

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК
PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 74, March-April 2008 ~

PARISH LIFE: CHURCH CLEANUP ON SATURDAY 19 APRIL

On Saturday 19 April we will have our usual general clean-up day at church in preparation for Pascha. This will be the usual major clean-up, with everything in the church and hall being washed, scrubbed and polished in preparation for our Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services. All those who are able are asked to attend, especially younger people who are able to assist with some the more physical tasks. A list of tasks will be prepared and pinned up in the church hall from Sunday 6 April to ensure that everyone can identify something useful to do. A light Lenten lunch will be prepared by the Ladies' Auxiliary and served afterwards for all those working.

SPIRITUAL LIFE: CONFESSION AND COMMUNION DURING GREAT LENT

All parishioners are encouraged to confess their sins and receive Holy Communion at least once during Great Lent. In this parish, those who confess and receive Holy



Communion on the weekend of April 19-20 (Palm Sunday) will generally be permitted to also receive communion on Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, and at the midnight Paschal liturgy. It is possible to confess on Saturday nights when we have a service at Gosford, on Sunday mornings before Divine Liturgy, or at other times by arrangement with Father James. Those parishioners who confess to another priest should let Father James know before coming to Holy Communion that they plan to

receive the Holy Mysteries that day.

**PARISH LIFE: HOLY MYSTERY OF ANOINTING WITH OIL
(«СОБОРОВАНИЕ») ON MONDAY APRIL 21ST**

On the evening of Monday April 21 at 6.00pm we will have the special service of general anointing («соборование»). God willing, Archbishop Hilarion will be with us for this service. The Holy Mystery of Anointing with Oil for the healing of sickness is referred to in the 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, a practice that calls to mind the Good Samaritan, who poured oil and wine on the wounds of the man who fell among thieves) 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. Each person is then anointed on the forehead, nostrils, cheeks, lips, chest, and both sides of the hands. During Great Lent, it is the practice in all parishes of our diocese (and indeed, of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia) to 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. The service will take between 2 and 3 hours. All are encouraged to attend, and those wishing to do so should endeavour to confess their sins beforehand.

PARISH LIFE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2008

February 2008 was a busy time in parish life, with three christenings and two fishing competitions apart from our scheduled services. On Saturday 2 February 2008 Father James baptised Nika, the infant daughter of our choir singer Kostya Burlutsky and his wife Maia, and Yakov Belov, a young man in his 20s. Nemanja Mrdjenovic and Marina Maksimenko were godparents to Nika, and Kostya sponsored Yakov. Both the newly-baptised Orthodox Christians received Holy Communion for the first time the following day.

A fortnight later Father James baptised Anastasia, the infant daughter of Adam Moyle and his wife Marina Melnikoff of Ourimbah. Anastasia's godparents were Veronica Melnikoff and Peter Moyle. All present enjoyed a lovely meal in our church hall afterwards. Anastasia received Holy Communion for the first time the following day. Many years to the newly-baptised servants of God Nika, Yakov and Anastasia!

On Sunday 3 February our new deacon, Father Martin Naef, served with us for the first time. He has been with us at each Divine Liturgy since, in addition to some of the evening services. It has been a joy for us to have Father Martin and his family with us at Gosford.

The first of our fishing competitions was held on Saturday 9 February 2008 at Deerubbin Reserve on the Hawkesbury River. Although wet weather made conditions a little uncomfortable on the day, the competition was a success, raising \$1650.00.

Michael Paramonov was the overall winner with a catfish weighing in at just over 1kg. Of the money raised, most went towards our mortgage repayment, but a generous donation was also made to Hawkesbury River Volunteer Marine Rescue. This is in keeping with our policy of charitable work to support community organisations as well as Orthodox Christian charitable activities. Many thanks to the organisers - Paul Pereboeff, Victor Bendeovski, George Karmadonoff, Peter Iliuk and Craig Coppman - and all those who worked hard to make the competition a success. Photos, details of prizewinners, and information about the businesses and individuals who sponsored the competition can be accessed at www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au/fishingcomp.

