



# ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## PARISH LIFE: DECEMBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

On Thursday 31 December Father James baptised Sergei Teliatnikov, the infant son of Ivan Teliatnikov and Maria Schreider and a baby brother to Ksenia, Nikolai and Alexander. Sergei, who was baptised in honour of Saint Sergius the Wonderworker of Radonezh, had as his sponsors at Holy Baptism Mykola Kravchenko and Anna Kourbatov. We offer warm congratulations to Ivan, Maria, Mykola and Anna, and wish the newly-baptised servant of God Sergei many years! This baptism was our twenty-first for 2015 and the one hundred and thirty-third in our church since it opened in April 2004.

On Saturday 2 January we had our usual pre-Christmas clean-up. A good number of our parishioners and friends came to help and by lunchtime everything was more or less finished. In addition our new smart TV was finally installed. Besides operating on a closed circuit that allows those in the hall during services to watch and listen, the TV has a Skype connection that will provide an opportunity for some Parish Council members to participate in meetings remotely. Those present for the clean-up enjoyed a Lenten lunch and some cold drinks completing the work. Many thanks to all who helped!

On Saturday 2 January and Sunday 3 January we had services for the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, the day of commemoration of the Holy Fathers, all those men and women who from the dawn of time have pleased God. Receiving Holy Communion for the first time was the newly-baptised Sergei Teliatnikov. In his sermon Father James spoke of how the Holy Fathers had remained faithful to God despite the peoples around them having a profoundly different way of life, and of their continuing example to us in this regard.

On Sunday 3 January Father James baptised Stephan Rezk, the infant son of Roufail and Olesya Rezk and a baby brother to Sylvia, Ricky, Arseny and Seraphim. Stephan, who was baptised in honour of the Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephan, had as his sponsors at Holy Baptism Natalia Korotaeva and Father James himself. We offer warm congratulations to Roufail, Olesya and Natalia, and wish the newly-baptised servant of God Stephan many years!

On Thursday 7 January, the Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ, a number of our parishioners and friends travelled to Wallsend (Newcastle) to celebrate Orthodox Christmas. Following Divine Liturgy the customary moleben of thanksgiving to commemorate the anniversary of the deliverance on Christmas Day 1812 of the Russian Church and Empire from the French and twelve other nations was served. Matushka Marie was then presented with a gift in recognition of her faithful service to this parish and to the Newcastle parish. The gift was a beautiful hand-painted icon of Matushka's heavenly protector, Saint Mary of Palestine.

In presenting the icon, Father James spoke of Matushka's steadfast and quiet service to both parishes over many years in baking proshpora, singing in and leading the choirs, teaching children, and faithfully supporting her husband in his own ministry. On behalf of both parishes he congratulated her and wished her God's help in her continued service before

intoning "Many Years!" Afterwards many Gosford parishioners stayed to share in the festive lunch provided in the Wallsend church hall and to enjoy a visit from Father Christmas.

On Saturday 16 January and Sunday 17 January we had services for the Sunday before Theophany and in honour of the Seventy Apostles. This was a quiet weekend, with many people away after Christmas.

On the afternoon of Sunday 17 January we learned with sadness of the repose on the previous day of Maria Panov, a parishioner of the Intercession of the Holy Virgin parish in Cabramatta and a steadfast friend of our parish. Together with her husband Ivan and others from Cabramatta, Maria did a great deal over the years to raise money to assist our small parish, helping us in particular to pay off our mortgage in 2008. Her funeral was served at Cabramatta on Friday 22 January with a great multitude of people present, both family and friends, from across the Russian Orthodox community. Our parish was represented by Father James, Rick and Nina Golovin, and Reader George and Alla Karmadonoff. May her memory be eternal!

