



russian orthodox  
church of  
**saint panteleimon**  
gosford

## ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 109, November 2011 ~

**Reminder: There will be no services at West Gosford on the weekend of December 3-4. Services will be held at the Summer Camp at Crosslands in Galston Gorge. All are welcome!**

### PARISH LIFE: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2011

The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God (14 October) is celebrated with great joy throughout the Russian Orthodox Church. Father James served on this day in Newcastle, the first Russian Orthodox church in the Hunter Valley (and, in fact, the first Orthodox church of any kind in that region) having been dedicated in honour of this feast. On the following day he served at the Holy Protection parish in Blacktown, together with the Rector, Priest Alexander Filchakov, and Priests Daniel Metlenko, Alexander Korjenewski, Adrian Augustus, and Protodeacon Alexander Kotlaroff. A festive lunch was held afterwards in the hall of the Serbian Orthodox parish of Saint Nicholas, Blacktown.

On Sunday 15 October, after Divine Liturgy, Nikolay and Alexandra, the children of Pavel Fanygin and Anna Savenkova, were baptised in our church. Nikolay and Alexandra are three years and ten months old respectively. Our parishioner Jenya Druganova was godmother to both children; Alexander Gerasimov was godfather to Nikolay, and Sergei Savenkov was godfather to Alexandra. Many years to the newly-baptised children Nikolay and Alexandra, and to their parents and godparents!

On 29-30 October there were no services in our parish, Father James having travelled to Adelaide to serve at the wedding of family friends, Vanessa Garling and Joel Plavecky. The church in Adelaide is very beautiful, dedicated to Saint Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, and built in a traditional Russian style. It has been frescoed throughout and has a wonderful carved wooden iconostasis.

The rector, Archpriest Vladimir Deduhin, received Father James very warmly and kindly asked him to serve vigil on Saturday night. The fathers concelebrated at Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning and the wedding on Sunday afternoon. The parish choir there is strong and sang beautifully at all the services. In between Liturgy and the wedding, Father James joined the parish choir for lunch in Adelaide's Chinatown.

Unfortunately, Father James' return ticket was with Qantas, and that weekend happened to be the one on which Qantas flights were grounded! As a result, he spent an extra day in Adelaide.

On Thursday 3 November clergy and laity from around the Diocese, including Father James and Father Martin, gathered at Strathfield to celebrate the name-day of Metropolitan Hilarion. The ruling bishop of the Serbian Orthodox diocese in Australia, Bishop Irinej, together with two of his deacons, concelebrated on the day. Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada was also present. During Divine Liturgy Father Martin was awarded the right to wear the double orarion – the orarion is that

part of the deacon's vestments that is draped over the left shoulder - in recognition of his zealous service to the church.

That evening Father James travelled to the convent of Our Lady of Kazan in Kentlyn (near Campbelltown) for the vigil service, the following day being the patronal feast of the convent. He served there together with the Dean of Sydney and NSW, and spiritual father of the convent, Archpriest Nikita Chemodakov, and the convent priest, Hieromonk Evfimy (Samorukov).

On Sunday 6 November we were joined by Subdeacon Luke Goura from the Wallsend parish, it having been his name-day the previous Monday. Subdeacon Luke read the epistle in Slavonic and English at Divine Liturgy. After the dismissal, Father James congratulated him on his name-day, and also drew the attention of the parish to Father Martin's award, congratulating him on behalf of all present. Father Martin, in turn, congratulated Father James on his name-day on the previous day, the day of commemoration of the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord (Апостоль Иаков, братъ Господне), and many years was sung.

We received news on 11 November that a baby girl, Evelyn, had been born to Reader Evgeny Bondarenko and his Daria Yushkova. Zhenya had been a reader at the Mayfield and Wallsend parishes in Newcastle before he and Dasha moved to Gosford. He then assisted us for a time before agreeing to help Father Alexander Filchakov at the Holy Protection parish in Blacktown. Our warmest congratulations to new parents Zhenya and Dasha!

