

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

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

~ Number 6, 3 November 2002 ~

DROUGHT & BUSHFIRES

In the last issue of this newsletter (13/10/2002) it was announced that we would begin to use during the Divine Liturgy some of the petitions and the prayer from the Church's service "In Time of Drought". On 15/10/2002 Archbishop Hilarion issued the following ukase to all the Rectors of Churches and Communities of the Australian & New Zealand Diocese:

Many regions of Australia are presently continuing to suffer from drought. Besides affecting farmers and their livestock, the lack of water is causing the suffering of wild animals and nature in general.

Undoubtedly, the land and nature are experiencing these disasters as a result of the increase of human sin. We should to pray to the Lord with great fervour for the forgiveness of our sins, so that He will have mercy on us and not deprive the land of rain because of our iniquities.

Prayers of petition for rain are already being offered up in many of our churches. I ask all our clergy and parishioners to increase their prayers to the Lord God for the sending of rain to quench the thirst of animals, for the resuscitation of drying plant life and for the prevention of all-consuming, destructive fires.

In addition to the petitions for rain, which are to be inserted in the Augment Litany during the Divine Liturgy, I would ask that the special service of request for rain (contained in the Book of Needs) be served with a cross procession.

Archbishop Hilarion of Sydney, Australia & New Zealand

In accordance with Vladika's direction, we will continue to use the special prayers & petitions in our divine services. The special service of request for rain will be served at our next service on 24 November 2002. All parishioners are encouraged to include the special prayer "In time of Drought" (Молитва въ бездождие) printed in the last newsletter in their own prayers at home.

VLADIKA'S NAMEDAY

День Ангела Владыки Илариона

Today is the commemoration of Saint Hilarion the Great and the name-day of Archbishop Hilarion. We congratulate him on the occasion and pray that God will grant him a prosperous and peaceful life, health and salvation, success in all things, and many years.

Ис полла эти деспота!

THE SUFFERING RUSSIAN LAND

From CF News Tuesday, October 22nd, 2002: About 60 percent of all pregnancies in Russia end in abortion, the nation's leading gynecologist said on Friday. Another 10 percent end in miscarriage because of health problems. Vladimir Kulakov, head of the Scientific Center for

Obstetrics and Gynecology, said Russia is second in the world behind Romania in abortions per capita. He added that girls under 18 account for 10 percent of the abortions. Of some 38 million women of childbearing age, about 6 million are infertile, and medical authorities consider abortions a major cause of infertility, Kulakov said. He said about half the women who bear children in Russia do not get enough nourishment or vitamins during pregnancy, and that 58.8 percent of all newborns last year were born with illnesses. Kulakov decried lack of funding for programs to provide mothers with necessary food and vitamins as a reason for the figures. Russia is experiencing a population implosion with the number of Russians declining by 4 million to 143.4 million since 1989. Not all the news was bad. The infant mortality dropped from 19.3 deaths per every 1,000 babies under age 1 in 1993, to 14.6 last year, said Larisa Gavrilova, a deputy chief of the maternity department of the Russian Health Ministry. That was still twice as high as in the United States, where 6.9 out of every 1,000 infants died before their first birthday in 2000. The number of women who died during delivery also decreased from 50 per 100,000 births in 1997 to 36.5 last year, Gavrilova told the ITAR-Tass news agency.

CHURCH LIFE: FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN CANBERRA

The Sisterhood of St John the Forerunner Russian Orthodox Church in Canberra has invited everyone to a BBQ (including a pig/lamb on a spit) at their new church hall on Sunday November 10th, 2002, immediately after the Divine Liturgy. The cost of the meal (with salads) will be \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (10 & over). BYOG & soft drinks. All proceeds go towards procurement of a heating/cooling system for the church. Donations are welcome! The parishioners there seek our support in this worthwhile endeavour, and invite all to meet new friends & have an enjoyable time. For further information contact the Sisterhood on: 6238 2612.

Not stopping there, they are also having a Russian Dinner Dance on Friday, November 22nd, 2002, at 7.00pm. The venue is the Russian Community Hall at 4 Matina Street, Narrabundah. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME: Russian and non-Russian, local, interstate or overseas, old and young! They promise a wonderful salad bar (choice of 7), delicious main course (choice of 3), traditional Russian dessert, and tea and coffee. The evening will include a floorshow, lottery, dance music, and karaoke (in Russian and English!). Cost: \$30 per person, or \$25 concession/student/pensioner. BYO, as drinks are not included. Lottery tickets will be \$1.00. Call or send email for dinner reservation. Tables for groups of 6, 8, 10 or more people are available. Contacts: Tina Kargin on tel: 6238 2612 or email: www.kargin@webone.au or Kira Savina on tel: 6258 6703, mobile: 0404234193 or email: kirarog@bigpond.com Once again, all are invited to meet new friends, have an enjoyable time, and support the Russian Community Hall development.

This may be the opportunity for a trip down to the national capital on one or both of these weekends! Gosford parishioners will recall that Canberra's protodeacon, Fr Basil Yakimov, travelled to the Central Coast to serve with us on our feast-day this year. It would be nice if we could show our support for their efforts!