On Monday 18 January and Tuesday 19 January we had services for the Great Feast of Theophany, the commemoration of the Baptism of the Lord. All-night vigil - Great Compline and Matins with the blessing of wheat, wine, oil and five loaves – was served on Monday evening, and Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water was served on Tuesday morning. Following the service on Tuesday Father James visited many homes around Gosford and Woy Woy, sprinkling the Holy Water and offering prayers for the health and salvation of the faithful. In view of Father James' secular work commitments, homes around Hornsby were not blessed until Tuesday 26 January. It is expected that those homes not yet blessed with the Holy Water from Theophany will be visited on the final weekend in January and early in February.

On Sunday 24 January Father James baptised Mila Sidorkina, the infant daughter and third child of Anton and Oksana Sidorkin and a baby sister to Michael and Sophia. In baptism Mila was given the name Ludmila in honour of the Martyr Ludmila, princess of the Czechs. Her sponsor was Victoria Kulikova. We warmly congratulate Anton, Oksana and Victoria, and wish the newly-baptised handmaiden of God Ludmila many years!

A moleben and akathist to Saint Panteleimon was served on Wednesday 13 January and again on Wednesday 27 January. The first of these services was in Slavonic and the second in English. As is customary Father James commemorated every parishioner by name, together with others for whom a request to pray had been made. Those present were then anointed with oil from the lamp that burns before our large icon of Saint Panteleimon. These services last less than an hour and provide a nice opportunity for a mid-week visit to our small church.

### **PARISH LIFE: THE MONTH AHEAD**

During February 2016 there will be a greater number of services than usual in our small church. At **7.00pm** on the evening of **Friday 5 February** we will have a moleben and akathist to **Blessed Ksenia of Saint Petersburg**, the heavenly protector of our Ladies' Auxiliary. On the weekend of **Saturday 6 February** and **Sunday 7 February** we will have services in honour of the **Holy New Martyrs of Russia**, an important feast-day established by the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in 1981 and now celebrated by the fullness of the Russian Orthodox Church. On **Wednesday 10 February**, instead of the scheduled moleben and akathist to Saint Panteleimon at 7.00pm, we will have **All-night vigil** at **6.00pm** for **All Saints of Yekaterinburg**, with Divine Liturgy and a moleben to be served at **8.00am** on **Thursday 11 February**. More information about this service can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. On **Sunday 14 February** and **Monday 15 February** we will have services for the

**Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord: All-night vigil at 6.00pm on Sunday** evening and **Divine Liturgy at 9.00am on Monday** morning. Following Divine Liturgy on Monday 15 February we will have the customary blessing of candles and of fruit, with tea-light candles being blessed for our parishioners and friends to use at home. On the weekend of **Saturday 20 February** and **Sunday 21 February** we will have services for the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Sunday on which the preparatory services for Great Lent begin. Our final service for the month will be **an English-language moleben and akathist to Saint Panteleimon at 7.00pm on Wednesday 24 February**. Please join us!

Early in February we will be having a new ducted air-conditioning system installed. In 2015 we applied for a NSW Government Community Building Partnership grant to assist with this work but our application was unsuccessful. The work is nevertheless necessary and a decision has been made to proceed with this work unassisted.

On **Tuesday 9 February** our **Parish Council** will meet for the first time in 2016. In addition to the usual administrative and financial reports, it is expected that the Parish Council will consider priorities in parish life in 2016.

Our **Autumn 2016 Schedule of Services** should be available in church and online by the weekend of 20-21 February. Covering the months of March, April and May, the Autumn 2016 timetable will include all the services for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha.

### **PARISH LIFE: CALENDARS**

In 2016 we are again offering Russian-English wall calendars to our parishioners and friends. Our 2016 calendar commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the blessed repose in 1966 of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco. As in previous years it includes details of fast-days and feast-days, daily Bible readings, and other information helpful in living an Orthodox Christian life. Copies have been available in church from Saturday 2 January. Anyone wanting a calendar should email us at [info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au](mailto:info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au). Magnetic calendars showing the weekends on which we will have regular services have now also been printed and will be distributed to homes by post early in February 2016.

