



russian orthodox  
church of  
**saint panteleimon**  
gosford

## ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 130 ~

~ December 2013–January 2014 ~

# С РОЖДЕСТВОМ ХРИСТОВЫМ И НОВЫМ ГОДОМ!

*Father James and the Parish Council extend to all members and friends of our parish greetings and best wishes on the feasts of the Nativity and Baptism of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. May He richly bless you in this festive season and throughout 2014!*

**REMINDER:** As Father James will be serving in Wallsend, there will be no services for Orthodox Christmas in our parish in January 2014. Our parishioners are encouraged to travel to Wallsend or one of the Sydney parishes. Details of services in other parishes are available on our website.

### **NATIVITY EPISTLE OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN HILARION OF EASTERN AMERICA AND NEW YORK, FIRST HIERARCH OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA**

Most Reverend fellow archpastors, most honorable fathers–concelebrants, God-loving monastics, dear brothers and sisters!

Motivated by the best thoughts and deepest feelings of brotherly love and spiritual joy, I greet the faithful children of the Russian Church Abroad, scattered worldwide as God's wheat, with the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. I send my sincere wish from remote Australia that the coming new 2014th year bring rich spiritual fruit for each of us individually and for the entire Church!

In their writings the Holy Fathers of the Church portray the Feast of the Nativity as great, universal and joyful; the beginning and basis for all other Feasts. It is no wonder the Holy Church sings: "Christ is born, give ye glory, Christ cometh from the heavens. Meet ye Him, Christ is on earth, be ye exalted ..."

The Holy Church calls upon us to worthily celebrate the Nativity of Christ. It was not that long ago that in many countries Christians laid aside worldly and earthly cares. Government offices shut down, trade ceased and everyone hurried to God's churches for festive services during which all prayed and partook of the Holy Mysteries of Christ. After the services many engaged in works of piety, visiting hospitals and prisons, providing substantial assistance to the poor. Philanthropic assistance to the poor and orphaned was inherently characteristic of our

ancestors. Not a Feast went by without being accompanied by attention to those that struggle and are heavy laden (Matt 11:28).

With the simplicity of the shepherds, let us go to the cave in Bethlehem to worship the living God Who became a living Man. In other words, let us go to church bringing the Infant Christ the gift of warm tears of compunction, a heart enlivened with delight and boundless devotion; and to our neighbors and the needy – benefaction and love.

It is time for us, beloved, to bless ourselves with the Cross of Christ — the cross of self-sacrifice and love in the spirit of light filled Christian understanding. It is time for us to improve in all aspects of our lives. Let us contemplate this during these holy days, referred to as "Christmas-tide", and make a firm decision to become better, closer to God and to each other.

I take this opportunity with great pleasure to announce the upcoming XIII All-Diaspora Youth Conference to be held in San Francisco from June 27 to July 4 this year. This forum will be devoted to missionary work in the field of philanthropy and will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the glorification of St. John the Wonderworker (Maximovich) by the Russian Church Abroad. This great hierarch of the Russian diaspora exemplified a life of prayer, a life active in selfless good deeds. On behalf of the Synod of Bishops and Archbishop Kyrill, the ruling bishop of the Western American Diocese, I extend a heartfelt invitation to our clergy and representatives of our youth to this gathering. I hope that this conference called "In the Footsteps of St. John" will spiritually and intellectually enrich all the participants. Concurrent with the Youth Conference a Council of Bishops will be held to discuss the pressing issues of internal Church life and the external ministry of our dear Church. This will also give our Archpastors the opportunity to participate in important discussions with our young people. May these general Church gatherings, for which we prayerfully prepare, vouchsafe us the mercy and blessings from God: inexhaustible heroism, courage, vigilance of spirit, a selfless, captivating and inspiring faith, and other gifts of grace, so necessary in serving the Church, in serving God and people in our complex world.

May the coming New Year, beloved Archpastors, pastors, brothers and sisters, be one of Christian renewal of our hearts - a year of spiritual sobriety and ennoblement of our entire life! Let us become genuinely and deeply aware of the necessity of spiritual struggle, dictated by the spirit of life, and concern ourselves with the conscientious fulfillment of all our Christian duties: whether they are personal, family or employment responsibilities, or our duty as Orthodox Christian members of the Church, i.e. performing generous charitable works. May the feast be for us a time of prayer, the strengthening of our internal energies, the refreshment of our soul with Christian ideals, feelings and activities!

