

PARISH LIFE: SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2012

On Saturday 15 September Father James baptised Sofia Lamanova, the infant daughter of Sergiy Lamanov and Svitlana Froklina. Sofia's godparents were Inna Mazuravits and Olexiy Froklin. May God grant the newly-baptised infant Sofia, together with her parents and godparents, many years.

On Thursday-Friday 20-21 September we had services for the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, the first Great Feast of the ecclesiastical year. Although a week day, there were a number of people in church to celebrate the feast.

On Sunday 23 September, the Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God and the day of commemoration of the Martyrs Metrodora, Minodora and Nymphodora, Father James served in Newcastle. It was 11 years to the day since his ordination to the priesthood at Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Fairfield, Sydney.

On Thursday 27 September, the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Father James again served in Newcastle. It being a working day, very few people were present, including a few from Gosford.

On Saturday and Sunday 29-30 September we had services for the Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross and the commemoration of the Holy Martyr Sophia and her three daughters Vera, Nadezhda and Lyubov. There were many people in church on Sunday morning. Following Divine Liturgy, all venerated the Holy Cross.

The following day we had our customary October Long Weekend BBQ at Heazlett Park, Avoca Beach. Over 70 parishioners and friends – 33 adults and 40 children – gathered for what was a lovely day. It was most enjoyable to spend the day relaxing and socialising in good company. The children and young people took advantage, as usual, of the canoes and paddle-boats for hire. Many thanks to Rick Golovin for his great work organising things!

On Sunday 14 October, the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, Father James served in Newcastle once again. A small number of Gosford parishioners were also present for what was a significant day for the Wallsend parish, the first Russian Orthodox church in the Hunter Valley having been dedicated to the Protection of the Mother of God. There was a blessing of water before the commencement of Divine

Liturgy, and afterwards there was a moleben to the Mother of God with a procession around the church, followed by a festive BBQ.

PARISH LIFE: PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 17 October. The meeting lasted just under two hours. The customary financial reports were considered, and it was agreed to give a further US\$120.00 per year to the ROCOR Haiti Orthodox Mission in response to a particular appeal to assist the two priests serving the impoverished Mission. Decisions were made concerning records management and cash handling, and it was agreed that new shelves would be installed in the parish hall for our bookstore. Parish office-bearers were elected for 2012-13 as follows:

- Rick Golovin – property, maintenance, health and safety coordinator
- Sophia Kfoury – accounts payable and banking co-ordinator
- Kate Marcotrgiano – events and catering co-ordinator (Head Sister)
- Anna Kourbatov – financial reporting co-ordinator

Father James will continue to undertake the various parish secretarial duties. The Parish Council will next meet on Wednesday 14 November 2012.

PARISH LIFE: GENERAL PANNIKHIDA ON DEMTRIOUS SATURDAY

On Saturday 3 December, Demetrius Saturday (Димитриевская Суббота), there will be a General Panikhida at 5.00pm. Demetrius Saturday is the Saturday before the feast of St. Demetrius of Thessaloniki, celebrated on November 8. Although the commemoration of the departed on this day was initially instituted to commemorate Russian warriors who fell in the Battle of Kulikovo in the 14th century, it was later generalised to a commemoration of all the departed, especially soldiers who died for their Fatherland. In the Battle of Kulikovo in 1380, Russian duchies, led by the Grand Duchy of Moscow, or Muscovy, were victorious over the Tartaro-Mongols at the Kulikovo Field (present-day Tula Region in central Russia). The duchies, led by Grand Prince Dmitry Donskoy ("Demetrius of the Don"), fought against the Tartaro-Mongols to try and win independence from the Golden Horde and avoid paying tributes. On 3 December, parishioners and friends can put up their commemoration books or other lists of names to be remembered in prayer at this service, and may also bring kutiya and other foods for blessing.

PARISH LIFE: HAITI MISSION

Our parish has donated US\$1200.00 a year over the last two years to the Orthodox mission in Haiti. Recently, a further \$10.00 per month has been committed to assist the two priests who serve the Mission. For information, about Orthodox life in Haiti and the important work of the Mission please visit the following pages: <http://www.haitiorthodoxfamilyrelief.com/> and <http://www.orthodoxhaiti.org/>

PARISH LIFE: A MISSING ICON?

