



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

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PARISH LIFE: JUNE 2011

On the evening of Tuesday 18 May 2011 we had the service of Matins for Mid-Pentecost. Mid-Pentecost is, as the name suggests, the mid-point between Pascha and Pentecost. The Gospel reading at Divine Liturgy on this feast (John 7:14-30) gives an account of Christ entering into the temple to teach "in the midst of the feast of Pentecost". On that same day He said "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37). It is because of these words of our Lord that it is customary to bless water on this feast, something that we did in the evening after Matins.

Sunday May 22 was the feast of the Translation (or, more simply, the movement) of the relics of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker from Myra in Lycia (in modern-day Turkey) to Bari, Italy, where they remain to this day. More than twenty Gosford parishioners made the trip to the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend, Newcastle, to celebrate the patronal feast of that parish, a gesture that was very much appreciated by the Wallsend congregation.

The lesser blessing of water was served in the morning, followed by Divine Liturgy at which Father James, Father Alexander Filchakov (a Newcastle resident, but the rector of the Holy Protection parish in Blacktown) and Hieromonk John (MacPherson, of the Holy Trinity Monastery in Dungog) concelebrated. A moleben to Saint Nicholas was served afterwards, with a procession around the church. Many remained afterwards for a festive BBQ lunch and for the usual fundraising raffle.

On Sunday May 29 we had our annual kids' fishing day at Patonga, organised by Paul Pereboeff, with over thirty adults and children attending. Although the weather was not at all promising when we left church, the sky cleared enough for a bit of fishing to be done. Quite a few small fish were caught from the wharf, in addition to an octopus. There was a BBQ before the fishing began, and many of the children had a game of soccer on the sports ground when the fishing was over. The kids also had a lot of fun "planking" on the wharf! The major prize-winner on the day was Jarod Nekipelov, with a haul of five fish. Many thanks to Paul for organising such an enjoyable day.

On the evening of Tuesday May 31, the eve of the "leave-taking" of Pascha, Paschal Matins was served for the last time in 2011. In accordance with the custom of much of the Russian Orthodox Church, the service this evening was the same as that served on Pascha itself and throughout Bright Week. The Paschal Hours were sung afterwards, and then "Christ is Risen" in Slavonic, English and Greek in a range of melodies.

On the evening of June 2 All-night vigil was served for the Great Feast of the Lord's Ascension. Divine Liturgy was served the following morning, a quiet and prayerful service, as is so often the case on weekdays.

On the weekend of June 4-5 we had services for the commemoration of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, and our third Divine Liturgy in eight days. The following Sunday, June 12, was the feast of Pentecost ("Troitsa"), and with no services in our parish, many attended services in either Newcastle or Sydney. On Monday June 13, the Day of the Holy Spirit, Father James and Reader

Christopher Dowling travelled to Dungog, northwest of Newcastle, to be with Hieromonk John (MacPherson) for the patronal feast of the Holy Trinity Monastery. In addition to Fathers John and James and Reader Christopher, Priest Alexander Korjenewski (Carlton), Deacon Constantine Moshegov (Croydon), and Subdeacon Mark Shigelski (Croydon) were there, together with Father Alexander's family and some other pilgrims.

Parish Council was due to meet on the evening of Tuesday June 14, but did not do so because of heavy rainfall and dangerous driving conditions that day. The main items on the agenda were police and Working with Children Checks for clergy and parish officials; the business case for an investment property purchase; preparations for our feast-day in August; and the forthcoming parish winter camp. The meeting will now be held later this month.

PARISH LIFE: WINTER CAMP - JULY 1-3

Our annual winter camp will begin on the evening of Friday July 1, and finish on the afternoon of Sunday July 3. As in previous years, the camp will give our parishioners and friends a wonderful opportunity to spend time together, developing friendships and participating in the services. This camp is not only for children and families, but for all parishioners and friends, young and old. Accommodation at Crosslands is in comfortable rooms sleeping 8 people in bunk beds. Each room has a private bathroom and heating.

On Saturday there will be plenty of time to relax and enjoy the beautiful surrounds at Crosslands. In the evening we will have the short service of Vespers (Вечерня) before an early evening meal and a campfire. On Sunday morning we will have Divine Liturgy followed by brunch and a play based on the life of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco. **There will be no services at West Gosford on the weekend of the camp.**

It is important that we have a reasonable idea as soon as possible regarding attendance numbers. Please consider joining us! Cost for children 0-4 years is free, children aged 5-12: \$50.00, 13-adult: \$90.00. For further information please contact Matushka Marie on 0400-400292 or email matushka.marie@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au.

PARISH LIFE: BOOKSTORE UPDATE

Our bookstore now has a number of some new titles from Russia. These include prayer books for adults and children, Lives of the Saints, books explaining the Divine Liturgy, and books on the feasts of Nativity and Theophany. Also available are 10 silver medallions of the Kursk Icon of the Mother of God, (imported from Kiev,) for sale for \$60 each. A poster on the medallions can be viewed at church.

Our bookstore is now being looked after by Anna Kourbatova. If you have any questions about or suggestions for the bookstore, you can see Anna at church or contact her by email at bookstore@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au.