Our second fishing "competition" was less of a competition and more of a fun day for kids. Held at Patonga Beach, the weather was - in marked contrast to the adult's competition a fortnight earlier! - absolutely beautiful. A good number of kids and parents attended, with the fishing from the wharf being followed by a BBQ on the shore. There were some interesting catches - a mud crab, two octopi, a large flathead - but the trophy for 'Best Catch' went to Nicholas Carles for his impressive haul of 11 fish. Many of the kids later had great fun leaping off the wharf and into the water. A great day was had by all, and thanks is due to Paul, Victor, Peter and all those who assisted on the day.

On the first Saturday in March Father James baptized Timothy, the infant son of Dmitri and Irene Kouznetsov; Irene was our parish Russian School teacher in 2005 and 2006. Timothy's godparents were his aunty, Elena Konovalenkova (who was visiting Australia for the first time) and Alexander Fachine. Many years also to the newly-baptised servant of God Timothy!

On Sunday 3 March 2008 we enjoyed blini prepared by our hard-working sisterhood, along with various toppings: smoked salmon, herring, caviar, sour cream, and jam. Our late 2007 Annual General Meeting was then held. A full report of the AGM is presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Sunday 9 March - Forgiveness Sunday - we had no morning service, but a good number of us nevertheless gathered for the service of Vespers with the rite of asking forgiveness. This is a beautiful service that changes from the festive melodies to Lenten ones in the middle of the service, with the vestments changed from gold to black at the same time. Afterwards, all present asked forgiveness of one another. The sisterhood then kindly served the children (and a few lucky adults!) ice-cream for the last time before Pascha.

During the first week of Great Lent we had services each evening from Monday to Thursday. On these days it is customary to serve Great Compline, with the priest

reading the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, a beautiful liturgical poem that leads one to reflect on one's sinfulness and need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Great Compline is mostly read, and most who attended took turns over the four days to read some of the prayers and psalms. These services very nicely set the tone for the fast, just as is intended. It is our custom to serve Great Compline most Wednesday nights during Great Lent.

Many more people than usual were present at our services on the first and third Sundays in Great Lent (March 16 and 30), with a number confessing and preparing for Holy Communion. At the end of the Divine Liturgy on the first Sunday we served the customary Moleben (or service of intercession) "For the Conversion of the Lost", a service made all the more relevant and poignant by the departure last year of a number of the clergy and faithful of our own diocese into schism. For the third Sunday, the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, we served All-night Vigil with the bringing out of the Cross, a beautiful service. And so it was that we commenced the second half of Great Lent.

Each Sunday evening we have served Great Lenten Vespers with the Passia. As with Vespers on the evening of Forgiveness Sunday, the festive melodies become Lenten ones in the middle of the service, and the vestments are changed from red to black. At the end of each of these services is the Passia, the reading of two chapters from the Holy Gospel concerning the betrayal, trial, crucifixion and burial of Christ. On the first Sunday in Great Lent the reading is from Saint Matthew's Gospel, on the second Sunday from Saint Mark, and on the third Sunday from Saint Luke. This year the evening of the fourth Sunday is the eve of the Great Feast of the Annunciation, and so the fourth Passia - with a reading from Saint John - will be on the evening of the fifth Sunday. These services last for a little under an hour, and one always leaves the church afterwards uplifted and strengthened.

CHURCH LIFE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

February and March 2008 were months of great activity and significance in the life of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, months that will be long remembered. In February Metropolitan Laurus and a delegation of our Church Abroad visited Western Europe and then Russia. In Russia, Vladyka Laurus was honoured with a number of awards: "2007 Compatriot of the Year" for his great work in that year for the spiritual unity of the Russian people; the International Award of the Fund of Apostle Andrew the First-Called; and a Patriarchal award, the Order of Saint Sergius of Radonezh, First Class. Vladyka Laurus and members of our Synod participated for the first time in the observance of Patriarch Alexei's name-day on 25 February (the day of commemoration of Saint Alexis, the Metropolitan of

Moscow and All Russia, and Wonderworker), presenting him with an icon of the holy New-Martyr Saint Kyrill of Kazan. Many holy sites were visited, and members of the delegation served in a number of churches and monasteries. The Synod of Bishops held a meeting in Moscow, and received visits from delegations of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Kursk Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church. With the latter delegation, our bishops discussed the possibility of the precious Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God visiting Russia in the near future. All of these things bore vivid witness to the remarkable changes that have occurred in the life of the Russian Orthodox Church in the past year.

