

PARISH LIFE: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2010

On Sunday 17 October after Divine Liturgy, Father James travelled to Blacktown for a festive banquet in honour of the Protection of the Mother of God, the feast-day of the patriarchal Russian Orthodox parish in that suburb. The rector of that parish is now Father Alexander Filchakov, formerly rector of the patriarchal parish in Newcastle. As the Protection parish in Blacktown has no church hall, the lunch was held in the hall of the Serbian Orthodox parish of Saint Nicholas. Other clergymen of our Diocese present were Priests Alexander Korjenevski and David Lloyd, and Protodeacon Vasily Hadarin.

On Sunday 24 October, the day of the commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, a number of parishioners travelled to the parish of Saint Nicholas, Wallsend, for the visit of Bishop Agapit of Stuttgart to that parish. Together with Bishop Agapit, Father James and Father Martin served at Divine Liturgy. Afterwards, many joined the Wallsend congregation in the church hall for a festive lunch. All had an enjoyable time, and our friends at Wallsend were greatly encouraged by our visit.

Late on the evening of Monday 25 October a baby boy arrived, the first child of Philip Clarke and his wife Anastasiya Zasentsev. The baby was named Nicholas in honour of Saint Nicholas of Myra in Lycia. Saint Nicholas is a saint particularly close to Anastasiya's heart, she having made a pilgrimage to his relics in Bari, Italy, back in 2007. Mother and baby are doing very well, and it is expected that the infant Nicholas will be baptised early in December in Croydon, the parish closest to their new home, by the new rector, Father Seraphim Chemodakov. Our warmest best wishes to all!

On Sunday 31 October, the fifth Sunday of the month, we had our customary English service. This was a quiet day, with a small choir and relatively few people in church, although many of those present received Holy Communion. It was the day of commemoration of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, and we were honoured with a visit from Subdeacon Luke Goura from the Wallsend parish, together with his wife Elise and their infant son Daniel. Luke was celebrating his name-day, and was asked to read the epistle on the occasion. At the end of the service Father James

congratulated him on behalf of the Gosford and Wallsend parishes, and Father Martin intoned "Many Years". The future of our customary English services is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 November, Father James participated in the feast-day services at the convent of Our Lady of Kazan at Kentlyn, near Campbelltown. Bishop Agapit presided at Divine Liturgy on Thursday, with a number of priests and deacons concelebrating. Despite it being a week day a great many people were present.

Friday 5 November was the day of commemoration of the Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, and Father James' name-day. On Sunday 7 November after Divine Liturgy Father Martin made mention of this, congratulating Father James on behalf of the parish and then intoning "Many Years". Father James thanked everyone present for their kindness.

That same day we held an Extraordinary Parish Meeting to elect two delegates to the forthcoming Diocesan Assembly. The meeting was very brief indeed, the members present resolving to refer the matter of the selection of delegates to Parish Council. This was considered best as one of the nominees was not present to accept the nomination, and the two others nominated at the meeting were reluctant to accept nomination without this being first resolved. Parish Council will meet on Tuesday 16 November.

CHURCH LIFE: ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPOSE OF METROPOLITAN PHILARET

On Sunday 21 November we will observe an important anniversary in the life of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, that of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the repose of Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky). Born in Russia in 1903, the future Metropolitan Philaret was the son of a priest who was to become, upon the death of his matushka, a bishop in China. Moving with his father to China, he studied electrical engineering in the city of Harbin. He went on to study theology and was ordained priest in 1931, serving in churches in and around Harbin. He laboured in China for 31 years, leaving for Australia in 1962. Soon after, he was elected Bishop of Brisbane, and was consecrated bishop in our cathedral at Strathfield. He went to America for a meeting of the Council of Bishops in 1964 and was elected head of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, Metropolitan Anastassy (Gribanovsky) having retired because of sickness. Metropolitan Philaret was a brave leader of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, never ceasing to fight against falsehood wherever he saw it. He wrote many pieces of church music. He presided at the glorifications by the Church Abroad of Blessed Xenia, Saint John of Kronstadt, Saint Herman of Alaska, and the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. He particularly loved young people, and gave much attention to Christian education. He

died in 1985 and was buried at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York. When his grave was opened in 1998, 14 years later, his body was found to be incorrupt. May God give him rest with the saints, and make his memory to be eternal! We will serve a litiya for the departed immediately after Divine Liturgy on the anniversary of his repose.

CHURCH LIFE: THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE RUSSIA

In December we will observe another important anniversary. 2010 is the ninetieth year of the existence of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. The Synod of Bishops has appointed Friday 10 December, the day of commemoration of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God, as the day on which this important anniversary will be formally observed. In a recent Decree Bishop Agapit has asked that parishes observe the anniversary on this day or the Sunday closest to it with a Moleben of Thanksgiving. In our parish, this moleben will be served on Sunday 5 December.

PARISH LIFE: ENGLISH SERVICES

Sunday 31 October was the fifth anniversary, almost to the day, of the beginning of English-language Divine Liturgies in our parish, the first having been held on Sunday 30 October 2005. These services were originally introduced to serve and encourage those of our parishioners who did not understand Church Slavonic, the primary liturgical language of our parish. In recognition of the fact that our parish already uses a great deal of English at Divine Liturgy (the entire Sixth Hour, the Epistle and Gospel, some of the Litanies, and the sermon), the frequency of services entirely in English was limited to those 3-5 times per year when there was a fifth Sunday in the month. Over the years attendance at these services has generally been poor, and we have often struggled to put together a choir of sufficient strength. Although attendance at the English-language Divine Liturgies in May and August this year was encouraging, there were very few people at the October service. With a struggling choir and very few people either in church or remaining behind for a cup of tea, it was easy to feel discouraged. In view of this, Father James had made the decision to discontinue English-language Divine Liturgies, considering that the usual arrangements work best for the building up of parish life and as a witness to visitors. From January 2011 onwards, the services scheduled on the fifth Sunday of a month will be the same as those on the first and third Sundays of the month, with a service the preceding evening.

COLLECTIONS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

We have two collections in coming weeks. The first will be for the 'Fund for Assistance' of the Synod of Bishops, and will be taken up on Sunday November 21. In December, there will be a collection for 'Orthodox Action – Sydney' on Sunday December 5. Envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter.

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

A new schedule of services for the summer months is enclosed with this newsletter, and will also be available in church from Sunday 21 November. Significant services include those for the feast day of Saint Katherine on Monday December 6 and Tuesday December 7, and for the first time in our church, services for the feast day of St Nicholas the Wonderworker on December 18 and 19. In January 2011 we will have services for the Nativity of our Lord, and service on the Eve of Theophany together with a great blessing of water.

STAY IN TOUCH!

For many years now, Father James has maintained a list of parishioners and friends and their contact details so that everyone can be kept informed of services and other parish activities. If you would like to receive information of this sort, please ensure that he (or Father Martin, or one of the members of the Parish Council) has up-to-date contact details for you. Father James learned recently that he had been sending newsletters to an old address for seven years!

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, Irina, Maria, Ioanna, Kira

New mother & babies: Anastasiya and baby Nicholas

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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