vice President of the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate; Protopriest Serafim Gan, Chancellor of ROCOR's Synod of Bishops; and Protopriest Mikhail Dudko of the Sourozh Diocese.

Each of the conferees then reported on the state of affairs in their own regions, concentrating on cooperative efforts between dioceses and parishes and analyses of the fifth anniversary of the reestablishment of unity. Speaking on these topics were His Eminence Archbishop Anatoly of Kerch; His Eminence Archbishop Mark of Berlin and Germany; His Eminence Archbishop Feofan of Berlin and Germany (via remote feed); His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America; His Eminence Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada; His Eminence Archbishop Michael of Geneva and Western Europe; His Eminence Archbishop Mark of Egoriev; His Eminence Archbishop Elisey of Sourozh; His Grace Bishop Iov of Kashira; His Grace Bishop Agapit of Stuttgart; His Grace Bishop Peter of Cleveland; His

Grace Bishop John of Caracas and South America; His Grace Bishop George of Mayfield and His Grace Bishop Nestor of Korsun.

The conferees discussed celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the reestablishment of the fullness of brotherly communion within the Russian Orthodox Church, and the work of the Committee to Strengthen Church Unity. They learned of progress made in the area of certain provisions of the Act of Canonical Communion for the transitional period, determined at the time of the signing of the Act, aimed at regularizing canonical matters. Discussed were prospects for bettering coordination between dioceses of the unified Russian Church on a local level, in particular with regard to opening new parishes and in joint pastoral work, external and internal mission work, practice in divine services, as well as the method of receiving persons wishing to join the Orthodox Church. Careful attention was paid to questions of the spiritual nourishment of the multi-lingual Orthodox diaspora in various nations where the Russian Orthodox Church conducts its service, and cooperation in the Holy Land. A great deal of joy was inspired by the fact that over recent years, fruitful results in joint youth projects were attained, and that certain existing problems were resolved.

Also discussed was the participation of archpastors in European meetings on a regional level and in accordance with the decisions of the IV All-Orthodox Pre-Council Conference of 2009 in Chambessy. The hierarchs shared their thoughts on joint action with dioceses of other Local Orthodox Churches in various parts of the world, discussing the question of the participation of bishops, clergymen and laity of the Russian Orthodox Church in inter-confessional forums.

At the conclusion of their meetings, the archpastors participated in all-night vigil in the main cathedral of the Diocese of Great Britain of the Russian Church Abroad. The following day, Sunday, they celebrated Divine Liturgy at the cathedral of the Sourozh Diocese, which is marking its fiftieth anniversary this year. After Liturgy, a memorial litany was performed for the founder of the diocese, Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh of blessed memory, and a bas-relief plaque in his memory was unveiled. The conference participants also attended a ceremony devoted to the diocesan anniversary and the fifth anniversary of the reunification of the Russian Orthodox Church abroad.

Lifting praise to God, Who blessed us with peace and unity, the participants of the conference nonetheless noted that much is lacking in the relationship between the dioceses and parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside of her canonical territory and requires further perfecting and development. For this reason, similar assemblies will be convened in the future in order to cultivate the gift of unity received from the Lord.

The archpastors of the Russian diaspora, gathering from all corners of the world to discuss vital questions in Church life in the spirit of unanimity and love, were inspired in their joint efforts to lead the people of God to the Kingdom of Heaven, ever recalling the words of the Lord: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).

The contemporary world presents many obstacles on the path of the Orthodox Christian who wishes to attain this blessed goal. The widespread loss of spiritual and moral values, the denigration of the Holy Church and attacks upon her even to the degree of blasphemy and the desecration of the churches of God, and the corresponding indifference or even support by certain strata of society can evoke within the faithful a sense of bewilderment and even

despair. The conference participants call upon their flock not to succumb to such reactions, to stand firmly in the defense of Holy Orthodoxy, to be filled with the Spirit of God, love for the Lord and one's neighbour, according to the commandment of Apostle Paul: "ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men" (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

The archpastors of the Russian Orthodox Church serving outside her canonical territory are filled with determination to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Judas 1:3), to labor together with hope in the Lord, to preserve the legacy of Holy Rus, relying on the prayers of the Most-Pure Mother of God and all the saints.

ИТОГОВЫЙ ДОКУМЕНТ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ АРХИЕРЕЕВ РУССКОЙ ПРАВОСЛАВНОЙ ЦЕРКВИ, ОСУЩЕСТВЛЯЮЩИХ СВОЕ СЛУЖЕНИЕ ЗА ПРЕДЕЛАМИ ЕЕ КАНОНИЧЕСКОЙ ТЕРРИТОРИИ

По благословию Святейшего Патриарха Московского и всея Руси Кирилла 19-21 октября 2012 года в Лондоне в связи с отмечаемым в этом году пятилетием подписания Акта о каноническом общении состоялась конференция архиереев Русской Православной Церкви, осуществляющих свое служение за пределами ее канонической территории.

