



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

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This is the first edition of our parish newsletter since February 2016. Our plan is to publish it every month and to include news and information about the life of our parish, our Diocese, and the wider Russian Orthodox Church, as well as material about the Orthodox Faith. We hope that you find it interesting!

PARISH LIFE: MAY 2017

On Saturday 6 May and Sunday 7 May we had services for the Fourth Sunday of Pascha and the Sunday of the Paralytic (John 5:1-15). As Friday 5 May was the anniversary of the repose of the ever-memorable Archbishop Theodore (Rafalsky)(+1955), the first Ruling Bishop of our Diocese, a memorial litia was served following Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Before serving the memorial litia Father James noting that Vladyka Theodore was now known to most of the faithful only by his photograph in parish halls and his grave beside the Strathfield Cathedral, spoke briefly about his life and his work as the founding hierarch of the Diocese. A short biography of Archbishop Theodore can be read at <http://www.gosfordrussianchurch.org/rocoranzbishops.html>.

Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday Matushka Marie helped the parish children to make candles for home use by recycling the stumps from our church candles. Working underneath the covered area at the side of the church hall, the children melted down the candle stumps and made candles by dipping wicks in the melted wax and also by pouring the wax in moulds of different shapes. The children – and their parents! – enjoyed this activity very much.

Mid-Pentecost is the twenty-fifth day of Pascha, half-way between Pascha and the Great Feast of Pentecost fifty days later. On this day we commemorate Christ's teaching in the temple "in the midst of the Judaic feast" (John 7:14-30). Although we were unable to have services on Wednesday 10 May, the day of Mid-Pentecost itself, on the eve of the feast we had Matins followed by the customary blessing of water. The blessing of water occurs on this day as a sign of the grace of the Holy Spirit and with reference to the "living water" promised by our Lord Jesus Christ to all that believe in Him (John 7:37-38).

Our Parish Council held its third meeting for 2017 on Tuesday 16 May. Father James presented a report on parish life and the treasurer, Anna Kourbatov, presented financial reports for March and April. Applications to renew parish membership were approved and preparations for our parish feast-day and Bishop George's visit in August were discussed. A new child-safe, child-friendly statement was ratified. The other members of our current Parish Council are Protodeacon Martin Naef, Rick Golovin, Bill Reid, Reader Paul Douriaguine, Anne Nielsen and Nina Golovin.

On Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May we had services for the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, the Sunday of the Blind Man, and in honour of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John. Following the Prayer before the Amvon, two beautiful new protodeacon's oraria – an orarion is a vestment worn over the left shoulder by a deacon – were blessed; these were later presented to Father Martin in honour of his November 2016 elevation to the rank of protodeacon. After the dismissal, a memorial litia was served for Metropolitan Anastassy (Gribanovsky) (+1965), second First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, in anticipation of the anniversary of his repose on 22 May.

On the evening of Tuesday 23 May, the Eve of the Leave-taking of Pascha, a small group of parishioners gathered for the final Paschal Matins of the year. In accordance with the practice of the Russian Orthodox Church, Matins was served as on the first day of Pascha itself – sung in its entirety, and with the doors to the sanctuary open. The icon of the Resurrection of the Lord was then returned to the sanctuary, the Shroud of Christ was removed from the Holy Table, and the church was made ready for the festive services commemorating His Ascension.

On Wednesday 24 May and Thursday 25 May we had services for the Great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. All-night vigil with the blessing of wheat, wine, oil and five loaves was served on Wednesday evening and Divine Liturgy was served on Thursday morning. As it was on this feast-day in 2007 that the Act of Canonical Communion between the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia and the Moscow Patriarchate was signed, the Prayer for the Prosperity of the Russian Church was read after the Augmented Litany and a brief service of thanksgiving was served after the dismissal. That evening, a moleben and akathist to Great-Martyr Panteleimon was served in Church Slavonic.

EPISTLE OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

***Editor's note:** From Friday 9 June the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia – that is, the assembly of all our bishops – met in Munich, Germany. The Council heard reports about, and made decisions in relation to, every aspect of the life of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. Towards the end of proceedings, this Epistle was drafted and approved.*

We, the hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, gathered for a Council of Bishops in the God-preserved city of Munich during the celebration of the Pentecost, in the blessed presence of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God "of the Sign." This year we remember with sorrow the hundredth anniversary of the terrible, bloody events of 1917; we are at the same time filled with joy over the anniversary of

the restoration of the patriarchate and the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of unity within the Russian Church.

Tenth anniversary of the signing of the Act of Canonical Communion between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.