TRUST IN MAN OR TRUST IN GOD?

"The more we trust in man's help and in defence by others, the farther from us are the saving and merciful grace and help of God. And this is natural: for after all, if we received help from

God at a time when we expected to receive it from men, we would ascribe what is God's to men, and would turn the glory of God into human glory. Therefore the Lord arranges it even so, that His help becomes all the more evident to us, to the extent that our helplessness becomes sure and obvious and all our hope remains in Him!"

New Martyr Metropolitan Joseph of Petrograd

KID'S CAMP 2002

The Intercession of the Holy Virgin parish at Cabramatta is once again holding an end-of-year kid's camp for children aged 7 and over. This year's camp will be held at the Ozanam Youth Camp in Kincumber, between Sunday December 8th and Friday December 13th. Archbishop Hilarion will be present for some of the time, together with other clergy of our diocese. Children from all our parishes are welcome. The cost is \$140.00 for one child, \$270.00 for two, and \$400.00 for three. More information can be obtained from Angie Kargin on 9823-2921 or Fisia Semenov on 9604-9595. Registration closes November 24th.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

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

Expectant mothers: Victoria, Amy (Orthodox)

Special needs: Katherine, Constantine (Orthodox); Margaret, Judy & family (non-Orthodox)

Preparing for marriage: Peter & Svetlana, Daniel & Ioanna

Newly-married: Paul & Ksenia (married on 8/9), Matthew & Irene (married on 4/10)

Newly-departed: Maria (27/9) - the aunt of Vitaly & Irene Krikunov

Families with new babies: Gregory, Manefa, Aidan, & new baby boy (born 31/10) (Orthodox); Jason & Ethel & baby Andrew (born 22/10) (non-Orthodox).

GOSFORD SERVICES IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

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|-------------|--------|--|---------|
| 24 November | Sunday | 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Divine Liturgy</i> | 9.00 am |
| 15 December | Sunday | 25 th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Divine Liturgy</i> | 9.00 am |

Father James will be serving Divine Liturgy at **Saint Nicholas, Newcastle**, on **Sunday November 10th**. A new schedule for Gosford for the first half of 2003 will be available on November 24th 2002.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHURCH DATES

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|-------------|---|
| 4 November | Казанской иконы Божией Матери Kazan Icon of the Mother of God Престольный праздник в Кентлине Parish feast-day at Kentlyn Convent |
| 21 November | Соборъ Архистратига Михаила и прочихъ безплотныхъ силъ Archangel Michael & all the bodiless powers |

Престольный праздник в Блэктауне
Parish feast-day at Blacktown

28 November Начало Рождественского Поста
Beginning of Nativity Fast

BOOK REVIEW

I recently read a very moving book called "*Let's Roll: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage*" (Tyndale House, 2002). The book was written by Lisa Beamer, the wife of Todd Beamer, one of the heroes of United Airlines Flight 93. This is the flight that crashed in Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001, and which many believe the terrorists were planning to crash into another building. It was the courage of some of the passengers on board that prevented this, although they lost their own lives in the process.

The Beamers were Christians, and one of the most interesting things in this book is the extent to which Lisa's Christian faith and hope in God helped her cope with the shock of losing her husband so suddenly and in such terrible circumstances. They had two small sons, and another child on the way when Todd was killed. Here are a few extracts:

"Hope comes from knowing that we have a sovereign, loving God who is in control of every event in our lives...In the book of Jeremiah (29:11) it says that God has a plan for me, a plan to prosper me and not to harm me; a plan to give me hope and a future. And that is what holds me together every day when I get out of bed in the morning: to know that is true, and it has been proven true in my life to date. It was true on September 11, and it will be true for as many years as God has left for me...It's a time of uncertainty, and many people are looking for something to cling to. I hope for you that you can cling to the One who has all the power, and all the love, and all the care, because He's the One Who's really in charge" (pp276-77).

"That's what life on this earth is - happiness mixed with sadness. True joy will never come here, but knowing it awaits me in eternity helps me progress through whatever life brings in the darkest of times" (p297).

"It's true that Todd and the other heroes aboard Flight 93 gave their lives that others might be saved. But if somehow they had known what was awaiting them...I doubt that any of them would have boarded that flight... Yet there was One who came to earth, knowing ahead of time that His most important purpose in living would be accomplished only through dying. He knew throughout His life that no matter how well He performed, no matter how many people He helped, He was destined to die - to give His life so many others might find true life, abundant life here on earth, and eternal life in heaven to come. But He really didn't want to die either. In fact, as he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane... Jesus begged God, "Father, if there is any other way...let this cup pass from me." He prayed so intensely that sweat ran like large drops of blood from his forehead. Think about that: even knowing all the good that was going to come as a result of His death, he prayed three times to avoid it: "If there is any other way..." Finally He said, "Not my will but yours be done." That was God's plan" (pp301-02).

This is a very moving book. Not just because of the tragedy that she has lived through, but also because Lisa Beamer's strong Christian hope and faith, & the wisdom she has gained, is an example to us. It is recommended reading!

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.