In February our own Archbishop Hilarion travelled to South America together with our Diocesan Secretary, Archpriest Michael Boikov. Vladyka Hilarion and Father Michael visited and served in many parishes across a number of countries, establishing contact with the faithful there and meeting with a number of clergymen and monastics who have sadly separated themselves from the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. As there has been no bishop of our Church Abroad in South America since Bishop Alexander's repose, Vladyka tonsured a number of readers and took other steps to set church life in order. Vladyka and Father Michael returned to Australia in early March. Vladyka Hilarion has since been appointed temporary administrator of the South American Diocese, adding this to his many other responsibilities. He now cares for Australia, New Zealand, South America, Indonesia, and Korea!

Metropolitan Laurus returned to the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville for the beginning of Great Lent, participating in the services in the course of the first week and presiding at Divine Liturgy on the Wednesday and Friday. It was with great surprise and sorrow, then, that the clergy and faithful of the Church Abroad learned that Vladyka Laurus had passed away peacefully very early in the morning of the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy, 16 March, the first Sunday in Great Lent. Memorial services were immediately offered for his repose throughout the world, in Russia and in all the dioceses abroad. In our parish, memorial services were held on Tuesday 18 and again on Wednesday 19 March. We will pray for Vladyka again at Divine Liturgy on Holy Thursday, the fortieth day after his repose.

As Chief Deputy of the President of the Synod of Bishops, Vladyka Hilarion immediately left for New York in order to attend Vladyka Laurus' funeral and burial, and to take responsibility for the administration of our Church Abroad. Father Michael Boikov again accompanied him. Vladyka's Laurus' funeral was held at Jordanville on Friday 21 March. Presiding at the funeral were Metropolitan Juvenaly of Krutitsk and Kolomna and Metropolitan Onuphry of Bukovino, the latter having

recently travelled through the dioceses abroad with the "Derzhavnaya" Icon of the Mother of God.

On Sunday 31 March Metropolitan Juvenaly served Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Cathedral of Saint Nicholas in New York, concelebrating there for the first time with Vladyka Hilarion and many of our bishops. Father Michael also served, as did Father Daniel Metlenko of the Centennial Park parish in Sydney. Father Daniel had been very close to Vladyka Laurus during his time studying at Jordanville, and so had travelled to New York for the funeral.

Vladyka Hilarion remains in New York for the time being, although he will back in Australia by mid-April. There will be an Extraordinary Pastoral Conference at Croydon on 17 April 2008, to which all clergymen of the diocese have been urged to attend. At this meeting there will be an important discussion concerning the future of our diocese. Father James will report back to the parish on this meeting at the earliest opportunity.

At the same time, preparations are underway for the convening of a meeting of the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in order that a new first hierarch - the fifth in the history of our Church Abroad - can be elected. This Council will convene in New York on 12 May 2008, and the new Metropolitan will be enthroned on the following Sunday, 18 March. The faithful are asked to remember Archbishop Hilarion and all of our bishops in their prayers as our Church Abroad prepares for this historic Council.

THE LIFE OF METROPOLITAN LAURUS

His Eminence was born Vassily Skurla on 1 January 1928 in Ladomirovo, Czechoslovakia. As a young boy he was already drawn to the monastic life. In 1939, with the blessing of his father, the young Vassily joined the monastery of St. Job of Pochaev in Ladimorovo. He became a novice five years later at age 16.

After facing the dangers of life during World War II as the German-Soviet front approached Ladimorovo, and fleeing west through Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Switzerland, in 1946, with the other members of the monastic brotherhood, he moved to Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York.

In March 1948, Vassily was tonsured a ryassophore monk, being given the name 'Laurus' (in Russian, 'Lavr'). In 1949, he took the small schema and was ordained to the diaconate. In 1954, he was ordained to the priesthood. In 1959 he was made an igumen, and in 1966 an archimandrite. He graduated from Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville in 1954, and in 1960 was appointed Dean of the Seminary.