### **PARISH LIFE: SERVICES TO ALL SAINTS OF YEKATERINBURG**

Our parishioners and friends will recall that in October 2015 Father James travelled to the Yekaterinburg Metropolia of the Russian Orthodox Church. Having had the opportunity to visit the holy places there and venerate the relics of some of the saints and righteous ones of that region, he resolved to observe the feast of All Saints of Yekaterinburg each year. This feast was established in 2010 by the then Ruling Bishop of the Diocese, Archbishop Vikenty of Yekaterinburg, with the blessing of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. The day chosen for this commemoration, 11 February (29 January according to the Old Style), is the date of the establishment of the Yekaterinburg Diocese in 1885, the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of which was celebrated in 2015. The service commemorates 63 martyrs and righteous ones from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries, the best-known of whom are the Royal Passion-bearers of Russia – Tsar-Martyr Nicholas and his family – and Saint Simeon of Verkhoturye. As has been noted elsewhere in this newsletter, All-night vigil in honour of these saints will be served at 6.00pm on Wednesday 10 February and Divine Liturgy with a moleben will be served at 8.00am on Thursday 11 February. All Saints of Yekaterinburg, pray to God for us!

### **PARISH LIFE: CHILD SAFETY**

In 2013 our parish adopted a 'child-safe, child-friendly' policy as part of a range of measures designed to ensure that children and young people in our parish are safe and involved in parish life. The policy stipulates that age-appropriate information sessions will be held for

children, young people and adults twice-yearly. The first such information session for 2016 will be held in church immediately after the service on **Sunday 7 February** and will be for children up to 12 years of age. Parents are welcome to be present. Topics to be covered include appropriate behavior, safe play around the church, and the role of the Child Safety Contact Persons. The children will be asked to think about how they behave towards each other, towards adults, when in church, and when in the common area outside church. They will also be asked to think about problem-solving and conflict resolution and be assured that their concerns, when voiced, will be taken seriously. Announcements about this information session will be made in church on Sunday 31 January and Sunday 7 February. More information is available from Matushka Marie.

### **DIOCESAN LIFE: COLLECTIONS IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2016**

Each year our parish takes up a number of collections at the request of the Diocese. Four of these collections are taken up every year at appointed times: for the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in November; for Orthodox Action – Sydney and Melbourne on the first Sunday in February; for Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary (Jordanville, NY) on the first Sunday in Great Lent; and for the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. In 2016 the Orthodox Action collection will be taken up on Sunday 7 February, the Jordanville Collection will be taken up on Sunday 20 March, and the Jerusalem collection will be taken up on Saturday 23 April. Envelopes for the Orthodox Action collection will be circulated with this newsletter and will also be available in church from Saturday 30 January. Envelopes for the other collections will be made available in due course. Please give generously! **NOTE:** There will be no “money-box” collection during Great Lent in 2016.

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

**The sick:** Mitred Archpriest Michael (Li), Mitred Archpriest Michael (Klebansky), Mitred Archpriest George (Larin) (from Nyack, NJ), Protodeacon Christopher (Henderson), Elena (Metlenko), Nun Euphrosyne (Kobelev), Leonid (Snopov), Vera (Roudenko); and our parishioners Ludmila, Olga, Vladimir, Tatiana, and Tatiana.

**Newly-departed:** Maria (Panov)

**Prisoners and those in custody:** Igumen Christopher (Vakhabov)

**Departed:** Our former parishioners and benefactors Sophia (Kfoury), Tatiana (Elgin-Borodin), Michael (Grigorieff), Irene (Claydon), Victor (Manjetny), Vladimir (Dmitrieff), George (Fomin), Irina (Kamenev), Nun Maria (Gafu), George (Kraihin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan), Elena (Yakupova), Lydia (Ustimko), Nikolai (Pinczuk), Tatiana (Venttsel), and John (Gordeyeff).

**Non-Orthodox departed:** Bill (Claydon)



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