We remember those who labored towards the reestablishment of unity, and those who continue to work towards strengthening of our spiritual bonds. On the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we prayed together with the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church and the President of the Russian Federation at divine services during the consecration of the Church of the Resurrection of Christ and the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia at Lyubanka, and we conclude our assembly with the great consecration of the Cathedral of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia in the

city of Munich, the only church of the Russian Church Abroad where His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia once served, who had together with Metropolitan Laurus of blessed memory signed the Act of Canonical Communion. We always knew that the external unity that was once rent asunder was always preserved in the spiritual plane.

With gratitude with God, we also mark the hundredth anniversary of the birth of a New Martyr of Russia who manifested the phrase "the blood of Christian martyrs is the seed of faith." St Alexander (Schmorell) of Munich spilt his blood in Germany. The hundredth anniversary of his birth is marked by the completion of the construction of a church not far from his grave. The cathedral was consecrated by His Beatitude Metropolitan Onouphry of Kiev and All Ukraine along with the Primate of the Russian Church Abroad, His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, along with all of his fellow bishops, bishops from Russia and Ukraine and of other Local Orthodox Churches. In the global podvig of the Russian New Martyrs, among them St Alexander, the East unites with the West.

The restoration of the patriarchate at the All-Russian Council of the Russian Church, the hundredth anniversary of which we now celebrate, was a positive step towards the return to our Christian roots, to the 1,000th year of existence of our Church organism. A leading role in the reestablishment of the patriarchate was played by a hierarch who himself became the first Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky) of Kiev and Galicia of blessed memory. Based on the work of the Pomestny Sobor [All-Russian Church Council] of 1917-1918, he and his brother archpastors preserved church sobornost' [collegiality] in distant lands, and in this way, fealty to the legacy of the Mother Russian Church. The theology of Metropolitan Anthony returned the cognizance of the Church to her patristic roots; it cleansed Russian theology from imposed alien influences and in many ways determined the theology of the Church Abroad, and manifested itself in the legacy and practice of pastoral ministry.



The centenary of the election of Saint Tikhon of Moscow as Patriarch

The triumph of the sobornost' of the Russian Church and her New Martyrs lies in the fact that despite the crumbling of the Orthodox empire and the imposition of a regime whose ideological goal was to fight God and everyone who believes and worships Him, faith in the truth and the Church could not be destroyed. In light of the apostasy that began in earnest in the 19th century, the podvig of bearing witness to the faith "even unto death"

is especially significant, just as the image of the purity of family life of the last Russian Emperor was. We are all called upon to make sense of the spiritual life of the peoples of Russia and of the whole world.

The spiritual catastrophe of the Russian nation led to the destruction of a mighty state and to terrible sufferings. How could it happen that a significant portion of the people, who for almost 1,000 years had borne the name of Christ, turned against the Church? St John of Kronstadt often prophesied about the consequences of turning away from the Church. "Ye shall be as gods" (Genesis 3:5) became the slogan of a new order, and people strove to establish a world without God. "Faith in the word of Truth, the Word of God, has disappeared, and was replaced by faith in human reason," wrote St John. "Children no longer obey their parents, students their teachers... Marriage is mocked, family life is decaying."

Today entire peoples both in the Fatherland and abroad face a choice: spiritual cultivation of the soul or utter devotion to material well-being. God forbid that we once again see the brutal consequences of the deceptive spiritual and moral choice of willingly sacrificing our souls to evil substitutions. That is why once again raise the call to conscientious purification, not in the political sense, but for the sake of obtaining spiritual succession, gazing upon the path of the New Martyrs, and to bid farewell to the symbols of militant atheism, rid ourselves of the old glorification of murderers by naming cities and towns after them, streets and plazas, train stations and parks; we call for the removal of the body from the central square of the nation of the one whose name is connected with the establishment of the militant atheist state, which led to the sacrifice of millions of lives to its ideology.

Returning to our Christian roots is our moral choice. It is built on the search for God, church life, learning about faith, growth and strengthening of our moral podvig. It is from our parents that we must receive our first experience of knowledge of God, of prayer, participation in the Mysteries—we call upon all parents to tend to their own spiritual edification, and not only in word, but to teach their children by example. It is the family itself, the "little Church," that the full understanding of church life is created.

The expulsion of multitudes of people from Russia introduced the West to Orthodox Christianity. Divine Providence, even the loss of goodness had positive results. Today, Orthodox Christians living in the West, where the family unit is in crisis, are called upon to serve as an example of moral purity in their own lives in their communities, both in Christian family life and in the monastic service.

