



russian orthodox  
church of  
**saint panteleimon**  
gosford

## ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 98, December 2010 ~

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### PARISH LIFE: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2010

A great deal has happened over the last month. Parish Council met on November 16, a little later than usual, and chose Rick Golovin and Victor Bendeviski to represent our parish at the Diocesan Conference in Sydney on December 26-27. Following on from Father James' decision to discontinue English-language Divine Liturgies, the Parish Council also had a lively discussion about the use of English in services and the importance of youth work in parish life. There was also some discussion of plans to redesign our parish website and to obtain software to assist with parish administration.

On Sunday November 21 we observed the twenty-fifth anniversary of the repose of Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky), the third First Hierarch of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. Father James spoke briefly about the life and witness of Vladyka Philaret, following which a memorial litia was served.

That afternoon, the marriage of Jean-Philippe Blanloeuil and Elena Fauris was blessed in our church. Jean-Philippe and Elena have had an association with our parish for some time, and their youngest son Maxim was baptised here in May this year. A great many family and friends gathered for the service, which was conducted in Slavonic and French. The choir under Olga Itsikson's direction sang very nicely, and it was a solemn and prayerful service. The wedding party and guests afterwards went to Pearl Beach for a celebratory meal and drinks. Our warmest congratulations to Jean-Philippe and Elena!

On Saturday November 4, the feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, Nicholas, the infant son of Philip Clarke and Anastasia Zasantseva, was baptised at All Saints of Russia Church in Croydon. Anastasia Harwood, a young woman from the Wallsend parish known to many of us, stood as his godmother, and Matushka Marie was also present. May God bless the newly baptised infant Nicholas, and grant health and salvation to his parents and godmother.

On Tuesday December 7 we had a service in honour of the Great-Martyr Katherine of Alexandria. This was a simple and very lovely service. Celebrating their name-days that day were Ekaterina Lugovoy, Katya Korelkevich-Rubbo, Kate Marcotrigiano, Katya Waters, and Katie Carles. Congratulating four of them at the end of the service – Katya Waters was unfortunately unable to be there – Father James noted that all of the five had contributed significantly to the life of the parish in different ways: through membership of the Parish Council, singing and reading in the choir, fundraising, decorating and cleaning the church, social activities, and their lively presence. "Many years" was then sung for them all. Most present remained after the service for a "cup of tea".

That evening a baby arrived for our parishioners from Mount Colah, Ivan Zagvozkine and his wife Natasha Belova. A baby brother to Ivan and Anton, they have named him Alexander. Our warmest congratulations to Ivan, Natasha, Ivan Jr and Anton!

Parish Council met again on Tuesday December 14. Parish activities and finances for the month of November were reviewed, with the Treasurer reporting that our "Future Fund" now stands at \$20,869.70. This is invested in two term deposits, with the parish continuing to contribute \$850.00 per month to the fund. Other matters discussed include the 2011 Annual General Meeting,

membership renewal, the framing of certain icons, plans for winter and summer camps in 2011, the possibility of a kitchen roster, our sponsorship of a family in Haiti, and the Ladies' Auxiliary Christmas raffle. A number of these items are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

### **NATIVITY FAST**

November 28<sup>th</sup> was the first day of the Nativity Fast, the period of spiritual preparation that we observe over the 6 weeks prior to the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, or Christmas. Strictly speaking, every day from November 28<sup>th</sup> until January 6<sup>th</sup> should be one on which no meat or dairy products are eaten. Fish is permitted on every Saturday and Sunday during December, and also – in 2010 – on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Wine and oil are permitted on fish days, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and also on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fish, wine (or alcohol in general), and oil are all allowed on these fasting days in honour of certain saints' days; the "higher" the rank of the saint, the more we can relax our fasting. The fast becomes much stricter from the beginning of January onwards. It is acknowledged, of course, that people observe the fast in many different ways, each according to their strength. Talk to Father James if you have any questions or concerns.