In 1967, Archimandrite Laurus was elected Bishop of Manhattan and was appointed secretary of the Synod of Bishops.

In 1976, Bishop Laurus was elected abbot of Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY and was appointed Bishop of Syracuse and Holy Trinity. In 1981, he was elevated to archbishop.

In October 2001 Archbishop Laurus was elected Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York and the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

In 2006, Metropolitan Laurus chaired the fourth All-Diaspora Council of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, at which approval was given for reconciliation and normalization of relations with the Moscow Patriarchate. On 17 May 2007, he participated in the signing of the Act of Canonical Communion in Moscow, Russia and participated in a joint liturgy with the Patriarch of Moscow at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow.

As has been noted previously, Metropolitan Laurus reposed peacefully early on the morning of the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy at his skete on the grounds of the Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, where he had lived for over 60 years. Around the world, two generations of clergymen who had been prepared for service to the Russian Orthodox Church at the Monastery under Vladyka's Laurus' supervision offered prayers for the repose of his soul.

Some of the most moving words, nevertheless, were spoken by a clergyman of the Russian Orthodox Church who met Metropolitan Laurus relatively recently. Following a pannikhida served by the brethren of Sretensky Stavropighial Monastery in Moscow on the day of Metropolitan Laurus' repose, Archimandrite Tikhon, the Prior of the Monastery (who visited Australia late last year with the "Derzhavnaya" Icon), addressed the brethren as follows:

"In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

Dear fathers and brothers! A great joy has been visited upon us, not only to have seen, but to have communed with a holy man, with the man for whom we just performed the first pannikhida. Metropolitan Laurus lived a long, joyful and wonderful life of a Christian, as a monk of the Russian Orthodox Church. From his youth, he devoted his entire life to Christ and to serving His Church, sparing nothing, and he brought to God the fruits of the talents he was given a hundredfold: first of all, his sacred soul, cleansed of passion, adorned with love, of limitless kindness and genuine humility. He brought, too, to the Lord as the

product of his labors and his prayers a host of wonderful archpastors and pastors, podvizhnik monks, who were all educated within the walls of Holy Trinity Monastery and Seminary in Jordanville. He also made a contribution, unseen by many, towards the rebirth of Russia: the books published under his supervision at the Monastery in the second half of last century found their way to Russia, not without great difficulty, and poured forth the salvific light of Christ for those who "walked in darkness... and the shadow of death," in which so many people in our Fatherland lived at the time. The bounty of his life is the countless number of laypersons of the Church Abroad who venerated him as their beloved spiritual guide and benefactor. The main lesson for his flock was his holy, quiet life in which an attentive eye saw a burning love for Christ and a sacrifice of his life for his flock every single day.

And finally, his chief sacrifice for Christ as an archpastor and head of the Church Abroad was the fulfillment of the legacy of the founders of the Russian ecclesiastical diaspora - reunification with the Church in the Fatherland. This is what he did together with His Holiness Patriarch Alexy - two Russian pastors, two bishops, two monks, who, paying no heed to the storms of hatred and anger, accomplished the task set before them by God, they fulfilled the will of their Lord Jesus Christ.

We who live in Russia did not know Vladyka those many years when we were divided. But we became the joyous witnesses of his last great podvig, which he performed on behalf of the entire Russian diaspora - he has already departed to the Lord but this act lives even now throughout the world. But maybe most importantly, we became the witnesses of how he achieved this - we witnessed his prayers. It is prayer that was the greatest strength that Vladyka possessed, it was his main calling, his chief talent and greatest weapon. It was also his greatest joy and hope.

Such people are rare these days. And we were fortunate to have seen such a person, and to have been with him. Remember how less than a month ago he celebrated his last, and I believe his only, Divine Liturgy at which he officiated in Moscow, here at our Sretensky Monastery. He once told me that the land beneath us, at Sretensky Monastery, where so many New Martyrs received the martyrdom and death for Christ, is itself an antimimension.

We all remember that service... Despite the great fatigue he suffered from his illness, his travels and the daily services and ceremonies, after our divine services and trapeza he did not only bless everyone - he blessed each one of us! Every monk, every novice, seminarian and refectory worker. He looked each

monk, each seminarian in the eyes with love, with interest. For him, each of us was like the closest relative and his dearest friend. And this blessing of a podvizhnik, of a person who lived a holy life will remain with us until the end of our days.