On Saturday 19 November the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God visited our parish. Father James and Reader Christopher Dowling travelled to the Diocesan Chancery at Croydon early that morning to receive the icon. They took it first to the Hornsby region, where approximately 40 people had gathered at the Mount Kuring-gai Community Centre. The icon was greeted with the singing of the troparion "Яко необоримую стену" ("Having obtained thee as an unassailable wall") and afterwards a moleben and akathist were served. The choir there sang beautifully under the direction of Maria Zaitseva, the conductor at Centennial Park, a friend of our parish through her involvement with our parish camps. There was a "cup of tea" afterwards for those able to stay, and many took to opportunity to pray quietly by the icon.

The icon was then taken to Saint Nicholas' church in Wallsend. People of many different backgrounds – Russian, Macedonian, Greek, Ukrainian, Finnish and Anglo-Australian - gathered there to greet the icon, and Father Alexander Filchakov joined Father James in serving a moleben and akathist.

The icon was met by a full church when it arrived in Gosford that evening. Joining our congregation for the service were Abbot Eusebios and the brotherhood of the "Pantanassa" Greek Orthodox Monastery at Mangrove Mountain, and Abbess Philothea and the sisterhood of the Holy Cross Convent in the same area. Later that evening, Father James, Father Martin, Reader Christopher and parishioners Paul Douriguine, Anna Kourbatova and Maria Martynuk accompanied the icon to the new Pantanassa Monastery, where prayers were offered before the icon in the darkened monastery church, still under construction. The men then travelled to the old Pantanassa monastery where they enjoyed traditional monastic hospitality, before later making a brief visit to the convent. These visits were altogether an unforgettable experience and one, it is hoped, that will serve for the building of lasting bonds between our parish and these two Orthodox Christian monasteries in our region.

On Monday 21 November Father James travelled to the Archangel Michael church in Blacktown to serve at Divine Liturgy on the patronal feast of that parish. He concelebrated with Priest Adrian Augustus and Protodeacon Vasily Hadarin. The main festivities had been on the preceding day, with Olga Petroff and Nina Golovin having travelled to Blacktown to represent our parish.

November 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of Father James' priestly service in Gosford. Ordained priest in September 2001, he was appointed to the Cabramatta parish and what was then the fledgling Gosford community. He served at Divine Liturgy in Gosford for the first time in November 2001, concelebrating at the Narara Community Centre with Archimandrite Alexis (Rosentool) of the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Bombala. How much has happened in our parish since then!

## **PARISH LIFE: PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Parish Council met on Tuesday 15 November for the first time in two months, the October meeting having been cancelled. A great deal was discussed, with the meeting lasting around two and a half hours. A new policy concerning keys and access to the parish centre was agreed on, and steps were taken to investigate changes to occupational health and safety laws that might have an impact on parish life. The need for trained first-aiders was discussed. Financial reports were presented, and there was considerable discussion of accounting methods and procedures. Head Sister Kate Marcotrigiano reported that the Ladies' Auxiliary would be having a Christmas raffle again this year, with prizes to be drawn after the service on the morning of Friday 6 January 2012. Father James reported on the growth of the parish – there are now 120 households in contact with our church – and the need to reorganise administrative tasks in the coming months in view of this. He also presented some new icons and spoke about the summer Schedule of Services and the forthcoming visit of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God. A new policy concerning awards to parish clergy and laity was discussed and agreed upon. The new Russian school was also on the agenda – see the article elsewhere in this newsletter for further information. God willing, Parish Council will meet next on Tuesday 13 December 2011.

## **PARISH LIFE: SUMMER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

On Sunday 20 November the summer 2011-12 Schedule of Services were available in church. A copy is also included with this newsletter. We will have only one Sunday service at church during December, the first Sunday service being at our summer camp. There will be a service for Great-Martyr Katherine on Wednesday 7 December, there being a great many Katherines in our parish. On January 7, the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Christmas), Father James will be serving in Wallsend, but there will be services here in Gosford for the Eve of the Nativity. The services for Feast of the Baptism of Christ (Theophany) will be in Gosford, and will be followed by the customary blessing of homes. Great Lent begins at the end of February 2012.

