

ΠΑΝΤΕΛΕΙΜΟΝΣΚΙΥ ΛΙΣΤΟΚ

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

~ Number 25, 21 March 2004 ~

LAST SERVICE AT NARARA COMMUNITY CENTRE!

Today is the last time that we will hold a service at the Narara Community Centre. Although it is a joy to be moving to our own "proper" church, with all that that will make possible for us (Easter services, evening services, Russian school, no more packing & unpacking), it should not be without some sadness that we leave. Many wonderful things have happened here: the first baptism in our parish (Maxim Benatar); the first wedding (Kostya & Margaret Dmitrieff); a tonsure & ordination (Father John becoming reader, subdeacon & deacon on the 4th Sunday in Great Lent, 2002); and the celebration of so many Divine Liturgies by a number of the clergy of our diocese, Vladika Hilarion included. To add to these specific events, it has also been the place in which our parish has grown and flourished to the extent that we are now able to move into a church & hall of our own. For these reasons, it should always have a place in our hearts. In any case, we will return here for our festive lunch on 16th May, 2004, the official Opening Day at the new church.

ADDRESS OF OUR NEW CHURCH AND PARISH CENTRE

Church & Parish Centre: 4/7 Comserv Close WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250

Correspondence: PO Box 3356 ERINA NSW 2250

Telephone: 4322-9099 (Messagebank only)

PARISH LIFE: UPDATE ON OUR NEW CHURCH AND PARISH CENTRE

Although still very much a worksite, our new church and hall are well on the way to completion. In the church, the walls & ceiling have been completed and painted (blue and white respectively), the chandeliers have been hung, and other light fittings have been put into place. The iconostasis is under construction, and should be completed and ready for staining in the next day or so. Arrangements have been made for the purchase of the flooring material for the church and hall, which we are to obtain at a reduced price from the supplier, who is Greek Orthodox! This will be laid over the next week or so, and the architraves (also to be stained this week) will then be put into place. Also in place at the entrance to the church is a lovely set of double doors with leadlight windows. The hall has now been gyprocked, and a grid for the suspended ceiling (generously donated by Rondo Suspended Ceilings) has been hung. A staircase has been built from the kitchen to the storeroom over the amenities area. Everything seems to be on track for our first service, the all-night vigil on the eve of Palm Sunday, which will begin at 6.00pm. Those wanting to have a look over the new church and hall should come an hour or so before the first service.

A number of the parish ladies have been busy sewing new church vestments (oblachenie) over the last week or two, and have prepared a beautiful white set for the altar. There is

still much to be done, however, & anyone interested in assisting should speak with head sister Olga Petroff or with Nina Golovin.

Those interested in assisting with work at the new church should speak with Rick Golovin.

PARISH LIFE: FATHER JAMES & FAMILY MOVING HOUSE

After two and a half years of driving from Sydney to Gosford for services (and, more recently, things like hospital visits and parish council meetings), Father James and family are moving to the Central Coast. From 22 March 2004, their new address will be

48 Myola Road

UMINA BEACH NSW 2257

There is no new phone number yet, but Fr James can be contacted on his mobile number. The old home phone number will direct calls to the new Central Coast number for a few weeks, in any case.

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, Paraskeva, Antonina, Nicholas & family, Ioanna, Daniel

Families with new babies: George & Alla Karmadonoff, big brother Christopher & new baby Monica; Vassily (Bill) & Irene Konstantinidis, big brothers Dimitri & Alexander, with new baby Ambrose

Preparing for baptism: Rose-Marie (to be baptised on 3/4)

Preparing for marriage: Alexander & Rose-Marie (to be married on 25/4)

GOSFORD SERVICES IN APRIL, MAY & JUNE

A new and comprehensive schedule of services is available today. All services after today will be held at the new church. This year, we will be having services on Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, Pascha, and Pentecost (Troitsa). There will also be vigil services on the Saturday evenings before each Sunday service, and a number of mid-week akathists. Please collect a copy of the schedule!

NEWCASTLE SERVICES IN APRIL, MAY & JUNE

A copy of the schedule of services for Newcastle will be placed on the notice board in the new church hall. Father James serves there on the weekends that there is no service in Gosford, and on some major feastdays. This year, there will be services in Newcastle on Annunciation, Great & Holy Thursday, Great & Holy Friday, Great & Holy Saturday, Bright Monday, Bright Friday, and Ascension. The patronal feast of Saint Nicholas will this year be served on Sunday May 23rd, the Sunday after our Grand Opening in Gosford. Please mark it in your diaries!

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.