This was one of the kindest and most selfless people I have ever met in my life".

All the faithful of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia have been asked by Archbishop Hilarion to remember the newly departed Metropolitan Laurus in their prayers, both at church and at home. May the Lord give him rest!

PARISH LIFE: FOUR YEARS AT WEST GOSFORD

As of the first weekend in April we will have been here at West Gosford for four years. The first services in our new church were for Palm Sunday 2004: the vigil on Saturday April 3rd and Divine Liturgy Sunday April 4th. In the four years since then we have had, on a rough count, some 400 scheduled services, along with 2 weddings and 35 baptisms. We have managed, aided by others, to pay over \$80000 off our mortgage. Our parish has grown in every way, and prospered, and we have as a parish much to give thanks to God for. We pray that He will continue to bless us in the years ahead.

PARISH LIFE: SERVICES DURING APRIL

As was advised in the February edition of this newsletter, the schedule of services covering the autumn months (March, April and May) is available in church and on our website. We will have fifteen (!) services in April, the great majority of them beautiful Lenten services that encourage and support us in our observance of Great Lent. Having said that, the long service (around 3 hours in duration) of Matins with the reading of the Great Canon is a particularly solemn and beautiful one, including the whole of the canon that was read in four parts during the first week of Great Lent, as well as the reading aloud of the life of Saint Mary of Egypt, one of the great models of repentance. Palm Sunday should also not be missed, nor the General Service of Anointing. Matins on the evenings from Palm Sunday to Holy Wednesday is a moving service, with the singing of the beautiful troparion (or short hymn) "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh at midnight" and the exapostilarion (another type of short hymn) "I see Thy bridal chamber adorned, O my Saviour". That we have such a lovely church in which to pray and so many beautiful services is indeed a blessing, and one that it is a shame to turn away from.

READING IN CHURCH ON GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Each year on Great and Holy Saturday there are at Divine Liturgy 15 Old Testament

readings before the usual Epistle and Gospel during Divine Liturgy. Although two of these fifteen readings are usually read by an experienced chorister who sings the final verses, the other 13 are shared amongst the faithful wishing to assist. In previous years a number of people have taken turns at reading, some in English, some in Slavonic, and once even in Greek! The same opportunity will be available this year. Those wishing to assist with the reading should speak with Matushka Marie, who will again be co-ordinating readers for this service.

PARISH LIFE: OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AND PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

As has been reported elsewhere in this newsletter, our belated 2007 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Sunday 2 March 2008, lasting a remarkable 25 minutes! The parish council had again prepared an Annual Report that was distributed by post to members late in February, and which was made available in church and on the website from early in March. The Annual Report was accepted by the AGM, and the previous Parish Council was returned to office together with one new member, George Karmadonoff. Parish Council meetings have been moved to the second Tuesday of each month to allow time for the Treasurer to prepare the previous month's accounts for tabling at the meeting. The new Parish Council is due to meet for the first time on Tuesday 8 April 2008. On the agenda will be future directions in parish life, the election of office-bearers, Orthodox Christian educational activities, and the usual reports on parish finances, charitable work, parish life, and building and maintenance concerns.

PARISH LIFE: OUR BOOKSTORE

As was reported in the last issue of this newsletter, our new bookstore opened for business on the first weekend in March 2008. As the weather has been kind to us, tables have been set up outside church so that people can browse after the service. The stock includes a great many titles in English and in Russian, and a number of Russian-language DVDs. There has been a lot of interest in the material available, and sales have been good enough to allow repayment of a small loan from the Parish Council in addition to a sizeable order of English-language children's books (24 different titles, 79 books in all) that should be here by Palm Sunday. The plan is to modestly yet steadily build up the stock so that it includes a good selection of Orthodox Christian and related books and DVDs in English and Russian, cards for different occasions, and devotional items such as icons, baptismal and other crosses, oil lamps, and incense. Questions about the bookstall or suggestions can be directed to the bookstore co-ordinator, Chris Dowling, either in person or by email at bookstore@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au.