Bearing all of this in mind, let us courageously declare in the shining joy of the Church, together with Holy Apostle Paul and St John of Kronstadt, the Martyred Royal Family and the multitude of New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

With love in Christ,
+ HILARION,
Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York,
First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.
Signed by all the participants of the Council of Bishops

EPISTLE OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN HILARION OF EASTERN AMERICA AND NEW YORK ON THE DAY OF ORTHODOX YOUTH, CELEBRATED ON THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Editor's note: *In May 2008 the Council of Bishops decided that the Sunday of All Saints would be designated the Day of Youth of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. This celebration is aimed at all three basic socio-cultural groups of the youth of our Holy Church: young people born in Russia, those born abroad, and those who turned to Orthodoxy from the local populations where the Russian Church Abroad exists.*

Dear in the Lord Brothers and Sisters:

I send my heartfelt congratulations on the feast day of All Saints, and also on the Day of Orthodox Youth, which was established eight years ago in the Russian Church Abroad. It is no accident that all of our saints are commemorated by the Church a week after Pentecost, for on the Pentecost, the Church herself was established, the shoot was planted into the earth. And we see the brilliant blossom that sprang forth: the holy martyrs and confessors, monastics and prophets, fools-for-Christ, holy hierarchs, hieromartyrs and confessors of the Church.

The holiday of All Saints is combined with the first Sunday (day of Resurrection), after the Pentecost, for holiness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This fruit did not emerge among demi-gods, but among ordinary people like you and I. Yet we must understand that almost none of these saints became saints suddenly, without the strong desire to be with God. At the same time, while striving to "obtain Divine grace," the saints remained common, everyday folk in their habits and human weaknesses. The Church specifically teaches the fact that each one of us is summoned to holiness. History provides many paradoxes: it has often happened that people utterly lost to society have become saints. In fact, the very first person to enter Heaven was the Thief, the one who was crucified next to Christ. "Remember me, o Lord, when you come into Thy kingdom" proved enough for him to enter Heaven.

Beloved brothers and sisters! This May we marked the 10th anniversary of the reconciliation of two branches of the Russian Church. Each of our churches, the Church Abroad and the Church in the Fatherland, thanks to this event, thanks to the good will of our beloved hierarchs, His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia and Metropolitan Laurus, have been doubly enriched. Now we share common all holy things, common holidays, we share veneration of the same saints and righteous people of our time. This demonstrates for us how close the Grace of God is to us, and that the Kingdom of Heaven is likewise accessible to us, for that is the chief goal of Christian life.

Let us therefore construct our life's path on their example, witness to peace in Christ, let us preserve the Russian legacy: Russian culture, language, and the tradition of volunteer youth service.

Preserve in your hearts the words of Holy Scripture: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect," love God and your neighbour, strive towards true and fervent prayer, "obtain," in the words of St Seraphim of Sarov, "the spirit of peace," and this will suffice to ensure that a thousand around you in this world will be saved.

I wish you the abundant aid of God in all your well-intentioned and saving works, and invoke upon you Divine blessing.

+ HILARION

Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York,
First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

PARISH LIFE: NEW CHILD-SAFE, CHILD-FRIENDLY STATEMENT

In May 2017 the Parish Council approved a new statement about strategies to make sure that our parish is child-safe and child-friendly. The child-safe, child-friendly statement can be read on the parish website. Those without access to the website can obtain a copy from Father James.



PARISH LIFE: OUR WINTER 2017 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Our Winter 2017 Schedule of services – covering the months of June, July and August – has been available in church and on our parish website since late in May. June and July are quiet months with regular weekend services and our monthly moleben and akathist to Saint Panteleimon only. August is much busier – Bishop George will visit us on Sunday 6 August in anticipation of our feast-day and we will have weekday services for the feasts of Saint Panteleimon (9 August), the Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord (14 August), and the Dormition of the Mother of God (28 August).

Symposium Syezd
Remembering the New Martyrs
of Russia 100-years later
July 14th to 17th at Sts. Peters and Paul Cathedral

\$225 Conference Hotel (2-person share room)*, or
\$327 Conference Hotel (private room)*, or
\$60 (daily commute - meals only)
* prices cover the duration of the symposium (3 nights)

The symposium will feature visiting guest speaker, Metropolitan Jonah (USA) and a midnight liturgy in remembrance of the Holy Royal Martyrs (starting 10:00pm 16th July)



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DIOCESAN YOUTH SYMPOSIUM IN HONOUR OF THE ROYAL MARTYRS OF RUSSIA

From Friday 14 July to Monday 17 July this year, Saints Peter and Paul Diocesan Cathedral will host a four-day youth symposium in honour of the Royal Martyrs of Russia. The keynote speaker at the Symposium will be His Eminence Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen), retired First Hierarch of the Orthodox Church in America and now a bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. Vladyka Jonah will speak on 'The relevance of the New Martyrs to youth today'. Father Michael Protopopov will give talks on 'Nicholas II Commander in Chief and victim of the Great War' and 'Father Jacob Korchinsky: Missionary and Martyr' and Father Nicholas Karipoff will speak about 'Patriarch Tikhon, the revolution, and a hundred years later'. All-night Vigil for the Royal Martyrs

will begin at 10.00pm on Sunday 16 July and be followed by a midnight Divine Liturgy, finishing at around 2.00am. More information is available at www.syezd.com.au.

