



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

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PARISH LIFE: JULY – AUGUST 2010

On 26 July the vestments and bookmarks that we had ordered from the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus, arrived. The vestments included two full sets of deacon's vestments for Father Martin, one in green and one in black, and two sets of double orarions and cuffs, one set in red and one in blue. The orarion is the vestment that the deacon wears over his shoulder, and a double orarion is a more elaborate form of this vestment that is awarded to a deacon after at least three years of service. These vestments, together with the beautiful embroidered bookmarks for the Holy Gospels, were set out in church and blessed at Divine Liturgy on Sunday 1 August. The bookmarks were put to use immediately, but we must wait for the Christmas services to see Father Martin's new green vestments, and until Great Lent to see the black ones.

On Tuesday 27 July and Wednesday 28 July Father James served in Centennial Park at the parish of Saint Vladimir the Enlightener of Russia on the occasion of its feast day. The Centennial Park parish is the oldest in Sydney, and served as the cathedral until the building in the 1950s of the church at Strathfield. His Grace Bishop Agapit of Stuttgart presided at Divine Liturgy.

On 30 July 2010 we learned with sadness that Irene Claydon, one of our newest parishioners, had passed away. Diagnosed with cancer less than two years ago, Irene reposed in the Lord peacefully, and in the presence of her husband Bill, their son Timothy and daughter Annabelle, and her sister Marina. Father James had been able to visit her two days earlier and to read the Office at the Departure of the Soul. Irene's funeral was held in our church on Thursday 5 August, and her body was afterwards laid to rest at Wamberal Cemetery. A great many people gathered for the funeral. We offer heartfelt condolences to Bill, Tim, Annabelle, Marina and all of Irene's family, and pray that God will grant rest to his newly-reposed handmaiden.

On Friday 6 August and Saturday 7 August we gathered for the commemoration of our patron saint, the Great-Martyr Panteleimon. All-night Vigil was served at 6.00pm on Friday evening. Joining Fathers James and Martin for this service were Bishop Agapit, Hieromonk Joachim of Saint John the Baptist Skete in Kentlyn (Campbelltown, NSW), and Hierodeacon Panteleimon. Bishop Agapit – only the second bishop to visit our parish – and Father Panteleimon had arrived earlier in the day and taken the opportunity to walk alongside Brisbane Water, enjoying the beautiful waterfront at Gosford.

The following morning a number of priests and deacons from the Sydney Deanery arrived to concelebrate at Divine Liturgy. The priests were Mitred Archpriest Michael Li (Croydon), Priest Daniel Metlenko (Centennial Park), and Hieromonk John (Dungog, NSW). The deacons were

Protodeacons Basil Hadarin (Blacktown) and Alexander Kotlaroff (Strathfield) and Deacons Constantine Moshegov (Croydon) and Stephen Mackay (Centennial Park and Kentlyn). Father Michael served the Blessing of Water at 7.45am before all of the clergy gathered to welcome Bishop Agapit at 8.30am.

A great many people gathered in church, having travelled from Sydney and Newcastle, and the choir sang beautifully under the direction of Olga Itsikson. A festive lunch was held afterwards at the Niagara Park Community Centre, a large hall some 10 minutes' drive from church. Although he had to leave the Central Coast by 1.00pm in order to board a flight to Adelaide, Bishop Agapit was able to join us for lunch and to speak to those who had gathered. Photographs from the day are now available for viewing on the church website.

Parish Council was due to meet on Tuesday August 10, but for various reasons this proved impossible. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 17.

PARISH LIFE: OUR AIR CONDITIONING

In the last issue of the newsletter it was reported that our air conditioning units had broken down and required replacement, the estimated cost being approximately \$7000.00. As of 9 August, \$6740.00 had been collected towards this project, a large part of it thanks to the efforts of our choir mistress, Olga Itsikson. \$2000.00 was contributed by the Saint Sergius Benevolent Fund at Cabramatta, and a cheque for this amount was presented to Father James on our feast-day by Nikolai Brusentsev. We had hoped to have the new units installed in time for our feast-day but this was not possible, and they were installed shortly afterwards. There are still some donations to come.

