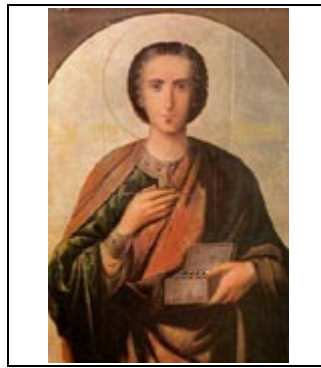


ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

A Newsletter for the Russian Orthodox Community of Saint Panteleimon, Gosford

~ Number 2, 11 August 2002 ~

OUR PARISH FEAST DAY НАШ ПРЕСТОЛЬНЫЙ ПРАЗДНИК



Today we celebrate our parish feast day, that of the Holy Great-Martyr & Healer Panteleimon.

Saint Panteleimon was born in the late 200's AD. His mother was a Christian but his father was not. He studied medicine at university. A good priest called Hermolaus became his friend, taught him about the Christian faith, and baptised him. The name "Panteleimon" means "all-merciful", and the young doctor lived up to his name by treating the sick without asking for any money.

Once a blind man came to him for help. Many other doctors had tried to heal him, but they had all failed. Saint Panteleimon prayed and healed the man in Christ's name, and then baptised him. The other doctors were jealous that Saint Panteleimon had healed the man when they could not. Because of this, they told the wicked emperor, who hated Christians, that Saint Panteleimon was a Christian.

The wicked emperor demanded that Panteleimon be brought to him for judgement. Saint Panteleimon bravely said that he was a Christian. He healed a sick man in front of all the people, and many of them decided to become Christians because of this. The emperor was very angry and decided that Saint Panteleimon should be tortured and killed. He suffered for his Christian faith in the year 304 AD, when he was still very young. Even today, sick people are healed through his prayers.

In icons, Saint Panteleimon is usually shown as a young man with a box of medicine and a spoon. We ask for his prayers when we have blessings of water and blessings of oil for the healing of the sick. The Russian Orthodox monastery on Mount Athos is dedicated

to him. Mount Athos is also the place where the most beautiful church of Saint Panteleimon can be found.

Saint Panteleimon is one of a special group of saints called "unmercenary healers". This means that they had the ability - given to them by God - to heal people, but they did not ask for money to do this. In healing people without asking for payment, they were following the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

The other unmercenary healers are Saint Hermolaus (the priest who baptised Saint Panteleimon), Saints Cyrus and John, 3 different pairs of brothers called Saints Cosmas and Damian, Saint Sampson the Hospitable, and Saints Tryphon, Anthimus, Leontius, Eutropius, Julian, Diomedes, Anikitos, Thalaleus, and Mocius. Some of them were doctors, but others were simply able to heal because of their great faith in God. Many of them suffered for their Orthodox Christian faith at the hands of the pagan authorities.

In times of sickness (of either body or soul), we should pray to Saint Panteleimon and the other holy healers. But most importantly of all, we should try and always do what they did: share our gifts and talents - which all come from God - without seeking anything in return. Freely have we received, so freely give!

Each year, we remember the Holy Great-Martyr & Healer Panteleimon on August 9th (July 27th on the Church calendar). In Gosford, we are keeping his memory on the Sunday immediately after his feast.

Holy Great-Martyr Panteleimon, pray to God for us!
Святому Великомученику Пантелеимону моли Бога о нас!



PARISH LIFE: OUR FIRST BAPTISM!

July 21st was a special occasion in the life of our parish: our first baptism! After Divine Liturgy, Father James baptised Maxim, the baby son of Elena & Trifon (Chris) Benatar. Elena has been a regular worshipper in our community over the past 12 months. Standing in for godparents Dionisii Abramov & Natalia Istratuk (who were in Russia!) were Kostya Yakimov and Elena's mother. Many years to the newly-baptised servant of God the infant Maxim, and congratulations to his parents & godparents!

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Metropolitan Vitaly, Archbishop Alypy, Priest Boris, George, Tatiana

Expectant mothers: Matushka Marie (due 10/8!), Manefa

Special needs: Priest Serafim, Irene, Subdeacon Mark & family, David, Katherine, Constantine, Tatiana, Christine (orthodox); George & Natalie & their new baby (non-orthodox)

Preparing for marriage: Paul & Ksenia, Matthew & Irene, Peter & Svetlana

Newly-departed: Maria



PARISH LIFE: BESEDA

On July 25th in the evening there was a beseda (or discussion group) at Vic & Irene Krikunov's home in Narara. About 8 of our parishioners attended, and after everyone enjoyed some delicious pizza, Father James spoke in general about what it means to be an Orthodox Christian, and about living an Orthodox way of life. Our next beseda is planned for August 29th, again at the Krikunov's home. All are welcome!



NEW CHALICE

Some time ago, a collection was taken up to enable us to purchase a new chalice. The one that we have been using for some time is not in the Russian style, and is generally too small for our needs. For larger services, we have been borrowing a chalice from Cabramatta. \$520.65 was collected, and further donations have been promised. Father James is now making arrangements to obtain a new chalice (Чаша), diskos (Дискосъ), star (Звезда) and other items from Russia.

KEEPING THE HALL CLEAN

Two services ago, we received an additional bill for the use of the hall because Narara Community Centre staff were obliged to do some extra cleaning in the bathrooms and in removing wax from the floor. Please remember that this is not our own hall, and that the way we leave the premises reflects on our whole community. Any help with cleaning the hall after everything is packed up would be most appreciated!

GOSFORD SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

1 September	Sunday	10 th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9.00 am
22 September	Sunday	Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God; Sts Joachim and Anna <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9.00 am

OTHER IMPORTANT CHURCH DATES

Try & make it to church on these days if you can! Transfiguration /Преображение & Dormition/ Успение are Great Feasts, & in most churches services will be held at 6.00pm on the eve of the feast and at 9.00am on the feast itself.

14 August: Beginning of the Dormition Fast
Начало Успенского поста

19 August: Transfiguration - the feast day of Holy Transfiguration Monastery in
Bombala

Преображение - престольный праздник Спасо-Преображенский мужской
монастырь в Бомбала

28 August: Dormition of the Mother of God
Успение

ПОКРОВСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

Every week Father James brings with him a few copies of Покровский Листок (Pokrovskii Listok), a very edifying Russian-language bulletin published each week at Cabramatta. The trouble is, they are often a couple of weeks old by the time that people get to read them. If anyone would like to receive Покровский Листок by post each week, please see Father James.

ЧАШКУ ЧАЙЮ

"Cup of Tea"

After each service, our community sisterhood prepares a cup of tea or coffee for everyone and provide reasonably priced (and very tasty!) piroshki and other light snacks. Please support their efforts, and take the opportunity to socialize. Visitors are most welcome to stay!

Father James will be preparing this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. Try and let him know at least a week in advance if there is anything that you would like included (prayer requests, news, announcements). You can call him on 02-9721-2659 or email him at fr.james.carles@rocor.org.au.