RUSSIAN AND OTHER ORTHODOX KIDS' CAMP, 10-16 DECEMBER 2017

A group of young families from the Intercession of the Holy Virgin parish in Cabramatta, NSW, is again organising a camp for Russian and other Orthodox children and young people aged 8-17 to be held in Toukley, NSW - not far from us, on the Central Coast - from 10 December - 16 December 2017. The cost will be \$399.00 per person. For those interested, more information is available at: <https://cabrapokrov.org/camp-rok/>

DIOCESAN LIFE: A RUSSIAN ORTHODOX LITURGICAL MUSIC CONFERENCE

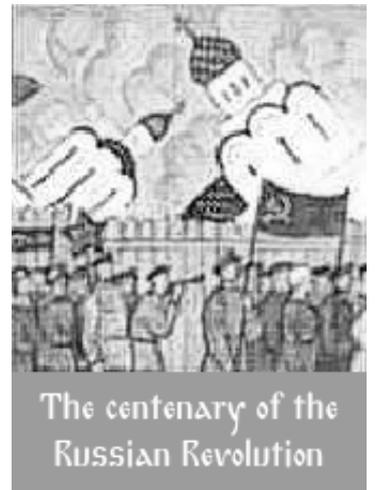


From Wednesday 27 September until Monday 2 October this year, a Russian Orthodox Liturgical Music Conference will be held in Brisbane. Organised by the Diocesan Liturgical Music Committee, the conference programme will include lectures from eminent guest speakers, intensive choral workshops and rehearsals, common meals, and a hierarchical All-Night Vigil and Divine Liturgy. Further information will be published here as it becomes available. See also:

<https://www.facebook.com/ROCSingersANZ/>

DIOCESAN LIFE: A RELIQUARY WITH RELICS OF THE NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA WILL VISIT NEW SOUTH WALES PARISHES IN JULY AND AUGUST 2017

On 6 June 2017 His Grace Bishop George announced that a reliquary containing relics of a number of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia will, in this year of the centenary of the Russian Revolution and the beginning of persecution by the godless authorities, visit parishes, monasteries and missions of our Diocese. The reliquary will visit New South Wales parishes during July and August. Enshrined in this reliquary are the relics twenty-four saints including Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow; Hieromartyr Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev; Saint Luke of Simferopol; Royal Passion-Bearers Grand Duchesses Elizabeth and Anastasia; and others. Further information will be made available in due course about the schedule of visits and the arrangements for a service of intercession before the relics in our parish.



PARISH LIFE: PARKING WHEN COMING TO CHURCH



Our parishioners and friends are reminded of the importance of considering the other occupants of 7 Comserv Close when parking at church. Despite that fact that the businesses around us do not usually operate on Sundays, the occupants of the units may still need to access their premises. In view of this we ask that people attending morning services at our church park on Comserv Close rather than inside the complex, driving in only if necessary to drop off or pick up those who are less mobile. Those who park inside the

complex – when attending an evening service, for example – are asked to observe the restrictions on parking in front of doorways. All doorways in the complex have a sign indicating that there is to be **no parking** there **at any time**. Observing these few rules will help us to preserve good relationships with our neighbours who have, in general, been immensely supportive of us over the past thirteen years. Should any difficulties arise in relation to parking at church our parishioners and friends are asked to involve Rick Golovin, a senior member of the Parish Council and our representative on the Strata Committee.

SPIRITUAL LIFE: CONFESSION TIMES

Those wishing to confess in order to receive Holy Communion are asked to do so at the evening services as there is simply insufficient time on Sunday mornings. This has been the long-standing practice throughout our Diocese, particularly in parishes with only one priest. As a general rule, exceptions will only be made for those prevented by age, sickness or limited means of transport from being in church the preceding evening. All coming for confession should take time to prepare carefully.



PARISH LIFE: DATES TO REMEMBER

On **Sunday 6 August 2017** Bishop George will be visiting our parish. Please keep this day free and be present to welcome Vladyka to Gosford.

On **Sunday 17 September 2017** we will have our parish Annual General Meeting. This is an important event in parish life and all parish members are asked to make time for it.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Olga (Petroff), Ludmila (Roubanoff), Boris (Levitski)

Newly-departed: Alexander (Momot)

Travelling: Bishop George, Protodeacon Martin

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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