

PARISH LIFE: AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2010

On Saturday 15 August one of our regular worshippers, Anna Kourbatov, was received into the Holy Orthodox Church by baptism. Her sponsors at baptism were her good friends, parishioners Sergei Schreider and his mother Tatiana Venttsel. Clad in her white baptismal robe, Anna received Holy Communion for the first time the following day, and has since been helping the choir with reading and singing. Our warmest congratulations to the newly-baptised Anna!

On Wednesday 18 August and Thursday 19 August we had services for the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. As is customary, Divine Liturgy on the day of the feast was following by the blessing of grapes and other fruits.

On Sunday 29 August, the fifth Sunday of the month, we had our usual English-language Divine Liturgy. This service was very well attended. The church had been decorated beautifully in honour of the Dormition of the Mother of God, that feast having fallen on the previous day, Saturday 28 August. Many people received Holy Communion, and our English-language choir sang beautifully.

On the evening on Thursday 2 September, Father James, Father Martin and Matushka Tania joined approximately 25 parishioners and friends from the Hornsby area at the Mount Kuringai Community Centre for a moleben and akathist to the Mother of God. The Parish Council of the church of All Saints of Russia in Croydon kindly permitted Father James to take the wonder-working "Akhtyrskaya" Icon of the Mother of God to this service. The icon, brought to Australia after the Russian Revolution via China, Brazil and the United States, is one of the great treasures of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia.

After the singing of the akathist, prayers were offered for the health and salvation of those present, and for God's help in such diverse needs as pregnancy, travel, and in finding work. Those living locally had prepared a supper that was shared afterwards. The service and the visit of the icon were a great encouragement to the faithful in the Hornsby area, and we hope that such gatherings for prayer and fellowship will in time become more regular.

On Saturday 4 September one of our youngest parishioners, Leo Pereboeff, was baptised. His godparents were his paternal aunt, Vickie Parkes, and his cousin, Victor de Castelbajac, visiting from France especially for the occasion. Following the service, a festive meal was held in the church hall. The newly-baptised Leo's godparents were both in church again the following day to bring him for Holy Communion for the first time. Congratulations to Leo's parents, Paul and Linda, his sister and brothers Susanna, Isaac and Justin, and to his godparents.

As Tuesday 7 September was the fortieth day from the repose of our parishioner Irene Claydon, her family gathered in church on Sunday 5 September for a memorial service. Before the service, Father James explained the custom of praying for the departed at this time. He and Irene's family also discussed plans for an icon of the Virgin Martyr Irene of Alexandria, Irene's patron saint, that is to be painted and kept in our church in her memory. Following the memorial service, the customary prayers for a woman and child on the fortieth day after childbirth were read for two young first-time mothers, Cindy Kfoury and her baby Lucas, and for Katherine Joseph, Irene Claydon's niece, and her baby Angus. We congratulate both Cindy and Katherine on the arrival of their babies, and wish them every blessing.

Sunday 5 September was in general a festive day in our parish. The church was still decorated as for Dormition, the "leave-taking" of the feast falling that day. It was also Fathers' Day, and the Ladies Auxiliary had organised a BBQ to mark this occasion.

PARISH LIFE: THE COMING AND GOING OF CHURCH READERS

Readers of the newsletter will know that in 2009 we lost our two church readers, George Karmadonoff and Christopher Dowling, to Canberra, both of them moving there for work. We have recently learned that George and his family are now moving even further afield to Perth, George having obtained a senior position in the building industry there. We wish George and Alla and their children all the best in their move. Chris, on the other hand, is returning to the Central Coast, having obtained a transfer from Canberra to Sydney, and we look forward to having him back in parish life. Congratulations to both George and Christopher on their new jobs.

At the same time as these moves are underway, we have also been joined by a reader from the Newcastle parish, Eugene Bondarenko, and his wife Daria (Dasha), now living on the Central Coast. Eugene was tonsured by Metropolitan Hilarion in 2009, and he and Dasha were married at Wallsend in January this year. We welcome Eugene and Dasha to our parish. As of early October, Eugene and Chris will share responsibility for the reading of the epistle each Sunday.

PARISH LIFE: FATHER JAMES & FAMILY MOVE HOUSE

After six and a half years living at Umina Beach, Father James and family moved on Wednesday 8 September across Brisbane Water to Empire Bay. Their new address is:

**66 Greenfield Road
EMPIRE BAY NSW 2257**

The new home telephone number is **4369-1601**, but Father James remains best contacted on his mobile number, **0428-639156**, or by email at **rev.james.carles@rocor.org.au**.