With love in the new-born Christ and requesting your holy prayers,

+Hilarion,  
Metropolitan of New York & Eastern America,  
First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia

Nativity of Christ  
2013 / 2014

## **РОЖДЕСТВЕНСКОЕ ПОСЛАНИЕ ВЫСОКОПРЕОСВЯЩЕННЕЙШЕГО ИЛАРИОНА, МИТРОПОЛИТА ВОСТОЧНО-АМЕРИКАНСКОГО И НЬЮ-ЙОРКСКОГО, ПЕРВОИЕРАРХА РУССКОЙ ЗАРУБЕЖНОЙ ЦЕРКВИ**

Собратья-архипастыри, отцы-сослужители, боголюбивые иноки и инокини, дорогие братья и сестры!

Движимый наилучшими мыслями и самыми глубокими чувствами братской любви и радости духовной, приветствую верных чад Русской Зарубежной Церкви, рассеянных, как Божия пшеница, по всему миру, с торжеством Рождества Христова и из далекой Австралии шлю самые искренние пожелания, дабы наступивший Новый 2014 год увенчался богатыми духовными плодами как для каждого из нас лично, так и для всей Церкви!

Святые Отцы Христовой Церкви в своих писаниях изображают праздник Рождества величайшим, всемирным и радостнейшим, который служит началом и основанием для прочих праздников. Недаром Святая Церковь поет: «Христос рождается, славьте, Христос с небес, выходите встречать, пойте Господу вся земля» ...

К достойному празднованию Рождества Христова нас призывает Святая Церковь. И еще не так давно во многих странах в этот праздник христиане оставляли мирские и житейские дела. Присутственные места освобождались от присутствия, торговля прекращалась и все спешили в храмы Божии на торжественные богослужения, во время которых молились и приобщались Святых Христовых Таин, а после церковных служб занимались делами благочестия, посещая больницы и тюрьмы, оказывая бедным существенную помощь. Благотворение нищим и сирым было неотъемлемой особенностью наших предков, так что не было праздника, который бы не сопровождался заботой о «труждающихся и обремененных» (Мф. 11, 28).

С простодушием пастырей придем и мы в вифлеемскую пещеру для поклонения живому Богу, Который стал живым Человеком, т.е. придем в храм, принося Богомладенцу Христу в дар теплые слезы умиления, живой восторг сердца, безграничную преданность, а своим ближним и нуждающимся – благодеяния и любовь.

Пора нам, дорогие мои, осенить себя Христовым Крестом – крестом самопреданной жертвы и любви: осенить – в свете и разуме христианском. Пора в жизни своей – во всех отношениях подтянуться. Задумаемся об этом в эти святые дни, именуемые «святками», и примем твердое решение стать лучше, ближе к Богу и людям.

Пользуясь возможностью, с большой радостью объявляю о приближающемся XIII Всезарубежном съезде молодежи, который пройдет в Сан-Франциско с 27 июня по 4 июля нынешнего года. Форум будет посвящен миссионерскому служению на ниве благотворительности и будет приурочен к празднованию 20-летия прославления Русской Зарубежной Церковью святителя и чудотворца Иоанна (Максимовича), этого великого архипастыря русского рассеяния, образца молитвы, активного и самоотверженного доброделания. От имени Архиерейского Синода и архиепископа Кирилла, правящего архиерея Западно-Американской епархии, с добрым сердцем приглашаю духовенство и представителей молодежи на этот съезд, который пройдет

под девизом: «по стопам святителя Иоанна» и который, как я надеюсь, духовно и интеллектуально обогатит всех его участников. В эти же дни в Сан-Франциско состоится и очередной Архиерейский Собор для обсуждения насущных вопросов внутрицерковной жизни и внешнего служения нашей дорогой Церкви, для необходимого общения архипастырей с молодежью и участия в важных дискуссиях. Пусть эти общецерковные события, к которым мы молитвенно готовимся, удостоят нас милостей и благословений Божиих: неиссякаемого героизма, бодрости духа, мужества, веры беззаветной, увлекательной и увлекающей, и прочих благодатных даров, столь необходимых для несения церковного служения Богу и людям в сложных условиях современного мира.

Да будет Новый год, дорогие архипастыри, сопастыри, братья и сестры, христианским обновлением нашего сердца, духовным отрезвлением и облагораживанием всей нашей жизни! Осознаем искренно и глубоко, духом жизни диктуемую, необходимость личного подвига и заботы об исполнении своего христианского долга во всем: в добросовестном исполнении своих обязанностей личных, семейных, служебных, долга церковного православного христианина, долга совершения щедрых добрых дел. И да будут праздники наши днями молитвы, укрепления внутренних наших сил, освежения души христианскими идеями, чувствами и занятиями!

