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**PARISH LIFE: DEPARTURE OF FATHER MARTIN & METROPOLITAN HILARION'S VISIT**

The major event in parish life in the month ahead will be Metropolitan Hilarion's visit on Sunday 1 July, coinciding with Father Martin's final service in our parish before he and his family depart for France. A festive lunch at the church – a Lenten BBQ of fish and prawns - will follow Divine Liturgy. This will be the first time that Metropolitan Hilarion has presided at Divine Liturgy in our parish since he became First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in 2008. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to be at church before 9am on the day, so that as many of us as possible can greet the Metropolitan on his arrival. We will try to arrange flower petals for the children to spread out as he walks to the church doors for the customary greeting with bread and salt. It is also important that the parish gather to the fullest extent to thank Father Martin for his faithful service to our parish, and to wish him and his family all the best as they travel abroad. There will be no cost for the BBQ lunch, and all are encouraged to stay and take the opportunity to make Vladyka welcome and to farewell Father Martin and his family.

**PARISH LIFE: UPCOMING SERVICES**

Readers are reminded that there will be no service on the fifth Sunday of the month in July – Sunday 28 July – or on the preceding Saturday evening. God willing, Father James will serve at St Vladimir's, Centennial Park, on Saturday 28 July, the day of commemoration of Saint Vladimir, before travelling to Fairfield for the evening service. On Sunday 29 July he will be serving at the All Saints of Russia parish in Croydon before presiding at a wedding after Divine Liturgy. Services will be held on the first and third Sundays of the month as usual. Other services of note include our parish feast day celebrations on Friday-Saturday August 10-11, and All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord on Saturday-Sunday August 18-19. Divine Liturgy will be followed that day by a blessing of fruit and honey, about which there will be more information in the July newsletter.

**PARISH LIFE: MAY - JUNE 2012**

On Tuesday 15 May we received the happy news that a baby girl, Genevieve, had been born to Paul and Linda Pereboeff. Genevieve is a younger sister for Susanna, Isaac, Justin and Leo. Our warmest congratulations to Paul and Linda!

On Monday 21 May Father James journeyed to the parish in which he served as reader and deacon, Saint Nicholas' in Fairfield (Sydney), for All-Night Vigil for Saint Nicholas. Also present were the rector, Archpriest Nikita Chemodakov; the rector of the Holy Protection parish in Cabramatta, Archpriest Boris Ignatievsky; the rector of the St George parish in Carlton, Priest Alexander Korjenevski; and the parish deacon, Protodeacon German Polorotov. Work commitments prevented him from being present for Divine Liturgy the next day.

On the evening of Tuesday 22 May, a small number of people gathered in church for the final Paschal service in our parish, Wednesday 23 May being the "Leave-taking" of Pascha («Отдание Пасхи», in Russian). It is customary in many parts of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia to celebrate the services on this day in the same way as on Pascha itself, with the sanctuary doors open and the services joyfully sung in full, and so it was done in our small church. Afterwards, "Christ is Risen" was sung many times, in different languages and melodies.

On the evening of Wednesday 23 May and the morning of Thursday 24 May Father James served Divine Liturgy in Newcastle for the Great Feast of the Ascension. He was joined by Hieromonk John (McPherson). A small number of Gosford parishioners travelled to Newcastle for the festive services.

On Saturday 2 June 2012 Dmitri Sheptitsky was baptised at our church. Dmitri, a married man with two young children, was sponsored in Holy Baptism by Ivan Teliatnikov and Anna Kourbatov. Congratulations to the newly-baptised servant of God Dmitri, now united in the Orthodox Faith with his wife Larissa and their children Daniel and Evelina.

That afternoon, Kate Marcotrigiano and Claudia Kraiuhin decorated the church with green branches in preparation for the festive Pentecost services. The church looked beautiful – like a forest! – and this added much to the festivity of the services that evening and on the following day.

At 5.00pm that evening, immediately before All-Night Vigil, there was a general memorial service in church, the Saturday before Pentecost being always a day of commemoration of the departed. A number of people gathered to pray for the reposed, some bringing foods for blessing in memory of their departed relatives. This worked well, and to the extent possible, services of this kind will now be held on days of commemoration of the departed throughout the year.

Many people gathered for All-Night Vigil that evening, and an even greater number for Divine Liturgy the next day. A number of friends from the Newcastle parish joined us, and the day was one of the most memorable yet in parish life. There were a great many communicants, the first of whom was the newly-baptised Dmitri. Most stayed afterwards for the kneeling prayers and the parish BBQ.

On the evening of Thursday 7 June, Father James attended two Diocesan events at Croydon. The first was a Thanksgiving Moleben, or service of intercession, in honour of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. With Metropolitan Hilarion and a great many clergymen of the Diocese present, the moleben was served by Mitred Archpriest Michael Protopopov, Archpriest George Lapardin, Priest Peter Hill and Protodeacon Alexander Kotlaroff.

The second event was an open discussion amongst the clergy and certain lay people concerning challenges in the life of the Diocese. Matters discussed included Orthodox Christian education, youth work, fundraising and budgeting, and church outreach. The Diocesan Council will use the ideas generated at this evening to plan its work over the next few years.

