

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015



**russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford**

ABN 98 562 088 123

INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council of Saint Panteleimon Church, Gosford, is pleased to present its 2015 Annual Report.

According to the *Normal Parish By-Laws* ('the By-Laws') of parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia it is the objective of each parish to assist the faithful by making available Orthodox Christian prayers, sacraments, teaching and discipline and by facilitating worthy activity. To this end, the aims of the parish encompass care for the church building and its material needs; provision for the clergy and support for the higher church authorities; work to help others in need; and Orthodox Christian educational work.

For the information of parish members, the Diocesan authorities, and the wider church community, this Annual Report summarises and reviews parish life and administration for the period from 1 July 2014 until 30 June 2015, considering the achievements of our parish in relation to the objective and aims set out in the By-Laws. It also provides an overview of other activities and looks at plans and challenges in the immediate future and in the years ahead.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The By-Laws provide for a Parish Council consisting of the rector and other assigned clergy and such lay members as are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the parish. The By-Laws indicate that five lay members of the Parish Council should be elected in addition to a Warden and Head Sister. With six elected members in total, our current Parish Council is a little smaller than provided for in the By-Laws.

The 2014-15 financial year was the twelfth full year of operation of our Parish Council.

During the period under review the clergymen assigned to our parish were Priest James Carles, the rector, and Deacon Martin Naef.

Father James was appointed to our parish in September 2001, immediately following his ordination to the priesthood. Since 2002, he has also served the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend.

Father Martin was appointed to our parish upon his ordination in January 2008 and served with us until July 2012. To the great joy of our parish, he returned to us in July 2014 after two years living and working in Lyon, France.

The lay members of the Parish Council elected at the AGM convened in November 2014 were Rick Golovin, Kate Marcotrigiano, Bill Reid, Anna Kourbatov, Reader

Paul Douriaguine, and Elena Douriaguine. At the completion of their current terms of office Rick, Kate and Bill will have served continuously on the Parish Council for twelve years.

Our parish has not had a warden since 2004. The duties of the warden are shared between the members of the Parish Council, the rector included. There is also no formal Ladies' Auxiliary (or "Sisterhood") in our parish. The work of the Ladies' Auxiliary is undertaken informally, with a female member of the Parish Council designated Head Sister. In 2014-15, Kate Marcotrigiano filled this role. Consideration is being given to the establishment of a formal Ladies' Auxiliary in 2015-16.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Making available Orthodox Christian prayers and sacraments

For many years now it has been our custom to serve Matins on Saturday evenings and Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings of the first, third and fifth weekends of each month. In addition, All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy are served on a number of Great Feasts. During Great Lent, Vespers with the Passia is served on the first four Sundays and Great Compline is served on Wednesday evenings. On the weekends and Great Feasts when there are no services in our parish, our rector serves in the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend (Newcastle).

To this long-established pattern of services, in late 2014 the practice of serving a twice-monthly moleben and akathist to Saint Panteleimon has been added. These services are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The first service is entirely in Church Slavonic, and the second service is entirely in English.

From the earliest services in Gosford the community has maintained a commitment to the conduct of the divine services in both Church Slavonic and English. At evening services both languages are used, according to the capabilities and needs of those present.

At Divine Liturgy the choir sings in Church Slavonic and the litanies and readings are in both Church Slavonic and English. The parish choir has functioned under the direction of Olga Ivanovna Itsikson since 2000. Before taking up this role in our parish, Olga Ivanovna served for twenty years as choir director at Saint Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Church, Centennial Park.

Sermons are given at every Divine Liturgy and delivered only in English. They generally focus on a practical theme drawn from the appointed readings from the Holy Scriptures, or relating to the particular feast.

Sadly very few people attend our evening services, a trend that is common to most parishes of our Diocese. Sunday morning services are now attended by approximately 65 worshippers. On special occasions more than 100 people will be present. These include our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon, Pascha and Christmas. There are frequently many communicants at Divine Liturgy, both children and adults.

Four service schedules are drawn up by the rector each year: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

During the twelve months from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 a total of 101 services were held in our church at West Gosford, marginally more than the previous year. Services were held on all weekends on which we would usually have a service apart from the weekend of 29-30 August 2014 when our rector visited the Holy Dormition Community in Wollongong for the celebration of its patronal feast-day. The only scheduled service cancelled was an akathist in April 2015 that could not proceed because of the loss of power to our parish centre after severe storms on the NSW east coast.

