

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

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

~ Number 43, May 2005 ~
Date of issue: Sunday May 15th

ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

IN THIS ISSUE

Paschal epistles of Metropolitan Laurus and Archbishop Hilarion in Russian & English ~ Parish News ~ Parish Council News ~ Prayer requests ~ Benefit Concert in May ~ New schedule of services ~ Upcoming patronal feast-days in Wallsend & Fairfield ~ and more!

ПАСХАЛЬНОЕ ПОСЛАНИЕ ВЫСОКОПРЕОСВЯЩЕННЕЙШЕГО МИТРОПОЛИТА ЛАВРА, ПЕРВОИЕРАРХА РУССКОЙ ЗАРУБЕЖНОЙ ЦЕРКВИ

Христос Воскресе!

*«Небеса убо достойно да веселятся, земля же да радуется,
да празднует же мир, видимый же весь и невидимый...»*

В эти весенние, пасхальные дни, когда природа пробуждается от зимнего сна, особым смыслом наполняются эти слова пасхального канона. «Всякое дыхание да хвалит Господа, - говорит Господь устами царя Давида, - небеса поведают славу Божию творению же руку Его возвещает твердь...».

В сии дни мы с новой силой ощущаем, что даже неодушевленная, бессознательная тварь непрестанно возносит хвалу своему Творцу. А человек? Разумный венец творения? Он в подавляющей массе своей отверг своего Создателя, извратил Божественный дар разума, превратив его в пособие для прославления своего, а не Божьяго имени. Мы созданы, чтобы добровольно и сознательно любить и прославлять Господа, по слову апостола: «Всегда молиться и непрестанно благодарить».

Господь, простирая Свою великую любовь к нам, чтобы исправить попорченное, послал Сына Своего единородного, показавшего нам, что только через добровольное крестоношение мы можем восстановить в себе падший человеческий образ.

Он пришел усыновить нас, чтобы мы стали Христовыми, христианами, и не только по имени, а на деле, по жизни. Вода сливается с водой, а масло с маслом, и чтобы слиться со Христом, мы должны стать однородными с Ним. Для сего нам нужно непрестанно возноситься к Нему духом, молиться Ему и всегда о Нем помнить, причем не только в Великом Посту и на Пасху, но постоянно. А для этого нам необходимо из года в год связывать пасхальную радость с пасхальной радостью, пока по милости Божией не достигнем вечной Пасхи и не войдем в нескончаемую радость Господа своего.

Смысл любой нашей молитвы можно свести к словам пасхального канона: «Подавай нам, Господи, истее Тебе причащаться, в невечернем дни царствия Твоего». Чего сердечно всем нам желаю от Воскресшаго Господа. Приветствую дорогих наших архипастырей, пастырей и всю нашу боголюбивую паству, с сими великими и спасительными днями - Светлаго Христова Воскресения. Воистину воскрес Христос! Аминь.

+ Митрополит Лавр
Пасха 2005 г.

PASCHAL EPISTLE OF METROPOLITAN LAURUS OF EASTERN AMERICA AND NEW YORK, FIRST HIERARCH OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ABROAD

Christ is Risen!

"Let the heavens be glad as is meet, and let the earth rejoice; and let the whole world, visible and invisible, keep festival..."

In these Paschal days of spring, when nature is awakening from the snows of winter, these words of the Paschal canon become particularly meaningful. "Let every breath praise the Lord," God says through the mouth of King David. And "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands."

During these days, we sense with new strength that even inanimate, unconscious creation unceasingly offers up praise to its Creator. But what of man, the reason-endowed crown of creation? The overwhelming majority of men have rejected their Creator, have perverted the divine gift of reason, turning it into something to advance their own glorification, and not the name of God.

We have been created to love and glorify the Lord willingly and consciously, as the Apostle Paul says: "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks" (I Thess. 5, 17-18).

Extending His great love toward us, to set aright what had been trampled underfoot, the Lord sent His only-begotten Son, Who has shown us that only through the voluntary bearing of our cross are we able to restore within ourselves the fallen image of man. He came to adopt us, that we might become Christians, people of Christ, not only in name, but in deed, in our manner of life.

Water mingles with water, and oil with oil; and for us to become one with Christ we must become like unto Him. And for this it is essential that we constantly uplift ourselves to Him in spirit, that we pray to Him, that we always remember Him, not only during Great Lent and Pascha, but continually.