Предложение о проведении такого совещания после подписания Акта о каноническом общении было в 2006 году внесено комиссией Московского Патриархата по диалогу с Русской Зарубежной Церковью и комиссией Русской Зарубежной Церкви по переговорам с Московским Патриархатом на шестом совместном заседании в Наяке, штат Нью-Йорк, а затем одобрено Архиерейским Собором Русской Православной Церкви Заграницей и Священным Синодом Московского Патриархата. Составленный тогда же перечень вопросов программы конференции был дополнен новыми темами, которые приобрели актуальность в течение первого пятилетия общей церковной жизни. Многие из этих вопросов ранее уже обсуждались в ходе совместных пастырских совещаний на местах, а также на заседаниях рабочей группы по вопросам укрепления церковного единства, которая была учреждена Святейшим Патриархом Кириллом в преддверии празднования пятилетия подписания Акта о каноническом общении по предложению членов Архиерейского Собора Русской Зарубежной Церкви и осуществляет свою деятельность под председательством митрополита Волоколамского Илариона.

19 октября 2012 года после общей молитвы перед доставленной в Лондон по этому случаю чудотворной Курской-Коренной иконой Божией Матери, Одигитрии русского рассеяния, митрополит Волоколамский Иларион, председатель Отдела внешних церковных связей Московского Патриархата, открыл конференцию и приветствовал участников встречи от лица Святейшего Патриарха Кирилла. Во вступительном слове владыка подчеркнул значение состоявшегося пять лет назад воссоединения, затронул особенности пастырского служения за пределами канонических рубежей Русской Православной Церкви и поделился мыслями о задачах настоящего собрания архипастырей.

С приветственным словом к участникам конференции обратился митрополит Восточно-Американский и Нью-Йоркский Иларион. Первоиерарх Русской Зарубежной Церкви

отметил, что перед зарубежными архиереями стоит двойная задача: духовно окормлять бывших жителей пространства исторической Руси, оказавшихся вдали от родины, а также являть истину Православия жителям стран своего пребывания. Митрополит Иларион призвал архипастырей обратить особое внимание на пастырскую и миссионерскую работу с молодежью и пожелал всем собравшимся архиереям Божией помощи в предстоящих трудах.

По решению участников конференции был учрежден секретариат конференции, который составили секретарь по межправославным отношениям при Архиерейском Синоде Русской Зарубежной Церкви протоиерей Александр Лебедев, заместитель председателя Отдела внешних церковных связей Московского Патриархата протоиерей Николай Балашов, управляющий делами канцелярии Архиерейского Синода Русской Зарубежной Церкви протоиерей Серафим Ган и клирик Сурожской епархии протоиерей Михаил Дудко.

Затем все участники встречи выступили с сообщениями о положении дел в местах своего служения, особо остановившись на вопросах взаимодействия епархий и приходов, представили обзор итогов периода, прошедшего со времени восстановления единства. Своим мнением по данным темам поделились архиепископ Керченский Анатолий, архиепископ Берлинско-Германский и Великобританский Марк, архиепископ Берлинский и Германский Феофан (по дистанционной связи), архиепископ Сан-Францисский и Западно-Американский Кирилл, архиепископ Монреальский и Канадский Гавриил, архиепископ Женевский и Западно-Европейский Михаил, архиепископ Егорьевский Марк, архиепископ Сурожский Елисей, епископ Каширский Иов, епископ Штутгартский Агапит, епископ Кливлендский Петр, епископ Каракасский и Южноамериканский Иоанн, епископ Мейфильдский Георгий, епископ Корсунский Нестор.

Участники конференции рассмотрели информацию о состоявшихся торжественных мероприятиях по празднованию 5-летия восстановления полноты братского общения внутри Русской Православной Церкви и о деятельности рабочей группы по вопросам укрепления церковного единства. Они ознакомились с ходом исполнения положений Приложения к Акту о каноническом общении в связи с истечением переходного периода, определенного при подписании Акта для полного урегулирования некоторых канонических вопросов. Были обсуждены перспективы улучшения координации деятельности епархий единой Русской Церкви на местах, в частности, при открытии новых приходов и в области совместной пастырской работы, внешней и внутренней миссии, богослужебной практики, а также практики приема лиц, желающих присоединиться к Православной Церкви. Были внимательно рассмотрены вопросы духовного окормления многоязычной православной диаспоры из различных стран, составляющих каноническую территорию Русской Православной Церкви, сотрудничества в Святой Земле.

С большой радостью было отмечено, что за минувшие годы удалось достичь плодотворных результатов в совместных проектах работы с молодежью и урегулировать ранее существовавшие проблемы.