Details of our services are as follows:

	Matins or Vigil	Divine Liturgy	Other services	Total
Winter July-August 2014	6	6	1	13
Spring September-November 2014	8	8	1	17
Summer December-February 2014-15	7	7	12	26
Autumn March-May 2015	15	10	15	40
Winter June 2015	2	2	1	5
Total	38	33	31	101

Great Feasts celebrated in our parish in the course of the year under review were the Transfiguration of the Lord, the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Exaltation of the Cross, the Nativity of the Lord, the Meeting of the Lord, the Entry of the Lord

into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), and Pentecost. On the Great Feast of the Transfiguration grapes, other fruits and sixty jars of organic honey were blessed, and on the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord fruit and candles were blessed. The honey and candles, a gift to our parish, were afterwards distributed to the faithful.

In 2015 the Great Blessing of Waters was served on the Eve of Theophany. In accordance with parish custom homes were blessed that day and during the week afterwards, with the parish rector visiting nearly forty homes on the Central Coast and in Sydney's north.

We preceded Great Lent this year with Vespers and the rite of asking forgiveness, many of the faithful gathering especially for this service on the evening of Forgiveness Sunday. During the first week of Great Lent we served Great Compline on the first four evenings with the reading of the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete.

Great Compline was also served on Wednesday of the second, third, fourth and sixth weeks of Great Lent. On the first four Sunday evenings of Great Lent Vespers was served with the reading of the Passia.

The General Service of Anointing was again served on the evening of the fifth Sunday of Great Lent. This year, 35 people were present for anointing.

In 2015 our rector served the midnight Paschal service in Wallsend, and so an earlier service was held in our parish. Approximately 150 people were present for this service.

On the Sunday of Pascha itself we once again had Vespers at 11.00am, with a number of people attending the service and remaining afterwards to celebrate. This morning celebration of Paschal Vespers has become an important part of the observance of Pascha in our parish, particularly amongst younger families who have recently emigrated from Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union.

In 2014 the patronal feast of our parish was served on Saturday 9 August, the day of commemoration of the saint. His Grace Bishop George of Mayfield, then undertaking a pastoral visit to our Diocese with the blessing of Metropolitan Hilarion, presided at Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with Bishop George and Father James were Archpriest Ljubomir Dvojakovski (Saint George, Carlton); Hieromonk John (Macpherson) (Holy Trinity Monastery, Monkerai); Priest Alexander Korjenevski (Saint George, Carlton); Priest Simon Nekipelov (Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield); Protodeacon Alexander Kotlaroff (Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield); Protodeacon German Polorotoff (Saint

Nicholas, Fairfield); Deacon Constantine Moshegov (Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield, and All Saints of Russia, Croydon); Father Martin; and Deacon Vasilli Konstantinidis (Our Lady of Vladimir, Rocklea, QLD).

At the end of this service a new parish Certificate of Appreciation (“Приходская Благодарность”) was presented to each of thirteen people who had rendered particularly valuable service to the parish over the preceding ten years: Rick Golovin, Nina Golovin, Nestor Petroff, Olga Petroff, Olga Itsikson, Kate Marcotrigiano, Sophia Kfoury, Claudia Kraiuhin, Bill Reid, Matushka Marie Carles, Paul Pereboeff, Craig Koppman, and Anna Kourbatov.

A great many of our friends from Sydney visited for the feast-day, a bus having been kindly made available by John Wheatley Funeral Services, a company that has faithfully served the Russian community for many years. All those present received as a gift from our parish either a Russian-language copy of the akathist to Saint Panteleimon, an icon of the saint, or a card with an icon and prayer. Many later gathered for lunch at the Narara Community Centre.

In 2013-14 we continued the practice commenced in 2011-12 of serving a general memorial service (panikhida) on Demetrius Saturday. Following the tragic loss of flight MH17 in July 2014 a memorial litia was served for all those killed in the fratricidal strife in Ukraine. On Sunday 15 February we served a memorial litia for Archbishop Paul (Pavlov), the ruling bishop of our Diocese from 1980-1993, it being the twentieth anniversary of his repose. On the same day a litia was served the long-serving Diocesan Secretary Archpriest Nicholas Grant, Saturday 14 February having been the twentieth anniversary of his repose. On Sunday 3 May we served a memorial litia for Archbishop Theodore (Rafalsky), anticipating the sixtieth anniversary on 5 May of his repose in 1955.

There were sixteen baptisms in our church during the period under review, thirteen of infants and children and three of adults. The infants and children baptised were Alina (Sofia) Tarrasov, Maria Malysheva, Ethan (Constantine) Day, Anthony Harrison, Michael Lamanov, Andrew Aristarkhov, Thomas Lucas, Amelia Reid, Catherine Elphick, Apollo Rodrigo, Viola (Vasilissa) Byrne, Olivia (Taisia) Byrne, and Jessica (Anna) Izmestyeva. The adults baptised were Anna Maslova, Galina Wood, and Raisia Anisimova.