Two books available from our bookstore and highly recommended by Father James (and an increasing number of others!) are 'Father Arseny, 1893-1973: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father' and 'Father Arseny: A Cloud of Witnesses'. These two books are translations from the Russian - we also have the Russian original, «Отец Арсений» - and are accounts from the life and ministry of a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church in the 20th Century. These books detail the sufferings and pastoral work of a hieromonk, Father Arseny, whilst he was in prison camps and in exile for his faith. Set out also are the struggles of many Orthodox Christians with whom he came into contact. They are extraordinarily moving and inspiring books. For those who are not strong readers, the first English-language volume is also available on a set of cassette tapes. Either one of these books is ideal Lenten reading. Another profitable book to read during Great Lent is 'Orthodox Lent, Holy Week and Easter: Liturgical Texts with Commentary' by Hugh Wybrew. Wybrew is actually an Anglican priest, and wrote this book to inspire his own congregation. The book is nevertheless so helpful that it was reprinted by an Orthodox publisher, Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press. It explains our services very nicely, and is a great help to anyone wishing to better understand our beautiful Lenten services. Short reviews of these books or of anything else purchased are most welcome for publication in this newsletter, should anyone feel inspired to put pen to paper!

PARISH LIFE: CHARITABLE WORK

Parishioners will recall that during the Nativity Fast we collected money for the Vladimir Children's Fund. The total amount raised was A\$1320.00, which when converted was 28461 rubles! The money has since been transferred to the Fund. Katya Rubbo is to visit Vladimir over the next month or so, and will bring back news for us from Vladimir.

Our charitable project during Great Lent 2008 is the collection of funds to assist the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This hospital is dedicated to the treatment and prevention of obstetric fistula, a devastating injury caused by obstructed labour in childbirth. More information is available from <http://www.fistulafoundation.org>, the website of a US-based charitable organisation, the Fistula Foundation. Father James also has a 16-minute DVD produced by an Australian organisation, and which gives an overview of the work of the Fistula Hospital, should anyone wish to watch it. The work done by this hospital makes a huge difference in the lives of many young women, and is worthy of our support. Those who have not already taken a donation tin can still do so; those wishing to contribute in any other way should talk to Paul Pereboeff, the Parish Council's Charitable Work and Fundraising co-ordinator.

SPIRITUAL LIFE: EXTRACTS FROM THE DIVINE SERVICES

"I have surpassed the Publican in my transgressions, yet I do not vie with him in his repentance; I have not gained the virtue of the Pharisee, yet I imitate his self-conceit. O Christ my God, in Thy supreme humility Thou hast upon the Cross destroyed the devil's arrogance: make me a stranger to the past sins of the Publican and to the great foolishness of the Pharisee; establish in my soul the good that each of them possessed, and save me".

Sticheron in Tone 3, sung at Vespers on Tuesday in the fourth week of Great Lent

"O ye faithful, taking love as our food, through abstinence let us gain control over our passions; and let us strive to live a life acceptable to God, who for our sakes was raised upon the Cross, and his side was pierced with a spear. So shall we enjoy eternal blessedness, and glorify the Saviour of our souls".

Sticheron in Tone 8, sung at Vespers on Tuesday in the fifth week of Great Lent

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

Archbishop Hilarion and the Hierarchical Council of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia; Ioanna; Anatoly and family; Maria; Archpriest Michael and family

The sick & suffering: Priest Simeon (Kichakov, the rector of the parish of "Our Lady, Joy of all who Sorrow", in Geelong); our parishioner Victor (Manjetny); and also for Zinaida, Vasili, Vera, Eugenia, Olga, Margaret, Galina, Tatiana and Daniel

Traveling abroad: Ekaterina, Michael and Ellen (Rubbo)

Expectant mothers: Anastasia, Olga

Newly-departed: Metropolitan Laurus, Valentina (Paznikova)

Departed: Metropolitan Vitaly, and former parishioners and benefactors Irina (Kamenev), Nun Maria, George (Kraiuhin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan)



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

4/7 Comserv Close
West Gosford NSW 2250

PO Box 3356
Erina NSW 2250

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

Our parish newsletter is 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). Alternatively, email us at info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au