And for this we must, from one year to the next, connect this Paschal joy to the next Paschal joy, until, by the mercy of God, we reach the eternal Pascha and enter into the never-ending joy of our Lord.

One may reduce the meaning of any given prayer of ours to the words of the Paschal canon: "Grant that we may truly partake of Thee in the never-waning day of Thy kingdom". It is my earnest desire that the risen Lord grant this to all of us.

We greet our beloved archpastors, pastors, and our whole God-loving flock on these great and saving days of the radiant Resurrection of Christ.

Truly Christ is risen! Amen.

+Metropolitan Laurus

Pascha, 2005

ПАСХАЛЬНОЕ ПОСЛАНИЕ ТРЕОСВЯЩЕННЕЙШЕГО ИЛАРИОНА, АРХИЕПИСКОПА СИДНЕЙСКОГО И АВСТРАЛИЙСКО-НОВОЗЕЛАНДСКОГО

Возлюбленные о Господе клир и паства Австралийско-Новозеландской Епархии!

Христос Воскресе!

Милостью Божией мы вновь празднуем Святую Пасху! Божественный свет Воскресения Христова озаряет и наполняет наши сердца радостью. «Ныне вся исполнишася света, небо же и земля и преисподняя: да празднует убо вся тварь восстание Христово, в немже утверждаемся» (песнь 3-я канона Пасхи). Апостол свидетельствует, что свет Христов «и во тьме светит и тьма не объяла его» (Иоан. 1, 5).

Действительно, возлюбленные, благодать Божия, просвещающая и освящающая нас в нашей повседневной жизни, теперь зримо нисходит в благодати невестественного огня в Иерусалиме у Гроба Господня и, также зримо, наполняет нас с вами своею радостью. Пусть же эта радость богообщения пребывает с нами всегда, чтобы мы могли бы её передавать другим и всем нам вместе держаться христианских добродетелей и православного образа жизни. Тогда мы, совоскликая древнему пророку, сможем сказать: «Смерть! Где твое жало? Ад! Где твоя победа?» (Осии 13, 14; 1 Кор. 15, 55).

Воскрес Христос, и через Его Воскресение мы становимся народом Божиим, народом помилованным. Со Христом мы воскрешаем из купели к новой жизни. Облекитесь, призывает нас апостол Павел, в нового человека. Воскрес Христос и нас воскресил на добрые дела (Ефес. 2, 10).

Возлюбленные о Господе, досточтимые пастыри, иноки и инокини, все боголюбивые чада нашей Австралийско-Новозеландской епархии, разделяя с вами радость о Воскресении Христовом, поздравляю всех вас с великим праздником Святой Пасхи! Воскресший Господь да приблизится к нам Своей благодатью, да освятит разум и чувства наши и направит их на дела благая и любовью Своей согреет наши сердца. Да пребудет в нас мир, чистая вера и любовь Христова. И пусть нескончаема будет наша радость о Его Воскресении.

Воистину Воскресе Христос!

+ **Иларион,**

Архиепископ Сиднейский и Австралийско-Новозеландский

**PASCHAL EPISTLE OF HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP HILARION OF SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

Beloved in the Lord, Clergy and Flock of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese!

Christ is Risen!

By God's mercy we are again celebrating Holy Pascha! The Divine Light of Christ's Resurrection, which knows no bounds, illumines and fills our hearts with joy. "Now all things are filled with light: heaven and earth, and the nether regions. So let all creation then celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, by which it is strengthened" (Song 3 of the Paschal Canon). The Apostle testifies that the light of Christ shines even in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5).

Truly, beloved, the grace of God, which enlightens and sanctifies us in our daily life, now visibly comes down in the grace of the immaterial Fire in Jerusalem at the Lord's Tomb and likewise visibly fills us all with its joy. May this joy of divine communion abide in us always, so that we, sharing it with others, may all hold fast to the Christian virtues and the Orthodox way of life. We may then exclaim together with the prophet of old: "O death! Where is your sting? O hades! Where is your victory?" (Hosea 13:14; 1 Cor. 15:55).

Christ is risen, and through His Resurrection we become a nation of God, a nation forgiven. We arise with Christ from the font unto a new life. Clothe yourselves, the Apostle Paul beckons to us, in the new man. Christ is risen and He raises us up for good works (Ephesians 2:10).