## **PARISH LIFE: CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS**

As of Sunday 20 November, the usual money boxes were available in church for our Nativity Fast collection. This Nativity Fast, the beneficiary will be the Convent of Saint Elizabeth in Minsk, Belarus, where much good work is done to help the sick and disadvantaged of that city. On Sunday 18 December, there will be the usual December collection for Orthodox Action-Sydney. Envelopes are enclosed with posted copies of this newsletter, and will also be available in church. Those wishing to contribute to the November collection for the Synod of Bishops Fund for Assistance may still do so. This collection was to have been taken up on Sunday 6 November, but unfortunately Father James forgot to announce it on the day!

## **COMMUNITY LIFE: ST SERAPHIM RUSSIAN SCHOOL**

Readers of this newsletter will recall mention in the September issue of the possibility of a Russian language school in the Hornsby region. A great deal has happened since then, with a small group of our parishioners doing all that was necessary to make it possible for the Saint Seraphim Russian Community School to commence lessons at Mount Colah Public School on Sunday 13 November 2011. Prior to classes beginning, Hornsby mayor Nick Berman cut the ribbon with representatives from both Russian (Edinienie) and English (Bush Telegraph) newspapers in attendance.

The school's main goal is to help children to maintain and develop their Russian language skills, learn about Russian history, culture, and the Russian Orthodox faith. Initially, 3-4 classes for children from 5 years of age to 12 years of age, pre-school (detskij sad), and 1-2 classes for kids for whom Russian is a second language will be held. Subjects taught are: Russian language, Russian literature (reading), language development, music, natural sciences, and Scripture (Zakon Bozij). Other subjects might be added in the future, with the teaching staff including a Russian speech pathologist.

Classes will continue to be held at Mount Colah Public School on Sundays from 2pm to 6pm (classes for pre-school children will be somewhat shorter). Scripture classes (Zakon Bozij) will be held from

1:30pm to 2pm, and additional week-day activities may be organised at a later stage. To obtain additional information, call (02) 8064 7434, send an email to [info@hornsbyrussianschool.org.au](mailto:info@hornsbyrussianschool.org.au), or visit the website at [www.hornsbyrussianschool.org.au](http://www.hornsbyrussianschool.org.au).

The school's constitution stipulates that it will operate in association with and under the patronage of our parish. Parish Council is at present considering ways to best assist the new school.

### PARISH LIFE: SUMMER CAMP

Our parish camp will be held on the weekend of December 3-5. This means that the services for the great feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple will be at the camp. Readers are reminded that our camps are not just for children and families, but for all parishioners and friends. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday, and stay for lunch and swimming on the Sunday, even if not attending camp. For registration and enquiries: email [camp@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au](mailto:camp@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au) or call Elena on 0431-478592.

### PARISH LIFE: BOOKSTORE NEWS

As readers of this newsletter will know, our parish has an ongoing association with the Convent of Saint Elizabeth in Minsk, Belarus. We have ordered deacon's vestments and bookmarks from them in the past, we are collecting for them during the Nativity Fast, and we will soon be placing an order for vestments for our altar servers. We have also recently begun to sell beautiful lacquered icons, the work of the Convent, in our bookstore. The opportunity has now arisen to order larger icons for the personal use of our parishioners. A catalogue of available icons could be found on the Convent website at the address given below. Prices vary from \$5 to \$35, depending on the size and the framing of the icon. If anyone is interested please speak to our bookstore manager, Anna Kourbatov, send an email to [bookstore@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au](mailto:bookstore@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au). We plan to place a joint order with the Convent by the end of January. The catalogue:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/107562596985585288968/ICONCATALOG?authkey=Gv1sRgCNWJpMWfy5DhyQE>

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

**The sick:** Nun Euphrosyne; our parishioners Nestor, Natalia, Michael, Tatiana, Nina, and Boris.

**Families with new babies:** Daria, Evgeny and baby Evelyn; Peter, Anastasia and baby Elisabeth, with big brother Isaac

**Expectant mothers:** Svetlana, Maria, Natalia, Marije, Elena, Elise, Lydia.

**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).



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