Regular worshippers may notice that one of the larger icons on the stands on the left-hand side of the church, of Saint Spyridon of Tremithus and Saint Herman of Alaska, is no longer with us. This icon, which has adorned our church since December 2010, is of the two heavenly protectors of the annual Youth Conference (or Syezd) of our Diocese. Saints Spyridon and Herman were chosen because they are commemorated on December 25 (December 12 on the church calendar), a day that has historically coincided with the Syezd. For some years it has been the practice of the parish hosting the Syezd to care for the icon, and as the 2010 and 2011 Syezds were in Avoca Beach and Wiseman's Ferry, that honour was ours. The 2012 Syezd will be in Brisbane, and as preparations are now underway, the icon has been passed to the Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Brisbane. It was a blessing to have the icon with us for so long. Saints Spyridon and Herman, pray to God for us!

PARISH LIFE: CHARITABLE COLLECTION

We will be taking up a collection for the Fund for Assistance to the ROCOR (formerly the Synod of Bishops Fund for Assistance) on Sunday 18 November. Taken every year in November, this collection is for financial assistance to parishes and projects in Russia and abroad. Envelopes are included with this newsletter and available at church. Further information about the important work of the Fund for Assistance can be obtained by visiting www.fundforassistance.org

AUSTRALIAN LIFE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MARRIAGE ACT DEFEATED

On Wednesday 19 September 2012 we learned of the defeat of one of the bills before the Parliament of Australia seeking amendments to the Marriage Act, absolutely incompatible with the teaching of the Orthodox Church. Of Members of Parliament on the Central Coast, in Sydney's north, and in Newcastle, Deborah O'Neill (Robertson), Joel Fitzgibbon (Hunter), Paul Fletcher (Bradfield) and Phillip Ruddock (Berowra) voted against the bill. Craig Thomson (Dobell), Jill Hall (Shortland), Greg Combet (Charlton) and Sharon Grierson (Newcastle) voted in favour of the bill. More information about this and the ongoing campaign to defend the traditional understanding of marriage can be obtained from: <http://marriage.greekorthodox.org.au>

COMMUNITY LIFE: 5 LANDS ART TRAIL

Our parishioner, Katya Korolkevich-Rubbo is one of the artists whose studio is included in the 5 Lands Art Trail open house scheme. For further information on Katya's art and information on visiting Katya's studio, please visit: <http://www.5landsarttrail.com/area-3-avoca-beach.html>. Katya shares her studio with her husband Mike, also an artist of note.

COMMUNITY LIFE: MULTICULTURAL EXPO

A multicultural expo will be held on Wednesday 24 October between 10am – 1.30pm in the Erina Centre (next to the library in Erina Fair). The aim of the event is to connect multicultural locals with over 40 services in the local area relating to health,

accommodation and government services to mention a few. For further information, please contact Northern Settlement Services on 4334 3877.

CHURCH LIFE: RAFFLE FOR PRESENTATION SISTERHOOD

A fundraising raffle has been organised by some parishioners of the Holy Protection parish in Cabramatta to assist the construction fund of the Presentation Sisterhood in Bungarby, south-eastern NSW. Prizes include a Ford Focus Ambiente and an iPad. Tickets, of which there are a strictly limited number, are \$200 each. Further information can be obtained from the Cabramatta parish website at <http://cabrapokrov.org/2012/10/02/sisterhood-raffle-2/> or by contacting Mark Ganin on 0409 178 536.

CHURCH LIFE: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR METROPOLITAN PLATON

On Sunday 18 November we will have a memorial service for Metropolitan Platon (Levshin) (29 June 1737 – 11 November 1812), Metropolitan of Moscow from 1775 until his death. Endowed with a powerful intellect, Metropolitan Platon was an outstanding preacher and teacher and a steadfast defender of Orthodoxy.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Nun Euphrosyne; Leonid; and our parishioners Vladimir, Nestor, Michael, Tatiana, Tatiana and Boris.

Expectant mothers: Jacqueline. **Newly-married:** Andrew and Christine.

Newly-baptised: infant Sophia. **Travelling:** Anne, Marina, Alexey.

Departed: Patriarch Alexis, Patriarch Varnava, 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), and Lydia (Ustimko).



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