

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

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

~ Supplement to Number 16 (Special Edition), 1 August 2003 ~

SERVICES ON THE FEAST OF SAINT SERAPHIM

There will be services on 6.00pm on Thursday 31/7 and at 8.00am Friday 1/8 in the following parishes: Saint Nicholas, Wallsend (Newcastle); the Intercession of the Holy Virgin, Cabramatta; and Saint Nicholas, Fairfield. Father James will be serving in Wallsend. There is no service scheduled at the cathedral in Strathfield. We hope to serve in Gosford a moleben, together with an akathist, to Saint Seraphim sometime later in the year.

PARISH FEAST DAY

Our next service in Gosford will be our parish feast day, the commemoration of the Holy Great-Martyr Panteleimon. Vigil will be served at 6.00pm on Friday 8th August. Those wanting to confess should do so during the vigil. The lesser blessing of water will be served at 8.00am on Saturday 9th, followed by the Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9.00am. As is customary, there will be a moleben to Saint Panteleimon after the Divine Liturgy. We will be joined on the day by Fr Quentin de Castelbajac, a priest of our church from France, and Protodeacon Vasili Yakimov from Canberra.

PARISH NEWS

As soon as possible after the feast day, our parish council will be meeting to consider the future direction of our parish and to prepare for an Annual General Meeting. Necessary steps in this process of preparation will be adoption of the 'Normal Parish By-Laws' and formal parish membership, as mentioned in a previous newsletter. Also under discussion will be the possibility of more services in Gosford. From August 2003, Fr James will be free of parish responsibilities in Sydney and therefore able to give greater attention to the needs of this parish and that of Saint Nicholas (in Newcastle). One possible development in this regard is that services in Gosford will be fortnightly, on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month, rather than three-weekly. A schedule for the remainder of 2003 will be available at the service on August 24th. Anyone unable to collect a copy on that day should contact Fr James & arrange for one to be posted.

NEWS ITEM FROM RUSSIA

A new Orthodox basilica has been consecrated in Yekaterinburg, on the site where, 85 years ago, on July 17, 1918, the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, together with his wife, son, four daughters and four servants who had been allowed to remain with them, were shot by the Bolsheviks. The consecration ceremonies began on the morning of July 16 and continued through the day, culminating in a midnight procession to the site where the Bolsheviks tried to destroy the bodies so that -- in their own words-- 'no one would ever know what happened.' ... The new Yekaterinburg church, to be called the "Basilica-on-the-Blood" in the name of All the Saints of Russia, stands on the site of the 'Ipatyev house' where the imperial family was confined and eventually shot. The house itself was destroyed on the orders of Boris Yeltsin, during his term as Communist Party boss there: a decision which, as Russia's first post-Communist president, he came to regret. However, stones from the foundations of the Ipatyev house have been built into the basilica, and a special side-chapel replicates the cellar where the shooting took place. A consecration of this significance would normally have been conducted by the head of the [Moscow Patriarchate of the] Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II. During the past year, however, he has had severe health problems, and his doctors forbade him to travel to Yekaterinburg. In a special message, read out at the celebrations, the Patriarch suggested that the dedication of the basilica might prove a 'historical turning point' in Russia's fortunes, and stressed 'the importance of a revival of great traditions occurring at the spot where the blood of the holy martyrs was shed and where an attempt was made to destroy Russia.' Now, wrote Patriarch Alexei, the Yekaterinburg authorities and ordinary citizens were striving 'to act in accordance with God's laws, and view themselves as continuing the actions of many generations of ancestors in their efforts to construct a country that corresponds to the ideal of Holy Russia.' The celebrations attracted pilgrims and visitors from a wide area of Russia. In addition to the purely ecclesiastical ceremonies, the event has been marked with various exhibitions, concerts by church choirs, and similar activities. [Reprinted from CW News]

SPIRITUAL LIBRARY

The parish of Saint Vladimir's in Centennial Park, which this year celebrates its 65th anniversary, has opened a Spiritual Library. The library has over 1000 titles in Russian and in English. The Library is open each Sunday after Liturgy until 1.00pm. Further information can be obtained from Saint Vladimir's on 9663-3341.

Father James tries to prepare this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. 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.