С любовью во Христе Родившемся и просьбой о святых молитвах,

+ ИЛАРИОН,  
Митрополит Восточно-Американский и Нью-Йоркский,  
Первоиерарх Русской Зарубежной Церкви.

Рождество Христово 2013/2014

### **PARISH LIFE: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013**

Our last newsletter was published on Sunday 17 November 2013, and a great deal has happened in parish life since then. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday 17 November there was an Extraordinary Parish Meeting to elect a lay parish delegate to the 17th Diocesan Conference, to be held at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield, from December 12-14, 2013. The delegate chosen by the parish was Vladimir ("Rick") Golovin, a builder of our church and a long-serving member of the Parish Council.

Our next services were on Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December. As the Nativity Fast had commenced on Thursday 28 November, the church was vested in red. Receiving Holy Communion for the first time were twin brothers Artemy and Maxim Tomshin, baptised in our church on Saturday 2 November 2013. A collection for the ROCOR Fund for Assistance was taken up after the dismissal, raising \$425.00, and moneyboxes were distributed for the parish Nativity Fast collection to benefit Autism Awareness Australia. Following the service, there was a meeting of the committee elected at our 2013 Annual General Meeting to plan celebrations, in 2014, of ten years of parish life at West Gosford.

On Friday 6 December and Saturday 7 December we had services in honour of the holy Great-Martyr Katherine of Alexandria. Matins was served on Friday evening and Divine Liturgy was served on Saturday morning. Present for Divine Liturgy were six of our parishioners named in honour of Saint Katherine: Ekaterina Lugovoy, Katerina Rubbo, Ekaterina Waters, Cathrine

Yakimov, Jessica-Katherine Datsyuk and Katie Carles. Also present were two Wallsend parishioners, Katy Goura and Katya Martin. After Divine Liturgy Father James congratulated all those celebrating their name-day, and "Many Years" was sung for them. Many then stayed to share a light festive meal including a Lenten cake provided by Bill Reid and decorated with the words "Happy Name-Day, Katyas!". A little later Anastasia Harwood, the co-ordinator of the playgroup at the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend, explained to the children present that the meaning of the name Katherine was "pure", and talked to them about purity in nature and in life. The children then worked on a craft project on this theme. This was a really lovely day in the life of our parish.

Thursday 5 December was the fifth anniversary of the repose of the Most Holy Patriarch, Alexey II of Moscow and All Russia. In view of this, on Saturday 7 December, following Divine Liturgy on the day of commemoration of the Great-Martyr Katherine, a memorial litia was served for him. Father James spoke beforehand of the wise leadership of Patriarch Alexey during an extraordinary period in the life of the Russian Orthodox Church, a period at the end of which decades-old division in the life of the Church was finally overcome. May his memory be eternal!

Our Parish Council held its December 2013 meeting on Tuesday 10 December. The usual reports on parish life and finances were presented and considered. Decisions were made to develop a Parish Council Code of Conduct, contribute \$500.00 towards the costs of the 2013 Diocesan Youth Conference and the Teen Retreat, and – in honour of the forthcoming tenth anniversary of the opening of our parish centre at West Gosford – to acquire a new carved wooden memorial table for the placement of candles for the departed. Progress on the Russian-language version of the parish website and on planning for our tenth-anniversary celebrations were also discussed. The Parish Council will next meet on Tuesday 14 January 2014.

On Thursday 12, Friday 13 and Saturday 14 December our Diocese held its seventeenth triennial Diocesan Conference. Representing our parish at the Conference were Father James and Rick Golovin. Delegates to the Conference heard reports from Metropolitan Hilarion and from the Diocesan Treasurer, Mr Nicholas Nedachin, before discussing a range of legal, administrative and pastoral matters. On the third day of the Conference Father James was chosen by delegates to be one of the five members in priestly rank of the new Diocesan Council. The other members of the Diocesan Council are Mitred Archpriest Michael Protopopov, Archpriest Nicholas Karipoff, Archpriest Gabriel Makarov, Archpriest George Lapardin, Protodeacon Alexander Abramoff, Nicholas Nedachin, Dimitri Roudenko, Nicholas Wirubow, and Lubov Cowall. The first meeting of the new Diocesan Council will be on 23 January 2014.