CHURCH LIFE: CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

A liturgical music conference: 'Serbian Chant in the Russian Church' will be held in Melbourne from July 14-17. The cost for the conference is \$150 and includes evening and lunch meals, together with entry to an end of conference concert sung by Melbourne Cappella and St Nicholas Chorale. Further information is available at: <http://www.rocor.org.au/?p=3084>

CHURCH LIFE: COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

The Council of Bishops is convoked annually, if possible, in accordance with Church canons, and is the highest law making, administrative, judicial and controlling body in the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. Matters that come within the authority of the Council of Bishops includes the publication of epistles, the election of the First Hierarch, and questions of a general ecclesiastical nature.

2011 Epistle of the Council of Bishops of the Russian Church Abroad

We, the Hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, having gathered for a regular session of the Council of Bishops at the Synodal Residence in the God-preserved city of New York, under the presence of our Protectress, the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God, address our beloved flock with the Paschal greeting: "Christ is Risen!" Today, beloved brothers and sisters, the Bright Holiday of Holidays continues both in Heaven and on earth. We repeat once again those wondrous, triumphant words from the Paschal service: "This is the day which the Lord hath made: let us be glad and rejoice therein."

Since the time of the last Council of Bishops, and specifically last fall, a significant anniversary not only for the diaspora of the Church but in the pages of Russian Church history took place: the 90th anniversary of the canonical establishment of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. On November 6/19, 1920, within view of "Tsargrad," Constantinople, over a hundred twenty-five vessels stood at anchor, containing a great mass of 150,000 Russian refugees from Crimea, and on the ship *Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich* the first meeting of the Supreme Ecclesiastical Administration in the South of Russia outside of the borders of the Fatherland was held, which laid down the foundation for our Church Abroad.

This meeting was presided over by our Abba, Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky) of blessed memory. This year marks the 75th anniversary of his righteous death: the founder of the Russian Church Abroad departed to the Lord on July 28/August 10, 1936, a day the Church commemorates the appearance of the Smolensk Icon of the Mother of God, called the "Hodigitria." If the Lord gave His Holiness Patriarch Tikhon the Confessor the task of resisting all the efforts of the forces of the Antichrist, "to hold the Russian Church firmly with the Cross," as St John of Shanghai was later to say, "upon the surface of Russian life," then Metropolitan Anthony had a different challenge: he was entrusted with preserving the Russian Church in the diaspora, which was the essence of the service of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

This service, the mission of the Church Abroad to spiritually nourish the Russian Orthodox people outside of their Fatherland and to preserve the traditions of the Russian Church, continues today. At the same time, by Divine providence, not only is our flock not diminishing, but it is actually increasing: over the last two decades, overwhelming majority of our parishioners today are actually those who for one reason or another found themselves outside of the borders of Historic Russia. This circumstance illustrates that the service of the Church Abroad has by no means been completed. At the same time, the dissemination of the light of Orthodoxy among the peoples of all the lands where our Church exists continues as an inseparable part of our mission.

Still, the churchification of Russian people, as well as the preservation of the Russian ecclesiastical tradition is a task of obedience for all of us in the diaspora, and within the ministry of the Church in the Fatherland. The rebirth of Rus' as the Abode of the Most-Holy Mother of God and the spreading of the Orthodox Faith among the people, we know to be important not only for the future of our Russia, but of the whole world, within whose fate the Lord has granted Russian civilization a special standing.

Over the last few years, we have become witness to fatal floods, terrible earthquakes and hurricanes, which can instantly cause the mass destruction of human achievements. We observe with sorrow the death of many people at the hands of their brothers, the wicked destruction of the traditional family, the centuries-old cultural ways which are dying literally before our eyes. This instability and infirmity of everything which seems to us so fundamental reminds us that, as the Russians say, we all walk under God, and no one living on earth knows when the Lord will summon us, but all this is the fulfillment of the words of the Saviour about the signs of the times.

For this reason we must be especially attentive to our salvation, for "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up," as the holy Apostle warns the faithful (2 Peter 3:10). And we, dear brothers and sisters, shall not fear, even as "the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" (Psalms 46:2), for we correctly believe that the Lord did not appoint our present world for the eternal life of renewed mankind, but in fact other, abodes which shall have no end.

The work of our Council concludes on the very day when four years ago, an important event took place, when all who love Holy Russia saw with their own eyes Divine Will revealed: the Act of Canonical Communion with the Russian Orthodox Church, in the Fatherland and abroad, was signed. Those to whom the Lord entrusted the helm of the Russian Church, to wit, His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II and the First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, Metropolitan Laurus, of blessed memory both, were to overcome the many obstacles to the path of Church Unity. But firmly believing that Unity is pleasing to God and it is a salvific destination towards which to steer the Ship of the Church, they acted in concordance with Divine instructions, which resulted in many good fruits.

In a time when the world, to its sorrow, lost the understanding of the cornerstone of the Christian Holiday of the Pascha of Christ, for us Orthodox Christians, it remains the prototype of the future, eternal Pascha, for in the words of the Holy Apostle Paul, "and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14).
Indeed Christ is Risen!

+ Hilarion,

Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York

First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

and the Members of the Council of Bishops.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

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

Departed: Patriarch Alexis, Metropolitan Vitaly, Metropolitan Laurus, infant Ekaterina, 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).

Families with new babies: Sergey and Irina, baby Mikhail and older children Nikolay, Anna and Varvara; Anton and Oksana and their baby boy Mikhail.

Expectant mothers: Daria, Svetlana.



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