On Friday and Saturday 8-9 June Father James, Rick Golovin, Anna Kourbatov and Kate Marcotrigiano attended a Diocesan Wardens, Treasurers and Senior Sisters Conference. Metropolitan Hilarion was present for the two days, together with clergy and parish officials from around Australia and New Zealand.

The main theme of the conference was Diocesan and Church unity. Speakers at the conference emphasised that what is done at the local level in parish life has implications for the whole Diocese, and indeed the whole Church. A great deal was done at the conference to build up unity on an interpersonal level.

Another key theme was the importance of knowing and abiding by church statutes and civil laws.

Matters given particular attention over the two days were risk assessment, financial management, taxation law, and food safety.

The June meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 12 June. Matters discussed included key security, access to and management of the parish bank accounts, position descriptions and administrative guidelines to assist the work of the Parish Council, Metropolitan Hilarion's planned visit on Sunday 1 July, our feast-day raffle, and plans for an Annual General Meeting in September 2012. A number of decisions were made to improve safety in the parish kitchen. The Parish Council is due to meet next on Tuesday 10 July.

### **PARISH LIFE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 2012**

With the financial year now drawing to an end, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of our parish will soon be due. Allowing for the preparation of an Annual Report, an audit of the parish accounts and a busy month in August – which includes Saint Panteleimon's Day and the Great Feasts of the Transfiguration of the Lord (Преображение) and the Dormition of the Mother of God (Успение) – the earliest practical date for the AGM is Sunday 2 September. Parish members are asked to keep this day free for attendance at the AGM. Announcements will be made in church on August 5, August 19, and September 2, and notices concerning the AGM will be posted to all members. This will be our first AGM since early in 2011, the Parish Council having moved from calendar year reporting to financial year reporting since then.

Any members who have not yet renewed their membership should now do so. Membership forms are available in church. New members are welcome to join, but those who do so may not be able to vote or stand for office at the AGM, the Parish By-Laws requiring at least six months' membership before such participation in parish life is possible. For those interested in standing for Parish Council, information will be made available prior to the meeting about the duties of key positions and the skills and qualities desirable for those positions.

### **PARISH LIFE: PARISH CAMPS**

Several people have asked Father James if the usual Winter and Summer camps will be held this year. There are no plans for either a Winter or a Summer camp in 2012, the last parish camp having been very poorly attended. Consideration will be given to further camps again in 2012. It may be that future camps will be organised together with other parishes.

### **PARISH LIFE: CHARITABLE COLLECTION**

A collection for the Orthodox mission in Pakistan will be taken up in our parish during the Apostles' Fast. The usual money-boxes are available at the candle desk. The St Michael the Archangel Orthodox mission in Pakistan urgently requires English prayer books, study material and altar vessels amongst other items. In the future, the mission hopes to establish an orphanage. Please assist this young mission!

### **SPIRITUAL LIFE: VISIT TO AUSTRALIA OF FEDERICA MATHEWES-GREENE**

An Australian speaking tour by a well-known Orthodox speaker and writer from the United States, Frederica Mathewes-Green, has been blessed by Metropolitan Hilarion. Presbytera Frederica is the wife of a Greek Orthodox priest, and has written many articles in magazines and on blog sites as well as several books on Orthodox Spirituality. Some of her books include: *The Jesus Prayer: The Ancient*

*Desert Prayer that Tunes the Heart to God, The Lost Gospel of Mary: The Theotokos in Three Ancient Texts, First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty-Day Journey Through the Canon of St. Andrew.* For venue and ticketing information, go to Facebook and search for 'Frederica Mathewes-Green' or email [fredericaoztour@gmail.com](mailto:fredericaoztour@gmail.com). Dates for the Sydney talks are Friday 7 September and Saturday 8 September.

### **SPIRITUAL LIFE: SPEAK UP FOR MARRIAGE CAMPAIGN**

The following website has information and resources for Orthodox Christians concerned about the increasing challenge to the traditional Christian understanding of marriage and the family: [http://marriage.greekorthodox.org.au/campaign/save\\_marriage.php](http://marriage.greekorthodox.org.au/campaign/save_marriage.php).

In an epistle to the Greek Orthodox faithful posted on this website,, Archbishop Stylianos states that "our Orthodox view [concerning marriage] is contrary [to that now promoted by many], not because we have hostile feelings towards our fellow citizens who think or decide differently, but because the proposed alteration to the traditional form of marriage is diametrically against the sacredness of marriage and of the family, as taught by the Christian faith and Greek Orthodox tradition" ([http://marriage.greekorthodox.org.au/downloads/archbishop\\_encyclical\\_english\\_20120608.pdf](http://marriage.greekorthodox.org.au/downloads/archbishop_encyclical_english_20120608.pdf)).

### **SPIRITUAL LIFE: MONTHLY BULLETINS**

Monthly bulletins providing the Epistle and Gospel readings, with a homily for Sundays, as well as a brief Lives of Saints for Saints for each day are available for printing from the Russian Orthodox Queensland website: <http://www.roq.org.au/>

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

**The sick:** Nun Euphrosyne; Leonid; our parishioners Nestor, Michael, Tatiana, and Boris; and Stephen.  
**Families with new babies:** Paul, Linda and baby Genevieve, with older children Susanna, Isaac, Justin, and Leo.  
**Expectant mothers:** Elena, Iryna, Alexandra.  
**Newly-baptised:** Dmitri; infant Thomas.  
**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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