There was one wedding this year, that of Alex Yakimov and Tammey Smith in October 2014. There were two funerals in our church, those of Sophia Kfoury in November 2014 and Michael Grigorieff in January 2015. Sophia, a much-loved member of our parish and a long-serving Parish Council member, was buried alongside her mother, Nun Maria (Gafu), at the Point Clare Cemetery. Michael

Grigoieff was buried at the Noraville Cemetery. In addition, two funerals were served in private chapels at Palmdale: that of Nadejda Feldman in January 2015 and Elena Lucia Radu in February 2015.

In December 2015 our rector and many parishioners attended the funeral in Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral of our founding parishioner and long-serving member of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Tatiana Elgin-Borodin. Prior to her involvement in our parish Tatiana had been active at the Cathedral. She was later laid to rest in Rookwood Cemetery.

On 6 February 2015 we observed the feast-day of Blessed Xenia of Saint Petersburg, the patronal feast of our Ladies Auxiliary, by serving a moleben with an akathist on the evening of the feast. In 2016 we hope to more completely observe this day, together with the September feast-day of the saint.

In March 2015 we joyfully received the "Kursk-Root" Icon of the Mother of God into our parish. An akathist was served before the revered icon on the evening of Friday 6 March, with a great many parishioners and friends gathering to venerate the icon and pray before it.

Over the past year we have acquired a number of new Church Slavonic service books: copies of the *Lenten Triodion* and *Pentecostarion* in traditional orthography, and service books for the first and last weeks of Great Lent in modern Russian script. The books in modern Russian script were obtained to support participation in the services of those who read modern Russian but who struggle with traditional orthography.

Caring for the church building and its material needs

With the assistance of the Diocesan authorities we purchased our current parish centre in late 2003. The work of fitting it out took place during the first few months of 2004, and the first services were held in early April 2004. In May 2004 Metropolitan (then Archbishop) Hilarion blessed our new church. During 2014 we celebrated 10 years of parish life in West Gosford.

The parish owns 75 per cent of the building, and the Diocese 25 per cent. As with all property belonging to the Diocese and the parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in New South Wales, the property is held in trust for the owners by the Russian Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust.

Our mortgage was paid in full in December 2008. In February 2009 the Parish Council established a 'Future Fund' to provide for the expected needs of the parish, including the eventual purchase of property for the construction of a

permanent church. This fund is increased by regular contributions from parish funds and by occasional donations. As of the end of June 2014, this fund totaled \$55,984.91, having increased slightly from \$53,228.02 at the end of the previous financial year. Over the twelve months under review, it has increased again to \$59,257.58. Of this amount, \$40,000.00 has been set aside to go towards the purchase of a property for a permanent church.

The relatively modest increase in the Future Fund over the past two years reflects the parish's new responsibilities in providing an expense account for the rector. At the end of the 2014-15 financial year parish finances were nevertheless in such a state as to support a special additional contribution to the Future Fund. It is expected that this will be done in the first quarter of 2015-16.

A small number of new icons were acquired this year. An icon of Saints Kyril and Mefody, Equals-to-the-Apostles and Enlighteners of the Slavs, was given to us by Katerina Rubbo. Katerina Waters gave us a copy of the "Feodorovskaya" Icon of the Mother of God. Rimma Nagikh and her family gave us icons of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker and of All Saints of Ugreskh (Moscow). Each of these icons was placed in the traditional wooden case (or "kiot") and blessed before being placed in church for veneration. Each kiot is the work of Protodeacon Basil Hadarin, a gifted carpenter and woodcarver who has done much towards the adornment of our small church.

Early in 2014 it was decided to mark the ten-year anniversary of parish life at West Gosford by commissioning the carving of a new table for the commemoration of the departed. Father Basil Hadarin was also entrusted with this work. In the second half of 2014, a generous donation of \$3,000.00 towards this purchase was received from the Russian Relief Association of Saint Sergius of Radonezh. Further donations towards this project were made by individual members of the Russian Orthodox community. We received this table just before our feast-day in August 2015.

In January 2015 a large hand-painted icon of the Holy Trinity was ordered. This work, the cost of which is to be covered by donations made in memory of Sophia Kfoury and Tatiana Elgin-Borodin, is being undertaken by noted iconographer Dimitri Lihachov. It is expected that we will receive this icon early in 2016.

Regular cleaning of the church continued to be undertaken voluntarily by Katerina Waters and Anna Kourbatov. General clean-up days involving parishioners and friends were held before the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and before Pascha.

Our Ladies' Auxiliary has continued to raise funds for the furnishing and decoration of the church. In December 2014 the funds raised were used to purchase 16 beautiful green altar server vestments from the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus, meaning that we now have sets of red-gold, white and green vestments for our servers. It is hoped that in 2015-16 we will be able to order a similar set of blue vestments.