### **PARISH LIFE: THE MONTH AHEAD**

Our services in honour of Saint Nicholas of Myra in Lycia on December 18-19 are the last for 2010, our sixth full year at West Gosford. The first services in 2011 are on January 1-2.

Between now and then, 120 clergy and youth from across the Australia and New Zealand Diocese will gather at Avoca Beach for the forty-sixth Annual Youth Conference of our Diocese. Lectures will be heard on December 28-29, and on December 30 Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be served at Treetops Resort, the conference venue. To make this possible, a number of items from our church will be taken over to the resort. Those interested in attending Divine Liturgy that day should speak with Father James. More information about the Youth Conference is available from [www.syezd.info](http://www.syezd.info).

God willing, on January 1 Lucas Kfoury, the infant son of Andrew and Cindy Kfoury, will be baptised at our church. On Monday January 3 we will have a clean-up of the church, and then on January 6-7, the Christmas services. After Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, January 7, there will be a common festive meal in the church hall. All are welcome! Those planning to join us are asked to bring a plate of festive food to share.

On Saturday January 8 five children from our parish will participate in the Annual Camp of the National Organisation of Russian Scouts (NORS), to be held this year at a campsite in Loftus in Sydney's south. Those participating will be Nicholas Carles, Elizabeth Carles, Katie Carles, Nicholas Teliatnikov, and Alexander Teliatnikov. NORS is a fine organisation that has done a great deal of important youth work in the Russian community over many years. More information about NORS and about the camp can be obtained from Father James.

In accordance with custom, Father James will again be blessing homes in the week beginning January 17. We will have services for the Eve of Theophany on January 17-18, with the Great Blessing of Water to be served in church on Tuesday January 18. Some homes will be blessed later that day, and others on Thursday January 20 and Friday January 21. One of those days will be spent on the Central Coast, and another in the Hornsby area. On the feast of Theophany itself Father James will be serving in Newcastle.

### **PARISH LIFE: AGM PREPARATION**

As we come to the end of another calendar year, the Parish Council has begun to plan for another Annual General Meeting. At this stage, the 2011 AGM is scheduled for Sunday February 20, the last practical date before the beginning of Great Lent. Announcements concerning the AGM will be made in church on January 30 and February 6 and 20. Work on the Annual Report reviewing the 2010 calendar year will commence in January, with the Parish council to review and endorse the report early in February.

## **PARISH MEMBERSHIP**

All parish members are now asked to renew their membership, and regular worshippers are invited to consider becoming members. This is particularly important in view of the fact that our AGM will be held in February 2011. The rules governing parish membership are set out in the Normal Parish By-Laws ("the By-Laws") of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia (ROCOR). A person may become a member of a ROCOR parish if they are an Orthodox Christian, have reached the age of 18 years, pay the established membership dues, make their confession and take Holy Communion not less than once a year, and tend to the moral and economic welfare of the parish. In our parish, the annual membership fee is \$20.00. Membership is granted for a calendar year; that is, from January to December. New members gain the right to vote only after 6 months of membership. Those new members who transfer membership from another ROCOR parish may vote immediately. Paragraph 12 of the By-Laws requires any person wishing to become a member of a parish to make a written application to the Parish Council. To make this easier for everyone, our parish has developed an 'Application for Parish Membership' form. A copy of this form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Photocopies of this form can be made, or copies downloaded from our website. Some forms are also available at church. Please ask at the candle desk! Parish members are asked to complete the 'Application for Parish Membership' form upon annual renewal of membership. This helps ensure that parish records are up-to-date, that personal details remain correct, and that the conditions for membership continue to be met. Any questions or concerns regarding formal parish membership should be raised with Father James. Completed membership forms should be given to our Parish Council secretary, Katya Marcotrigiano, or to any Parish Council member.