Beloved in the Lord, reverend pastors, monks and nuns, all the God-loving children of our Australian and New Zealand flock, sharing with you the joy of the Resurrection of Christ, I greet you all with the great feast of Holy Pascha! May the Risen Lord come to us through His grace, may He sanctify our mind and senses and direct us to good works, kindling our hearts by His love. May peace, a pure faith and the love of Christ ever abide in us. And may our joy in His Resurrection be unending.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

+ **Archbishop Hilarion**
of Sydney, Australia and New Zealand
Pascha 2005

PARISH BENEFIT CONCERT ON MAY 29th

On Sunday May 29th a Benefit Concert to assist our parish will be held at the Russian Club in Strathfield. Organised by our choir director, Olga Ivanovna Itsikson, and by a friend of the parish, Mrs E. Yakupova, the impressive concert programme includes instrumental and vocal items, drama, dancing and comedy, with many talented friends of the parish having agreed to be involved. Tickets will cost \$20.00 (\$15.00 for pensioners and \$10.00 for children). Parish members are asked to assist in any way possible, particularly with ticket sales, door-keeping, setting-up and cleaning-up afterwards on the day. Those able to assist should speak to Olga Petroff (4342-4241).

IMPORTANT NOTE: There will be no services in Gosford on the 5th weekend in May, Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th. This is because of the concert on Sunday.

PARISH LIFE: THE MONTH IN REVIEW

April was a busy month for the parish with a number of activities, some of which (a garage sale, church cleaning, and a parish council meeting) are detailed elsewhere in this issue. There were also 22 services in April (!), the most noteworthy being the service of anointing («соборование») on April 17th, the first time such a service has been held in Gosford; services marking Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday; and services every day during Passion Week, including the beautiful service of lamentation before the tomb of Christ on the evening of Great & Holy Friday. Many visitors came for the blessing of pussy-willows on the eve of Palm Sunday, and the early Easter service in Gosford was also very well attended. The church was beautifully decorated for the celebration of the Easter services. Thanks to all those who assisted in with reading and singing at the services, and to those who prepared flowers and the white vestments.

PARISH LIFE: SISTERHOOD ACTIVITIES

The parish sisterhood has had a successful month, raising over \$1100.00 through a garage sale at Ettalong on Saturday April 16th and through the sale of kulichi and pussy-willows. This will go towards the purchase of a new fridge to replace the large (non-functioning!) fridge currently in the kitchen. Congratulations to our hard-working sisterhood on their success, and many thanks to all who helped at the garage sale, baked kulichi, and helped with the preparation of pussy-willows for Palm Sunday.

PARISH LIFE: CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

On Monday April 25th (Holy Monday, and the Anzac Day Public Holiday), a number of parishioners gathered to give our church and hall the first really big clean-up since we moved in last year. All the furniture was removed, walls and floors were scrubbed, timber polished, icons cleaned, oil lamps washed and refilled, books reorganized, and junk thrown out! Afterwards, many sat down for a Lenten meal and the chance to have a chat. The church looked beautiful during Holy Week and over Pascha as a result. Many thanks to all who helped!

PARISH LIFE: ANNIVERSARIES AND NEW ACQUISITIONS

April 4th marked the first anniversary of services in our West Gosford church, and May 16th marks the first anniversary of Vladika Hilarion's blessing of our church. In the year that has passed our church and parish centre has grown ever more beautiful and become truly a home to us. Regular worshippers will have noticed a number of new acquisitions: the beautiful baptismal font that stands on the right side of the amvon; the shroud of Christ ("plashchanitsa") venerated on Holy Saturday, and the "tomb" on which it was

