

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

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

~ Number 21, 4 January 2004 ~

С РОЖДЕСТВОМ ХРИСТОВЫМ!

*Wishing all the parishioners & friends of
Saint Panteleimon's, Gosford,
a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year*

ARCHBISHOP HILARION'S NATIVITY EPISTLE

A copy of Vladika Hilarion's Nativity Epistle - in both Russian & English - is included as an insert in today's bulletin.

ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS SERVICES

As usual, there will be services in all the main parishes: Vigil at 6.00pm on Tuesday January 6th, and Divine Liturgy at 9.00am on Wednesday 7th. Father James will be serving at Saint Nicholas', Wallsend. Next year, God willing, we will have Christmas services in Gosford in our own church!

PARISH LIFE: UPDATE ON OUR NEW PROPERTY

As previously announced, we are now the proud owners of the property at 4/7 Comserv Place, West Gosford. After the service on December 7th, a number of parishioners took the opportunity to go and look over the property and see Rick Golovin's marking up of the floor plan. A start on building has been delayed by business closures over the holiday season. An order for metal products (studs, plates, and suspended ceilings) will be placed early next week and should be delivered soon after Orthodox Christmas, allowing the basic internal frame to be put up. Internal doors, architraves & the main entry door have been kindly donated by Misha Ovchinnikov of Kelso Hardware. Gosford Council have given notice in the local paper of our intended use of the property, allowing 14 days for public comment. We made our first repayment on 1 January 2004. At this stage, February 15th is still the planned opening day.

PARISH LIFE: A(NOTHER) BIRTH & A BAPTISM!

Our parish seems to be expanding at a rapid rate! We have yet another new-born baby in our parish following the birth, on 26th November 2003, of a baby girl - their first child - to our parishioners Peter and Tania Iliuk. They have named

their new daughter Stephanie (Stephanida), and she was baptised by Father James at Peter & Tania's home in Umina on December 13th. Godparents Michael Iliuk and Gail Caldicott then brought baby Stephanie to our service on December 21st to receive Holy Communion for the first time. Our warmest congratulations to Peter, Tania, the newly baptised Stephanie, and her godparents!

FUNDRAISER: A FISHING COMPETITION

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Paul Pereboeff, Victor Bendevski, & Gerorge Karmadonoff organized a fishing competition as a way of fundraising for the parish. Held on Saturday December 20th, the competition was a huge success, both financially and socially. \$2000 was raised, and many of the fishermen declared their willingness to return next year. Competition winners were: 1st: Paul Morozoff; 2nd: Nick Ostasevich; 3rd: Greg Sezonenko. The "door" prize went to Nick Shevlikov, & lottery prizes to Vova Ostasevich and Vitaly Panov. Vitaly generously offered his prize - a bottle of vodka - for auction, with Paul Kaidaloff topping the bidding and taking the prize. Paul Morozoff took home a small trophy together with his prize, while a perpetual trophy recording annual winners will remain in the church hall. The organizers prepared a superb lunch of barbequed prawns, octopus & potatoes, together with salad and plenty of cold beer. Everyone present had a great day, and Paul, Victor, George and all who assisted are to be thanked for their efforts.

PARISH LIFE: VIDEO OF RUSSIAN TRIP

As planned, on December 7th Katya Rubbo and her husband Michael showed a video of their trip to Russia, with footage of the Holy Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra and other holy places. Of particular interest was a mini-documentary that they had prepared of charitable work for homeless children being undertaken in the Vladimir region. Those present were greatly moved by the footage, and offered approximately \$400.00, which Katya has since forwarded to Russia. Charitable work of this kind is particularly important, and a responsibility for all Christians, especially those of us living in material comfort in Australia. Michael & Katya have copies of the video available for those interested.

DIOCESAN LIFE: 39TH ANNUAL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX YOUTH CONFERENCE

This year's Syezd, held at the Crosslands conference centre in Galston Gorge, ran from Sunday December 21st until Friday December 26th. Two of our young parishioners, Nicholas Krikunov and Alex Yakimov, attended. This was the first time that "Saint Panteleimon's, Gosford" was listed on name-tags as the home

parish of the attendees! Talks were given by Father Andrew Phillips - a priest visiting from the UK -, Vladika Hilarion, Fathers Michael Boikov, George Lapardin, and Gabriel Makarov, and Father James. Nicholas & Alex reported positively on the week, and overall, the Syezd was a great success. Next year's Syezd will be in Canberra.