Although the service on the evening of Saturday 14 December was a very quiet one, our church was full on the morning of Sunday 15 December, with many young children receiving Holy Communion. The appointed reading from the Gospel was that of the Rich Young Man (Luke 18:18-27) who, despite having kept the commandments from his youth up, stumbled at the prospect of giving up his wealth. In his sermon Father James spoke of the importance of not trying to serve God on our own terms, and of the Lord's promise of eternal life to those who turn away from things in this passing life for the sake of their salvation.

On Tuesday 17 December the funeral service for 36 year-old Igor Sukhov, killed in a tragic accident on 4 December 2013, was held in our church. In addition to Igor's young widow Nataliya, their children Victoria and Alexander, Igor's mother Galina Mihailovna Sukhova, and

Nataliya's mother, many friends and work colleagues gathered to pray for the repose of his soul and to bid him farewell. Following the burial at Point Clare Cemetery, many returned to the church hall for a commemorative meal. Our parishioners and friends are asked to continue to remember the newly-departed servant of God Igor and his grieving family in their prayers. The fortieth day of Igor's repose will fall on Saturday 11 January 2014.

On Saturday 28 December and Sunday 29 December we had services in honour of the Holy Forefathers, the second Sunday before the Nativity of Christ being a day of commemoration of the choir of Old Testament righteous ones. Both services were well-attended, with the church full to overflowing on Sunday morning. To our great joy we were joined on Sunday morning by Deacon Martin and Matushka Tatiana Naef and their children, back in Australia for a short time after 18 months in France. Also visiting were Reader Christopher Dowling and a number of old friends of our parish holidaying on the Central Coast. Many stayed on afterwards, taking the opportunity to socialise and browse through our parish kiosk of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk.

For those wishing to keep up-to-date with parish life, news articles are now regularly posted on our parish website, <http://gosfordrussianchurch.org.au>, and on the parish Facebook page. Regularly-updated news items in Russian are also now available on our new Russian-language website, <http://ru.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au>.

Since March 2010, this newsletter has been edited, produced and distributed by Kira Paznikov-Barry. Kira gave the newsletter a much-needed new look and was also able to modernise the mail-out process. A change of circumstances has meant that Kira is unable to continue with this work, and so the November 2013 newsletter was the last in which she was involved. Many thanks to Kira for all her hard work on the newsletter these past four years!

### **PARISH LIFE: 2014 – CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AT WEST GOSFORD**

2014 is an important year for our parish, one in which we will celebrate 10 years in our parish centre at West Gosford. Although planning is still in the very early stages, it is likely that our celebration of this milestone in parish life will be relatively simple. Commemorative calendars have already been printed and are now available. In March-April 2014 Rick Golovin will co-ordinate some much-needed maintenance work in our church, following which the church interior will be repainted. To ensure that this work is completed before Pascha, **our church will be closed between 17 March and 4 April 2014**. It is hoped that there will then be a simple commemorative service for the parish in May 2014, with a larger celebration to coincide with our parish feast-day on 9 August 2014. As is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the Parish Council has ordered a new carved wooden commemoration table for the departed, something that we hope can be completed by August. Further information will be provided should any additional commemorative projects or events be agreed upon.

### **PARISH LIFE: FEAST OF THEOPHANY & BLESSING OF HOMES**

This year, the Great Feast of Theophany, celebrated on 19 January, falls on a Gosford Sunday. All-night vigil will be served on the evening of Saturday 18 January, and Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water will be served on Sunday 19 January. As is customary, Father James will be blessing parish homes at this time. This is not the full blessing performed when residence is taken up in a new home – in which the four walls of the home are anointed with oil, as in the consecration of a church – but the simple blessing by sprinkling the Holy Water that is blessed on the feast of Theophany. This annual blessing is a way that the Church comes to us and becomes a part of our home life. The service takes around ten minutes, with Holy Water being sprinkled throughout the house as everyone sings the troparion and

kontakion for Theophany. Prayers for the health and salvation of all who live there are then read, and finally all are sprinkled with Holy Water as they kiss the Cross. God willing, Father James will visit homes on the Peninsula and around Gosford on Sunday 19 January, elsewhere on the Central Coast on Monday 20 January, and around Hornsby on Tuesday 21 January. Those wishing to have their homes blessed can make a note of it on the list at church, or contact Father James directly. If these times are inconvenient, other arrangements can be made.