In May 2015 we decided to purchase a set of trikiri and dikiri, the candle-holders used by the bishop at a hierarchical service, together with five eagle-rugs ("орлецы"), the ceremonial mats also used at such services. These arrived late in June 2015.

It is acknowledged that there have been two differing views on the Parish Council in relation to the adornment of our small church. One view is that it would be best to direct funds towards charitable work and the purchase and construction of a permanent church. The other is that the beauty and functionality of our current church and parish centre and the services within it are important in themselves. Happily, we have been able to balance these two perspectives.

In 2014-15 Katerina Waters also took responsibility for the decoration of the church with flowers. Nina Golovin and Matushka Marie Carles retained responsibility for the cleaning, ironing and changing of church vestments. Matushka Marie continued to bake prosphora for each service and the five loaves blessed on Great Feasts. The flour for prosphora and these loaves has for many years been generously donated by the Kfoury family.

To our great dismay, there was a break-in at our church and parish centre in October 2014. The glass entry door and the door between the hall and church were broken, and our cash donation box was stolen. We estimate that approximately \$2,000.00 in donations was lost, a large sum for our small parish. Steps were immediately taken to strengthen security and to ensure that cash is no longer held on the premises.

Undertaking Orthodox Christian educational work

For many years, the primary means of formal educational work in our parish has been preaching. Sermons are given on every Sunday and major feast-day.

Significant emphasis is placed on learning in a liturgical context. All who wish to assist with the reading and singing in church are encouraged to do so, thereby becoming more familiar with the order of services and with the various books used in the Divine Services of the Orthodox Church.

To the extent possible the blessing of new candles, icons, vestments, and honey and other items – in addition to the regular blessings of fruit and Paschal foods – is incorporated into the common worship of the parish. The prayers of the Orthodox Church appointed for such blessings are theologically rich and instructive for the faithful to hear.

Services of need are also used as an opportunity to teach. For example, the scheduling of weddings involves some discussion of the calendar of the Orthodox Church, the cycle of feasts and fasts, and the principle of putting spiritual things ahead of worldly things. Similarly, preparation for funeral services provides an opportunity for the faithful to learn about the Orthodox response to death and the customs that reflect and reinforce our faith.

In 2015 the Parish Council again provided parish families and households with a wall calendar in Russian and English that included details of feasts and fasts – together with the rules of fasting – and the readings for each day. Besides being a warmly-received gesture, this has been extremely helpful in ensuring that our parishioners understand what is happening in church life. The 2015 wall calendar was a commemorative calendar marking 50 years since the repose of His Beatitude Metropolitan Anastassy (Gribanovsky) (1873-1965), the revered First Hierarch of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia from 1936-1964.

Our parish website and Facebook page, discussed elsewhere in this report, also assisted with Orthodox Christian educational work by sharing information about the practical aspects of the life of the parish, the Diocese, and the wider Orthodox Church.

During the year under review our parish maintained formal links with the Saint Seraphim Community Russian School in Hornsby and many of our parishioners actively participated in the life of the school. The school principal, Reader Paul Douriaguine, reported regularly at Parish Council meetings on the life and achievements of the school, and our rector visited the school at the beginning and end of the year and on the school feast-day in August. In 2015 our parish provided funds for scholarship to cover the full expenses of one student and part expenses of two students. We continue to look for ways that we can strengthen the relationship between our parish and this young and innovative Russian community school.

Providing for the clergy and supporting the higher church authorities

Our parish took the important step in April 2014 of making available to the parish rector an expense account – a non-taxable fringe benefit – that allowed him to reduce his secular work commitments by one and a half days each fortnight. This arrangement continued throughout 2014-15 and is, for the time being, ongoing.

A small regular stipend is paid to our deacon and to our choir director to offset the expenses associated with undertaking their duties. Honoraria are paid to hierarchs, deacons and sub-deacons visiting our parish on special occasions. As our parish rector has been present for every scheduled service, there has been no need to provide for clergy on a relief basis.

Parishes of the Diocese have a responsibility to financially support the higher church authorities – the Diocesan and Synodal administrations. Such financial support is collected from parishes for the Diocese in the form of a 15 per cent levy on both candle sales and the first collection plate and for the Synod in the form of a 4.5 per cent levy on candle sales, the first collection plate, donations, membership tithes, prosphora sales, bank interest and other revenue. The levies on candle sales are applied by the Diocese when candles are purchased from the Diocesan Candle Store.

Levies are payable at six month intervals. In February levies are payable on income received in the period from July-December, and in August levies are payable on income received from January-June. Our parish takes seriously its responsibility to support the higher church authorities in this way.