Предметом обсуждения стал также опыт участия архипастырей в Епископских совещаниях, созданных в ряде регионов в соответствии с решениями IV Всеправославного предсоборного совещания 2009 года в Шамбези. Архиереи

обменялись мыслями о взаимодействии с епархиями других Поместных Православных Церквей в различных частях мира, обсудили вопрос об участии архиереев, клириков и мирян Русской Православной Церкви в межконфессиональных контактах.

По завершении работы совещания архипастыри приняли участие в праздничном всенощном бдении в Кафедральном соборе Великобританской епархии Русской Зарубежной Церкви. На следующий день в воскресенье ими была совершена торжественная Божественная литургия в Кафедральном соборе Сурожской епархии, отмечающей в эти дни пятидесятилетний юбилей. По окончании литургии в притворе собора состоялась заупокойная лития по создателю епархии приснопамятному митрополиту Сурожскому Антонию и открыт его мемориальный барельеф. Участники конференции также присутствовали на торжественном акте, посвященном юбилею епархии и пятилетию воссоединения Русской Православной Церкви в зарубежье.

Воздавая славу Богу, благословившему нас миром и единством, участники конференции, тем не менее, заметили, что многое во взаимоотношениях епархий и приходов Русской Православной Церкви за пределами ее канонической территории нуждается в дальнейшем совершенствовании и развитии. Поэтому подобного рода совещания будут и впредь созываться, дабы возгревать полученный от Господа дар единства.

Архипастыри русского зарубежья, собравшиеся со всех концов света для обсуждения в духе единомыслия и любви насущных вопросов церковной жизни, вдохновлялись в своих совместных трудах общим стремлением вести народ Божий в Царство Небесное, поминая всегда слова Господа: «Ищите же прежде Царства Божия и правды Его» (Мф. 6, 33).

В современном мире много препятствий стоят на пути православного христианина, желающего достичь этой благой цели. Повсеместно возрастающая утрата духовных и нравственных ценностей, оскорбления Святой Церкви и нападения на нее, доходящие до кощунства и осквернения храмов Божиих при безразличии или даже поддержке определенных слоев общества, — все это может вызвать у верующих чувство растерянности и даже уныния. Участники конференции призывают свою паству не поддаваться таким настроениям, твердо стоять на страже Святого Православия, исполняться Духом Божиим, любовью ко Господу и к своему ближнему, по заповеди святого апостола Павла: «Всегда ищите добра и друг другу и всем» (1 Фесс. 5, 15).

Архипастыри Русской Православной Церкви, несущие служение за пределами ее канонической территории, преисполнены решимости «подвизаться за веру, однажды преданную святым» (Иуд. 1. 3), совместно трудиться с упованием на Господа, хранить наследие Святой Руси, полагаясь на молитвы Пречистой Богородицы и всех святых.

AVAILABLE: A KITCHEN TABLE

Parishioners and friends may have noticed a beautiful new stainless steel bench in the middle of the parish kitchen. Purchased to improve safety in the kitchen, this new bench rendered unnecessary the wooden table that had been there for many years previously. This wooden table, an extendable table in very good condition, is available for a small donation to anyone who wants it. If required, chairs to go with it are also available. If interested, please speak with our Head Sister, Kate Marcotrigiano.

PARISH LIFE: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR FOOD HANDLING TRAINING

To ensure the health and safety of parishioners and friends, it is necessary for us to have a number of people trained in the safe handling of food. Training, paid for by the parish, can be either an on-line course or a half-day seminar. Any parishioners interested in attending food handling training are asked to speak with the Head Sister, Kate Marcotrigiano.

COMMUNITY LIFE: 'RUSSIAN NEW YEAR ADVENTURE' EVENT

A Russian-language "yolka"-style event incorporating games, presents, songs and dances will be held for children aged 2 to 7 years on 25 November at the Beatrice Taylor Hall in Hornsby. Tickets cost \$20, and those interested can register by sending an email message to: jdruganova@yahoo.com.au. For further information, please contact Jenya Druganova on 0432 207 557 or visit the RusKids website: www.ruskids.com.au.

CHURCH LIFE: RELEASE OF BURIAL PLOTS AT ROOKWOOD CEMETERY

The Anglican Cemetery at Rookwood Cemetery has recently released over 300 new plots adjoining the Russian section RO4. On the basis that people will begin to purchase plots, the Diocesan Cemetery Committee has been able to secure these new plots for the Russian Orthodox community. If plots are not purchased in the near future, this land will be set aside for another ethnic or religious group. Further information about the purchase of burial plots will be made available in due course, with leaflets currently being organised by the Diocesan Cemetery Committee.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Nun Euphrosyne; Leonid; and our parishioners Vladimir, Michael, Tatiana, Tatiana, Tatiana and Boris.

Newly-baptised: Elena, infant Victoria.

Studying and working abroad: Michael; Deacon Martin, Tatiana, Xenia, Alexander and Sebastian.

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



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