### **DIOCESAN LIFE: METROPOLITAN HILARION TO VISIT WALLSEND**

On Sunday 26 January, God willing, Metropolitan Hilarion will visit our neighbouring parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend, Newcastle. Vladyka's visit to Wallsend will be his first since May 2009, and only the second hierarchical service since then. His visit will coincide with the arrival of the parish's beautiful new standing Cross, the work of iconographer Dmitry Lihachov, and the first element in a major project of redecoration of the Wallsend church. It is planned that Vladyka will bless the new Cross at the end of Divine Liturgy. In 2014 the Wallsend parish will celebrate a number of significant milestones: 65 years of Russian Orthodoxy in the Hunter Valley, 50 years since the consecration of the church of Saint Nicholas, 20 years since the establishment of the Theophany parish of the Moscow Patriarchate, and 5 years since the unification of that parish with Saint Nicholas'. Gosford parishioners friends are encouraged to make the trip to Wallsend to share in the celebration of these milestones and to welcome Metropolitan Hilarion.

### **PARISH LIFE: OUR NEW RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE WEBSITE PUBLISHED!**

Following the publication of our new website on 2 November, a Russian-language version of the website was launched on 14 December 2013. As with the English-language site, new material is added at least every fortnight. At the moment the Russian-language site offers regular news updates and photographs of parish life, with more detailed information still presented in English. In time, it is hoped that information about our parish and helpful material about occasional services like weddings and baptisms will also be presented in Russian. As with our English-language site, Russian-language updates are automatically published on Facebook and Twitter. The Russian-language version of our website can be accessed by going to [www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au](http://www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au) and clicking 'Русская версия', or directly at <http://ru.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au>.

### **PARISH LIFE: 2014 CALENDARS**

In 2014 our parish will once again be providing parishioners and friends with small magnetic calendars that show the days of which we will have Sunday services and wall calendars with detailed information about fasts, feasts, saints' days, and Bible readings. The wall calendar will be a commemorative calendar marking the ten-year anniversary of the opening of our church and parish centre at West Gosford in 2004. The magnetic calendars have been available in church since 28 December 2013, and the wall calendars will be available as of Saturday 4 January 2014. Please ask for both at the candle desk in church.

### **REMINDER: 2014 PARISH MEMBERSHIP**

With a new year beginning, parish members are now asked to renew their membership, and regular worshippers are invited to consider becoming members. Parish membership is something quite distinct from church attendance, or even participation in the sacramental life of the church. Membership makes it possible for a person to be involved in formal parish

decision-making at various levels. A person cannot serve on the Parish Council, for example, without first becoming a parish member.

The rules governing parish membership are set out in the Normal Parish By-Laws or the "Нормальный Приходской Устав" ("the By-Laws") of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia (ROCOR). A person who has reached the age of 18 years may become a member of a ROCOR parish if they are an Orthodox Christian, pay the established membership dues, make their confession and take Holy Communion not less than once a year, and tend to the moral and economic welfare of the parish. **Those unwilling to comply with these requirements should not seek parish membership.**

It is the long-standing policy of this parish to encourage all regular worshippers and friends of the parish to consider membership. The reason for this is that it helps ensure that parish decision-making is representative of the broadest range of people who attend and take an interest in the welfare of the church. It also increases the pool of people from which a Parish Council can be drawn.

In our parish, the annual membership fee is \$30.00. Membership is granted for a calendar year; that is, from January to December. New members gain the right to vote only after 6 months of membership. Those new members who transfer membership from another ROCOR parish may vote immediately. Paragraph 12 of the By-Laws requires any person wishing to become a member of a parish to make a written application to the Parish Council. To make this easier for everyone, our parish has developed an 'Application for Parish Membership' form. Copies of this form can be obtained from the candle-desk in church or on our website on the 'Administration' page. To assist our parishioners and friends, a copy of the membership form will be mailed out to each home during January 2014, together with detailed information about parish membership.

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

**The sick:** Nun Euphrosyne; Leonid; and our parishioners Ludmila, Vladimir, Michael, Tatiana, and Tatiana.

**Expectant mothers:** Kathrine, Cathy, Maria, Larissa.

**Travelling:** Ivan, Maria, Nicholas and Alexander.

**Studying and working abroad:** Michael; Deacon Martin, Tatiana, Xenia, Alexander and Sebastian.

**Newly-departed:** John (G.); Igor (Sukhov).

**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 (Kraiuhin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan), Elena (Yakupova), Lydia (Ustimko), Nikolai (Pinczuk).



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