In September 2014 we paid levies of \$1,481.49 for the period from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014. In February 2015 we paid levies of \$1,824.29 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014. Levies for the period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 totaling \$1,778.57 were paid in August 2015.

In addition, between July 2014 and June 2015 we paid levies of \$662.00 on candles purchases. In October 2014 we also paid \$500.00 towards the Annual Diocesan Youth Conference and \$250.00 for the re-burial of Bishop Konstantin (Jesensky, +1996). The incorrupt remains of Bishop Konstantin, a former vicar bishop of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese, were moved from the site of a former monastery in Texas to the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, USA, late in 2014.

Working to help others in need

Each year the parish is asked to take up a number of collections for organisations and causes nominated by the church authorities. As with Diocesan and Synodal levies, our parish takes this responsibility seriously.

In our parish it has also been customary to take up additional collections during fasting seasons. This was done less frequently during the year under review.

In 2012-13, a pleasing \$4334.30 was collected for charitable causes. In 2013-14 \$3,194.55 was collected. In 2014-15, however, only \$2,638.60 was collected.

The breakdown of Diocesan and Parish collections is as follows:

Diocesan Collection Beneficiaries	When taken	Amount
ROCOR Fund for Assistance – Ukraine	October 2014	\$570.00
ROCOR Fund for Assistance	November 2014	\$266.20
Orthodox Action	February 2015	\$448.00
Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	Great Lent 2015	\$243.70
Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, Jerusalem	Palm Sunday 2015	\$638.25
Total		\$2166.15

Parish Collection Beneficiaries	When taken	Amount
Ukraine	Apostles' Fast 2013-14	\$472.45
Total		\$472.45

A further \$250.00 was paid to the Diocese in lieu of a collection for Orthodox Action overlooked in February 2014.

The decrease in charitable funds collected is due in part to the fact that no parish collection was organised during the Nativity Fast in 2014-15. In addition, the collection for the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission was less structured than in previous years. The collection of funds for charitable causes is an area of parish life that needs attention in 2015-16.

As in previous years, collections were advertised in advance and envelopes with details of the date and purpose of each collection were distributed in church. For the parish collection for Ukraine, labeled money boxes were prepared for parishioners and friends to take home and use to set aside contributions during the course of the 2014 Apostles' Fast.

Since 2011 we have contributed US\$1,200.00 annually to the Haiti Orthodox Family Relief Program, an initiative that operates in partnership with the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. This money is provided directly to needy Haitian Orthodox families. We renewed this commitment in 2015, donating a further US\$1,200.00.

We also made two further contributions to the charitable work in Haiti of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. The first was a monthly US\$10.00 contribution to reduction of the debts of two ROCOR priests in Haiti, paid as a single lump sum. The second was a one-off US\$250.00 contribution to the salaries of teachers in the schools that operate under the auspices of ROCOR's Haiti Mission. Our total contribution to the Haiti mission in 2015 was A\$2,125.36.

A new charitable initiative this year, mentioned earlier in this report, was the provision of three scholarships to the Saint Seraphim Community Russian School in Hornsby. One provided a 100 per cent fee subsidy for the year and the other two provided a 50 per cent subsidy over the same period. The combined value of these scholarships was \$1600.00.

Other activities

Parish life

Throughout the period under review, our informal Ladies' Auxiliary under Kate Marcotrigiano's direction ensured that refreshments were available after each Divine Liturgy, thereby providing an opportunity for people to relax and socialise informally. This has been an important part of parish life.

Our parish website was redeveloped during the second half of 2013 with the assistance of a US-based company, Orthodox Web Solutions. The site is an attractive one that combines a blog-style home page with news of coming and recent events in the life of the parish and the Diocese with information about parish history and administration and practical aspects of baptism, weddings, funerals and other services of need. New content is being added to the website regularly.

First published in November 2013, the new site had by the end of June 2015 received nearly 34,000 visits, with nearly 25,000 in 2014-15. Contact with visitors to the site and the statistical data available to us indicates that it is not only our parishioners and friends who visit but also the faithful from around the world – over a third of visits to our site are from the United States and Canada, and many

are from Russia, Ukraine and other Orthodox countries – and those interested in learning more about the Orthodox faith.

The parish also has a Facebook page that is fully integrated with the website and which presents photographs and less formal news items. The level of engagement with our parish on Facebook has steadily increased over the year under review, raising the profile of the parish and assisting in the work of Orthodox Christian education.

Our parish newsletter, previously the most significant means of communication with our parishioners and friends, has been less prominent in parish life in 2014-2015. Only three issues were published – in November 2014, December 2014 and March 2015 – of an expected twelve. As in the previous year, the increased sharing of information on the website and Facebook came at the expense of the newsletter. In addition, Father James is responsible for compiling, printing and distributing the newsletter, responsibilities that compete with many others. The parish nevertheless remains committed to the production of a regular print newsletter.