placed; the new icon frame above the table of preparation in the sanctuary; beautiful paschal covers for the chalice; and icons on the iconostasis of Blessed Xenia and Grand Duchess Olga. The font and shrouds (in addition to the shroud of Christ, we have another of the Virgin Mary which will be venerated at Dormition) were paid for by special donations; the tomb was made by Rick Golovin; the icon frame in the sanctuary is the fine work of Protodeacon Basil Hadarin, and was generously donated by Alexander Yakimov and the late George Kraiuhin; the chalice covers are the work of the tireless Pana Hadarin; and the icons were donated by Simon Polorotov, a parishioner of the church of Saint Nicholas, Fairfield. We thank God for all that He has bestowed on us in the past year, and ask that He richly bless our many friends and benefactors.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Recent Parish Council meetings were on April 5th and May 10th 2005. With the building and furnishing of our church and parish centre having been completed, Parish Council meetings are now fairly brief and straightforward affairs. At the April meeting the Parish Council reviewed the financial position of the parish and agreed to pay a further \$18,000.00 towards the mortgage. Although we still have over \$80,000.00 to pay, the parish has effectively reduced the mortgage by one third in the past 18 months. A chart showing our progress in reducing the mortgage has been prepared and is on the notice board in the hall. Reduction of the mortgage (and the amount of interest that we pay as a result) remains a priority for the Parish Council. At the May meeting the Parish Council reviewed parish life over the past month and discussed coming events, all of which are mentioned elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. The Parish Council again considered the request of some parishioners to have occasional Sunday services sung in the English language, agreeing that in those months with 5 Sundays, the 5th Sunday in the month could be set aside for this purpose. This occurs 3-4 times each year. There are two "fifth Sundays" remaining in 2005: July 31st and October 30th. Steps will now be taken to form a choir that can assist on these days. It was agreed that the commitment of the parish council to meet the needs of all parishioners by a liturgical practice that includes both Church Slavonic and English remains firm. The Parish Council is due to meet next on Tuesday June 14th.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick & suffering: Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Antonina Tialshinsky, Zoran, Vladimir; Newcastle parishioners Vasili, Alexander, Antonina, Vladimir, Nina, & Vera; and others known to us: child Ksenia, Ioann

Special needs: Konstantin, Margaret, Maxim & family, Phillip & family, Katherine, David, Paraskeva, Vera, Matthew, Tamara, Andrew

Departed: George (Kraiuhin); Fyodor (Tialshinsky); Nun Maria

PARISH LIFE: SERVICES IN MAY AND JUNE 2005

A new "Winter" schedule that takes us through until the end of August is now available in church and on the parish website. The bulk of the services in May have already passed, with only one evening service (for the feast of Mid-Pentecost) remaining this month. In June we have seven services, the main one being for Pentecost or "Troitsa" on Sunday June 19th.

24 th May	Tuesday	Matins	7.00 pm
25 th May	Wednesday	Mid-Pentecost	
4 th June	Saturday	Matins	6.00 pm
5 th June	Sunday	Sunday of the Blind Man	
		Divine Liturgy	9.00 am
7 th June	Tuesday	Paschal Vespers, Matins	7.00 pm
8 th June	Wednesday	Leave-taking of Pascha	
9 th June	Thursday	ASCENSION OF THE LORD	
		Great Vespers	7.00 pm
18 th June	Saturday	All-night vigil	6.00 pm
19 th June	Sunday	PENTECOST	
		Divine Liturgy; Vespers with the kneeling prayers	9.00 am
23 rd June	Thursday	Moleben with akathist to the Chinese Martyrs	7.00 pm
24 th June	Friday	New Martyrs of China	

CHURCH LIFE: PATRONAL FEASTS OF SAINT NICHOLAS TO BE CELEBRATED IN NEWCASTLE AND FAIRFIELD ON SUNDAY MAY 22nd

Our closest neighboring parish, that of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend (Newcastle), celebrates its patronal feast this year on a Sunday. All-night vigil with the blessing of loaves will be served on the evening of Saturday May 21st. Services on Sunday May 22nd will begin with a lesser blessing of water at 8.00am, followed by Divine Liturgy at 9.00am with the customary procession and moleben. Father James will be serving alone in Wallsend this year, as Vladika Hilarion will be visiting the Fairfield parish, a church that celebrates its patronal feast on the same day. A festive lunch to which all are invited will follow the services. All are encouraged to visit one of the two parishes on this day of joy, considering it a pilgrimage in honour of Saint Nicholas, a great saint of our Church, an example to us and our helper in Christian life.

Our parish newsletter will be published to coincide with the first Sunday service of each month. If you wish to receive it by post or email, please talk to Father James (0428-639156) or Katya Marcotrigiano, the parish secretary (4369-1765). Information and prayer requests for inclusion in the newsletter can be given to Father James or emailed to info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.