CHURCH LIFE: VLADIKA HILARION RECEIVES AWARD

At the recent Council of Bishops, His Eminence Archbishop Hilarion of Sydney and the Australia/New Zealand Diocese was awarded a diamond cross for his klobuk. This award was proposed by His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus. We congratulate Vladika Hilarion on his award, and wish him many more years of faithful service to the Holy Orthodox Church.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick & suffering: Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Fyodor & Antonina Tialshinsky, Ioann, Alexander, Nina, Alexandra, child Ksenia

Special needs: Katherine, David, Marina, Paraskeva, Antonina, Larissa

Expectant mothers: Alla, Irene

Families with new babies: Peter & Tatiana with baby Stephanie

Newly-baptised: Baby Stephanie, parents Peter & Tatiana, & godparents Michael & Galina

Preparing for marriage: Gregory & Heather

Preparing for baptism: Heather

Newly-reposed: Archbishop Seraphim, George (Jiri) Hrbac

GOSFORD SERVICES IN EARLY 2004

Services in the early part of 2004 will be as follows: Divine Liturgy at 9.00am on Sunday January 18th and February 1st. These services will be at the Narara Community Centre. As mentioned earlier, we plan to be using the new parish centre from February 15th onwards. Note: January 18th is the eve of Theophany, and it is customary to serve a Great Blessing of Water on this day. This will be done after Divine Liturgy. Father James will bless as many homes as he can that afternoon (concentrating on Kariong, West Gosford, Wyoming, Narara, Niagara Park, Ourimbah and surrounding areas) before travelling to Newcastle for Vigil that evening (6.00pm) and Divine Liturgy (at 9.00am) on the feast-day itself. Those homes not blessed on Sunday January 18th will be blessed later in the week, probably on Tuesday 20th.

ASSISTANCE FROM SAINT NICHOLAS', FAIRFIELD

The parish of Saint Nicholas, Fairfield, has recently passed on to Father James an amount of \$1000.00 raised at a garage sale and through sales of piroshki. The

Ladies' Auxiliary has also passed on a great deal of crockery for our use in the new parish centre or with which to raise funds at one of our own garage sales. The kindness of Saint Nicholas', together with that of the Holy Protection parish in Cabramatta and Saint Vladimir's in Centennial Park, has been a great help and an encouragement to us. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless them abundantly!

CHURCH LIFE: RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH FREEZES RELATIONS WITH EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN USA

MOSCOW, November 17 (<http://www.interfax.ru>) - The Russian Orthodox Church is freezing relations with the Episcopal Church [part of the Church of England, or Anglican Communion - F.J.] in the United States, the External Relations Department of the Russian Orthodox Church reported. Gene Robinson's ordination as a bishop of the church was cited as the reason for this decision, the department said. Gene Robinson is the Episcopal Church's first openly gay bishop. The Russian Orthodox Church believes "homosexuality to be a sin, which isolates man from God." The Moscow Patriarchate referred to a verse in the Bible stating that sex between two men is loathsome and neither fornicators nor sodomites will enter God's realm. "The Church does not deny assistance to the unfortunate people who suffer from this ailment. God is love, and Christians must pray for all sinners and for their salvation. However, the Church cannot approve of perversions of human nature created by the Lord himself," the statement says. The Russian Orthodox Church had maintained good relations with the Episcopal Church in the United States for almost 200 years, including during the Cold War period, "when Christians retained mutual understanding in a world divided by military blocs," it says. "However, the bishopric of a homosexual makes impossible any contacts with him and his electors in clerical dialog and the humanitarian, religious and public spheres," the statement says. "We must not show any signs of consent with their position, which we regard as anti-Christian and blasphemous," the Moscow Patriarchate said. At the same time, the Russian Orthodox Church is praying "to God, the Lord of love and reconciliation, to bring members of the American Episcopal Church to their senses and help them return to the path of truth."

Although he has failed to do so for the last two services, Father James tries to prepare this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. You can call him about it on 0428-639156 or email him at fr.james.carles@rocor.org.au.