In 2014 we had our customary October Long Weekend BBQ at Heazlett Park in Avoca Beach, with approximately 40 parishioners and friends gathering to enjoy the company and the facilities. Rick Golovin again organized this event.

Diocesan life

Our small parish has continued to fully engage in the life of the Diocese.

To the extent possible, Father James and Father Martin visited the parishes of Greater Sydney on the occasion of their patronal feasts. In 2014-15, this included the cathedral in Strathfield, the parishes in Croydon, Centennial Park, Wollongong, Cabramatta, Blacktown and Fairfield, and the monasteries in Kentlyn and Monkerai. Father James also participated in the festive services at the Archbishop's Chapel in Croydon on the second day of Christmas in January 2015. Many of our parishioners also attended these services, in addition to visiting the Wallsend parish on the feast-day of Saint Nicholas and on other special occasions. Father James also participated in the Service of General Anointing at Strathfield during Great Lent in 2015.

On 16-17 April Father James and Father Martin participated in the services at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield, in honour of the installation of His Grace Bishop George as Bishop of Canberra and Vicar of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese, together with a great multitude of clergy and faithful from across the Australian-New Zealand Diocese. Our parish was represented at the festive reception afterwards by Anne Nielsen and Katerina Waters.

Father James continued to serve as one of the clergy members of the 2013-2016 Diocesan Council and as Secretary of the Diocesan Council Governance Committee. He has participated actively in the work of both the Diocesan Council and the Governance Committee, undertaking work on a number of important Diocesan Council projects.

Father James actively participated in the Pastoral Conference held in Kentlyn in December 2014 to coincide with the Annual Diocesan Youth Conference and in the customary Great Lenten Pastoral Conference and Retreat. He also participated in the Divine Services held in conjunction with both conferences.

Plans and challenges

At the November 2014 Annual General Meeting parish members endorsed an appeal to the wider community for financial assistance to purchase land for a future permanent church. Publication of this appeal was delayed as certain practical matters were worked through during the first half of 2015, but it was published online and in the Diocesan journal, *Word of the Church*, in July 2015. The response to this appeal will determine much of the activity of the Parish Council during 2015-16.

A new feature of parish life in 2014-15 was the regular moleben and akathist to Saint Panteleimon. Although attendance at these services has not been significant, they have enriched the spiritual life of our parish and given us the opportunity to make some return – in offering prayers for others, particularly the sick – for all the help that we have received from our parishioners and from our friends throughout the Diocese and beyond.

In June 2015 a small portion of the relics of Saint Panteleimon, a gift to our parish from Metropolitan Hilarion, was enshrined in our main icon of the saint, meaning that our akathists are now served in the presence of the healing relics of the saint. In July 2015 a second icon of Saint Panteleimon, a larger one, was moved to a more prominent position in our small church. A new oil lamp will be hung before it and the faithful will be anointed with this oil after each akathist. The oil from this lamp will also be used for anointing the sick at other times.

There were projects that we hoped to bring to fruition in 2015 in collaboration with the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend. The first was to strengthen the observance of the two feast-days of Saints Peter and Fevronia, the Russian Orthodox patrons of love, marriage and faithfulness. We recognise the importance of these things in Orthodox Christian life and for the society in which we live, and

wish to do all that we can to encourage love, traditional marriage, and the faithfulness of spouses to one another. Work on this continues.

The second was to prepare a gift-pack for expectant mothers that includes prayers, important information about spiritual life during pregnancy and the first months after a baby arrives, and copies of the icons of the Mother of God "Helper in Childbirth" and "Milk-Giver". In this way we hope to reach out and encourage expectant mothers, helping them at an important and often challenging time of life. A number of copies of the icons and of prayers in Russian and in English have been obtained, and these are now being distributed. A booklet to accompany these items has been drafted, and it is expected that this will be completed and printed in the second half of 2015.

An opportunity that has presented itself this year is the possibility of the formal re-establishment of our Sisterhood of Blessed Xenia. We have a number of women active in different spheres of parish life – catering, cleaning, decorating the church, caring for vestments, sewing, baking prosphora, fundraising – and we stand to gain much by bringing the coordination of these activities together. Consideration will be given to this at the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Work was undertaken during 2014-15 to establish internet access in our parish centre and to provide for card-based transactions in church and at the bookstore, Skype facilities for Parish Council meetings, and the live-streaming of our services from the church into the hall for the benefit of those confined to the hall by kitchen duties or parental responsibilities. Work on this will continue in 2015-16.

As has been noted, the charitable work of our parish has been less significant in 2014-15 than in previous years. Work will be undertaken in 2015-16 to address this.