DIOCESAN LIFE: TRIENNIAL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER

We received notice early in August that our triennial Diocesan Conference would be held this year in Strathfield on Sunday December 26 and Monday December 27. This is somewhat later than usual, the dates having been chosen to coincide with the annual Diocesan youth conference. The triennial Diocesan conference hears reports on the life and management of the Diocese over the previous three years, and elects a Diocesan Council to assist the Ruling Bishop in the administration of the Diocese. Each parish sends an equal number of clergy and lay delegates, the lay delegates being elected by parish members. In the past we have sent one clergy delegate (Fr James) and one lay delegate (Alexander Yakimov in 2004, and Paul Pereboeff in 2007). As this year we will for the first time send two clergy delegates (Father James and Father Martin), we must elect two lay delegates. A meeting for this purpose will be held sometime in November 2010. Any parish member interested in attending the Diocesan Conference as a delegate is welcome to obtain further information about the role and responsibilities of a delegate from Father James.

PARISH LIFE: NEW PORTRAITS IN CHURCH HALL

Readers may have noticed that portraits of Patriarchs Alexis and Kyrill and Metropolitan Hilarion have recently been added to the walls of the church hall. The portraits of the Patriarchs were obtained by our parishioner Katya Rubbo on a recent trip to Russia, and the portrait of Metropolitan Hilarion was given to us by Father Panteleimon.

DIOCESAN LIFE: THE VOICE

A new issue of the English-language Diocesan journal, 'The Voice', is now available in church. The latest issue, dated May 2010, contains articles about the place of lives of saints in the spiritual life, the Orthodox Christian view of euthanasia, and death with piety as death with dignity.

PARISH LIFE: COMING SERVICES

On Wednesday August 18 and Thursday August 19 we will have services for the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Following Divine Liturgy on Thursday there will be the customary blessing of grapes and other fruit. Father James will be serving in Newcastle this year for the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, but services on the second day of that feast will be held here in Gosford, at which time parishioners will have the opportunity to venerate the "tomb" of the Mother of God that is customarily prepared in the centre of the church. The feast of the Dormition is an important one in Newcastle, the first Russian Orthodox services in the Hunter Valley having been held on that day in 1949.

PARISH LIFE: SPRING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Father James is now working on a schedule of services for the spring months, September, October and November. The only services in addition to our regular Saturday and Sunday services during these months will be All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on Sunday September 26 and Monday September 27, and an English service at the end of October. It is expected that the new schedules will be available in church and online by Sunday August 29.

CHURCH LIFE: WILDFIRES IN RUSSIA

Readers will be aware of the devastating wildfires that have broken out in Russia against a background of record high temperatures and drought. It has been estimated that as many as 700 people are dying each day as a result of the heat and the poisonous smog. President Dmitry Medvedev has declared a state of emergency in a number of regions, and Patriarch Kyrill has appealed for help, both spiritual and material. Patriarch Kyrill's appeal can be read in full here: <http://www.mospat.ru/en/2010/08/01/news23498/>

In response to this tragedy, the Fund for Assistance to ROCOR is collecting donations. For information on how to make a donation, visit the ROCOR website: <http://www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws>

Bishop Agapit has asked that the following petitions be used at Diving Liturgy:

Again we pray that He will mercifully send to the Russian land and His faithful people health-bearing winds and seasonable rains for the bearing of fruit, and that He will deliver them from hail, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, and every death-bearing wound;

Again we pray that He will not, in His anger, destroy His people in the Russian land and in other places with perilous calamities, but command the clouds to send rain from above and bedew the land that it may bear fruit, and grant health to His people and not slay them with famine and hunger.

These petitions could be modified as follows for use at home:

O Lord, our God, we pray that you will mercifully send to the Russian land and your faithful people health-bearing winds and seasonable rains for the bearing of fruit, and that you will deliver them from hail, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, and every death-bearing wound. Moreover, we ask that you will not, in your anger, destroy your people in the Russian land and in other places with perilous calamities, but command the clouds to send rain from above and bedew the land that it may bear fruit, and grant health to your people and not slay them with famine and hunger. For you are a good God who loves mankind, and unto you do we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Subdeacon Vitaly (Lupish) and Nun Euphrosyne; our parishioners Nestor, Natalia, Michael, Tatiana, Nina, Natalia and Boris.

Expectant mothers: Natalia, Maria, Vassiliki, Anastasia, Ioanna, Kira.

Departed: Patriarch Alexis, Metropolitan Vitaly, Metropolitan Laurus, and former parishioners and benefactors Irene (Claydon), Victor (Manjetny), Vladimir (Dmitrieff), George (Fomin), Irina (Kamenev), Nun Maria, George (Kraihin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan), Elena (Yakupova), Lydia (Ustimko).



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