PARISH LIFE: ANNUAL OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND PICNIC

For some years now parishioners of all ages have gathered on the Monday of the October Long Weekend for a parish picnic day and BBQ at Heazlett Park, Avoca Beach. These picnic days have been a great success, with friends from Sydney and Newcastle often joining us. Heazlett Park is between Avoca Drive and the lagoon, and has a large playing area, plenty of shady trees, a skate ramp, and amenities. There are also canoes and paddle boats to hire close by. We plan to gather again this year on **Monday 4 October**. Please mark this date in your diaries! Further information will be available soon.

PARISH LIFE: CHURCH CLEANING

Readers of the newsletter will recall various appeals over the years for assistance with church cleaning, a responsibility long borne by Nina Golovin and Bill Reid. As of August, responsibility for church cleaning has been taken on by Katia Waters. We are most grateful to Katia for her work. Those who can help by tidying up after church on Sundays and feast-days are still encouraged to do so, as this will lighten Katia's burden somewhat. Smaller cleaning tasks that can be easily done after church include filling oil lamps and trimming the wicks, removing candles stumps and excess wax from the candle-stands, and cleaning the glass on the icons.

PARISH LIFE: PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council met on Tuesday 17 August and again on Tuesday 14 September. A major item of discussion at both meetings was our project of replacing the air conditioning units, together with donations received to assist with this. The Parish Council heard that the total cost of purchasing and installing the three units was \$7090.00, the entire amount having been offset by donations from parishioners and friends. Astonishingly, \$6595.00 of this was collected through the efforts of our choir mistress, Olga Itsikson. We are most grateful to Olga Ivanovna and to the many benefactors who responded to our appeal for assistance. A full list of benefactors will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

PARISH LIFE: CHARITABLE WORK

At the September Parish Council meeting, Charitable Work and Fundraising Co-ordinator Paul Pereboeff reported that \$560.10 was collected during the Apostles' Fast to assist parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in Chile that suffered as a result of the earthquake earlier this year. This sum will be forward to the ROCOR Fund for Assistance to be used in Chile as it sees fit. Our collection during the forthcoming Nativity Fast will be used to assist Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health improve medical treatment, equipment and facilities.

The Parish Council also discussed the possibility of further assistance to Orthodox families in Haiti. Readers will recall that our collection during Great Lent this year was for this purpose, many Orthodox Christian families have suffered terribly as a result of the earthquake in January 2010. Father James had received a new appeal from ROCOR's Haiti Orthodox Family Relief seeking parishes prepared to offer \$100.00 a month for one year to assist an Orthodox Christian family. Father Martin, having provided much assistance to Metropolitan Hilarion in liaison with the clergy in Haiti, also passed on a similar appeal. It was agreed to respond favourably to these appeals. More information can be obtained from Paul Pereboeff or at www.haitiorthodoxfamilyrelief.com. Families or individuals with a particular interest in this work are encouraged to either enter into their own sponsorship arrangements, and to make a specific donation to the parish for this purpose. If a sufficient number of donations are received, the Parish Council will consider increasing the number of families sponsored.

CHURCH LIFE: BISHOP AGAPIT TO VISIT NEWCASTLE

Parishioners and friends are advised that Bishop Agapit will visit our neighbouring parish of Saint Nicholas, Wallsend (Newcastle), on Sunday 24 October, the day of commemoration of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. The visit will be just over a week after the feast of the Holy Protection, a day of great importance in Wallsend in that the first Russian Orthodox parish in the Hunter Valley, established in the Greta Migrant Camp in 1949, was

dedicated to the Protection of the Mother of God. Parishioners from Wallsend, one of the oldest Russian Orthodox parishes in Australia, have been regular visitors to our church over the years, and they have often marvelled at the support we in Gosford receive from the Sydney parishes, and what our small parish has accomplished with that support in so short a time. It would be a great encouragement to them if as many of us as possible could join them on the occasion of Bishop Agapit's visit. The trip to Wallsend is only one hour from West Gosford. More information will be made available closer to Bishop Agapit's visit.

PARISH LIFE: SPRING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

The Spring schedule of services, covering September, October and November is now available in church and online. 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.

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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