Changes in governance standards and community expectations require much more of Parish Councils than in the past. We hope to have a team of active and committed Parish Council members in 2015-16 to ensure compliance with these requirements and to assist our clergy to strengthen parish life.

September 2015

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN
ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

A.B.N. 98 562 088 123

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report. The committee has determined that the organization is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASB's).

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Note 2: Income Tax

The organisation is exempt from Income Tax.

Note 3: Fixed Assets

Plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the organisation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Depreciation rates have been applied on a straight-line basis at rates of 20% per annum. Items, which cost less than \$400.00, are fully depreciated in the year of acquisition.

Note 4: Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues and expenses are recognised inclusive of the amount of GST. In these circumstances any GST is recognised and paid to/recovered from the Australian Taxation Office by the Church Diocese. The net amount is subsequently charged or remitted to the Parish Council.

Note 5: Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when the organisation is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Note 6: Donations and grants

Donations and grants are recognised as revenue when the organisation gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount/s can be measured reliably.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD**

Scope

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of St Panteleimon Orthodox Community of Gosford for the year ended 30 June 2015. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of and the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. The procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding to the organizations financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of St Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Community of Gosford presents a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2015 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2015 in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.



Evan Nicholas FIPA, A Fin
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Tel: (02) 4324 7819
ABN: 69 887 100 989
24 August 2015

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2014	\$ 74,285.90	\$ 71,794.07
Add:		
Church Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 10,975.08	\$ 2,351.11
Bookstore Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement Financial Performance	\$ 286.49	\$ (234.50)
Ladies Auxiliary Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 4,113.39	\$ 375.22
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2015	\$ 89,660.86	\$ 74,285.90

The above Funds are represented by :

CURRENT ASSETS

Westpac Banking Corporation		
Working Account No. 032-596 14-0923	\$ 10,161.99	\$ 1,962.50
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 28-9049	\$ 656.20	\$ 11.20
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 33-4604	\$ 6,601.38	\$ 5,973.71
Bookstore Account No. 032-523 31-7943	\$ 2,670.69	\$ 2,374.70
Ladies Auxiliary Account No. 032-527 15-5689	\$ 6,486.95	\$ 2,935.58
Cash Reserve Account No. 032-527 24-1982	\$ 10,686.87	\$ 10,566.35
Term Deposit No. 032-523 33-4612	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Cash on Hand - Church	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Cash on Hand - Bookstore	\$ 145.00	\$ 154.50
Cash on Hand - Ladies Auxiliary	\$ 780.60	\$ 892.10
Withholding Tax Paid	\$ 139.00	\$ 44.00
Bond	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 90,638.68	\$ 75,224.64

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Plant & Equipment at Cost	\$ 835.00	\$ 835.00
Add: Purchases	\$ 500.00	\$ -
	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 835.00
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 534.25	\$ 292.25
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 800.75	\$ 542.75

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 91,439.43	\$ 75,767.39
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued Diocese Levies Payable	\$ 1,778.57	\$ 1,481.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,778.57	\$ 1,481.49

NET ASSETS	\$ 89,660.86	\$ 74,285.90
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SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
INCOME		
First Plate	\$ 11,635.55	\$ 10,576.60
Second Plate	\$ 6,027.30	\$ 4,329.40
Candles	\$ 10,974.45	\$ 9,233.55
Prospora	\$ 2,321.00	\$ 2,289.00
Tithes	\$ 570.00	\$ 1,110.00
Bank Interest	\$ 2,121.14	\$ 2,123.65
Donations - Money Box	\$ 8,690.00	\$ 5,663.25
Donations - Other	\$ 3,556.33	\$ 4,025.25
Miscellaneous	\$ 772.00	\$ 778.12
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 46,667.77	\$ 40,128.82
EXPENSES		
Clergy	\$ 10,072.00	\$ 5,325.08
Conductor	\$ 2,615.00	\$ 2,280.00
Bank Charges	\$ 26.50	\$ 41.25
Utilities		\$ 1,760.45
Electricity	\$ 1,578.00	
Water Charges	\$ 157.82	
Donations	\$ 4,475.36	\$ 5,607.65
Periodicals	\$ 112.00	\$ 174.95
Candles	\$ 2,674.55	\$ 5,119.70
Strata Levies	\$ 3,170.20	\$ 3,170.20
Insurance	\$ 2,107.68	\$ 2,275.09
Drop Box Levy	\$ 510.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 365.50	\$ 26.00
Admin & Stationery	\$ 2,010.58	\$ 744.94
Audit Fees	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Building Renovations		\$ 3,056.37
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,614.64	\$ 2,553.72
Diocesan & Synodal Levies	\$ 3,602.86	\$ 5,042.31
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 35,692.69	\$ 37,777.71
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		
TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 10,975.08	\$ 2,351.11

**SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
BOOKSTORE ACCOUNT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	2015	2014
INCOME		
Sales	\$ 3,260.40	\$ 3,774.50
Bank Interest	\$ 6.80	\$ 7.39
Donations		\$ 6.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,267.20	\$ 3,787.89
EXPENSES		
Purchases	\$ 2,980.71	\$ 3,991.62
Bank Charges		\$ 30.77
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 2,980.71	\$ 4,022.39
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		
TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 286.49	\$ (234.50)

**SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
LADIES AUXILIARY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	2015	2014
INCOME		
Bank Interest	\$ 237.68	\$ 263.32
Donations	\$ 5,128.10	\$ 534.90
Functions	\$ 2,830.60	\$ 2,861.80
Fundraising	\$ 4,977.80	\$ 4,913.10
Sundry Income	\$ 12.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 13,186.18	\$ 8,573.12
EXPENSES		
Capital Items <\$400	\$ 750.50	
Depreciation	\$ 242.00	\$ 167.00
Functions	\$ 1,931.90	\$ 2,369.35
Fundraising	\$ 151.95	\$ 1,856.15
Printing & Stationery	\$ 105.00	
Rent	\$ 455.05	\$ 149.60
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 482.00	
Sundry Expenses	\$ -	\$ 92.65
Vestments	\$ 4,954.39	\$ 3,563.15
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 9,072.79	\$ 8,197.90
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		
TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 4,113.39	\$ 375.22

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
Total of all bank accounts as at 1 July 2014	\$ 73,824.04	\$ 71,154.35
<i>Cash was generated from</i>		
Surplus for year - Church operations	\$ 10,975.08	\$ 2,351.11
Surplus for year - Bookstore operations	\$ 286.49	
Surplus for year - Ladies Auxiliary operations	\$ 4,113.39	\$ 375.22
Depreciation provided during the year	\$ 242.00	\$ 167.00
Decrease in cash on hand	\$ 121.00	
Increase in current liabilities	\$ 297.08	\$ 67.76
<i>Cash was applied to</i>		
Deficit for year - Bookstore operations		\$ (234.50)
Increase in cash on hand		\$ (12.90)
Increase in non-current assets	\$ (500.00)	
Increase in current assets	\$ (95.00)	\$ (44.00)
Total of all bank accounts as at 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 89,264.08</u>	<u>\$ 73,824.04</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-596 14-0923

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2014	\$ 1,962.50
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 47,355.70</u>
	\$ 49,318.20
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 39,156.21</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 10,161.99</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2015	\$ 10,161.99
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 10,161.99
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 10,161.99</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 28-9049

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2014	\$ 11.20
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 650.00</u>
	\$ 661.20
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 5.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 656.20</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2015	\$ 656.20
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 656.20
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 656.20</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 33-4604

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2014	\$ 5,973.71
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 10,299.67</u>
	\$ 16,273.38
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 9,672.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 6,601.38</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2015	\$ 6,601.38
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 6,601.38
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 6,601.38</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 31-7943

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2014	\$ 2,374.70
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 3,791.70</u>
	\$ 6,166.40
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 3,495.71</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 2,670.69</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2015	\$ 2,670.69
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 2,670.69
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 2,670.69</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-527 15-5689

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2014	\$ 2,935.58
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 10,284.21</u>
	\$ 13,219.79
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 6,732.84</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 6,486.95</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2015	\$ 6,486.95
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 6,486.95
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 6,486.95</u>

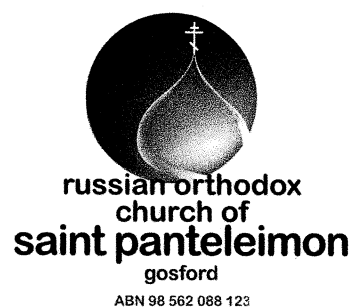
Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-527 24-1982

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2014	\$ 10,566.35
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 215.52</u>
	\$ 10,781.87
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 95.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 10,686.87</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2015	\$ 10,686.87
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 10,686.87
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 10,686.87</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
LADIES AUXILIARY

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

Description	Historical Details Date	Cost	Opening Written Down Value	New Acquisitions Date	Cost	Value for Depreciation	Rate %	Depreciation	Closing Written Down Value
Stainless Steel Bench Stove	27/09/2012	\$ 835.00	\$ 542.75	21/09/2014	\$ 500.00	\$ 542.75 \$ 500.00	20% 20%	\$ 167.00 \$ 75.00	\$ 375.75 \$ 425.00
		<u>\$ 835.00</u>	<u>\$ 542.75</u>		<u>\$ 500.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,042.75</u>		<u>\$ 242.00</u>	<u>\$ 800.75</u>



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