## **PARISH LIFE: WINTER CAMP IN JULY 2011**

This coming Winter we will again have a parish camp at Crosslands near Galston Gorge, the venue for our 2009 Winter and Summer camps. A booking has been made for the weekend of July 2-3, the first weekend of the July school holidays. The camp will begin on the evening of Friday July 1 and continue through until the afternoon of Sunday July 3. As July 2 is the day of repose of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, the camp will be held in his honour. As at previous camps there will be common meals, activities for all ages, an evening campfire, a play, and services Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Please mark the date in your diaries! Possible dates and venues for a summer camp remain under consideration.

## **DONATION APPEAL – MOUNT MERATI VOLCANO ERUPTION**

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, Friends of Indonesia-Australia was established in July 2010 to aid the priests and parishes of the Indonesian Orthodox Church (Gereja Orthodox Indonesia - GOI) who make up the Indonesian Deanery of ROCOR's Sydney, Australia and New Zealand Diocese.

The active volcano Mount Merapi on the Indonesian island of Java erupted on the 25th of October 2010. It continues to spew hot gases and ash as far as 5,000 meters into the atmosphere, wreaking havoc on surrounding villages and farms, and disrupting air travel. 194 people have been killed, and at least 350,000 fled their homes, and cannot yet return because of the danger of further eruptions. Two of our Indonesian priests, Father Markus Wiyono and Father Barnabas Elu van Basten have parishes and mission centres in this area. With their parishioners they are actively involved in rescuing those trapped by the disaster and also in providing emergency relief to the homeless refugees.

Donations to help Father Markus, Father Barnabas and our Indonesian Orthodox brothers and sisters show the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ to the refugees are being called for. All money will be sent directly to the FOI-A Finance Committee in Jakarta, added to the local fundraising efforts of the Russian and Indonesian Orthodox parish communities in Jakarta and sent directly to Father Markus and Father Barnabas to purchase food, clothing, shelter, baby food etc.

Send cheque or money order to: Friends of Indonesia-Australia, 57 Crown Street, St Peters NSW 2044. Or direct deposit to: Friends of Indonesia-Australia, Commonwealth Bank - BSB 062128 10499901. For further information about the Mt Merapi Volcano Refugee Appeal or Friends of Indonesia-Australia please contact Hieromonk Joachim - (02) 4626 3945 or Protodeacon Christopher Henderson - 0421646422.

### **PARISH LIFE: PRE CHRISTMAS CLEAN UP – MONDAY 3 JANUARY 2011**

Our usual pre-Christmas general clean-up day at church will be held on Monday January 3rd, beginning at 8.00 am. This will be a major clean-up, with everything in the church and hall being thoroughly washed, scrubbed and polished in preparation for our Christmas Eve services on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. All those who are able to spare a few hours are asked to attend. A list of tasks will be prepared to ensure that everyone has something to do. As is customary, a light Lenten lunch will be served afterwards for all those working.

### **PARISH LIFE: CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Tickets for our Christmas raffle are available for sale. All prizes can be viewed in the church hall, with tickets being sold for just \$1.00 each. Please see Olga Petroff or any Parish Council member to purchase tickets or obtains books to sell.

### **PARISH LIFE: SERVICES IN JANUARY 2011**

God willing, we will have the following services in January:

Saturday January 1: Matins 6.00pm

Sunday January 2: Saint John of Kronstadt, Liturgy 9.00am

Thursday January 6: Vigil 6.00pm

Friday January 7: Christmas Day, Liturgy 9.00am

Saturday January 15: Matins 6.00pm

Sunday January 16: Liturgy 9.00am

Monday January 17: Matins 6.00pm

Tuesday January 18: Theophany Eve, Liturgy 9.00am, with Great Blessing of Water

Parish homes will be blessed in the course of this week, January 17-21.

Saturday January 29: Matins 6.00pm

Sunday January 30: Liturgy 9.00am

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:**

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

**Families with new babies:** Ivan & Natalia, baby Alexander, and big brothers Ivan & Anton

**Expectant mothers:** Maria, Olga, Ioanna, Irina, 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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