

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК
PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 76, July 2008 ~

DIOCESAN LIFE: METROPOLITAN HILARION RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA

Having been absent from Australia since Wednesday May 7th this year, Vladyka Hilarion arrived back in Australia early on the morning of Thursday, July 3rd. The newly-enthroned Metropolitan and First Hierarch of our Russian Orthodox Church Abroad was welcomed at the airport by the Deans of Victoria and New South Wales, most of the clergy of the Sydney Deanery, and a number of the faithful. Later that morning there was a Thanksgiving Moleben at the Cathedral in Strathfield. We welcome Vladyka back to the diocese and look forward to his visit to us for our patronal feast in August.

PARISH LIFE DURING JUNE

June was another quiet month in parish life, with just our regular Saturday and Sunday services. The second Sunday in the month, June 15th, was the Great Feast of Pentecost. We had All-night Vigil the preceding evening, and after Divine Liturgy on the day of the feast itself we served Vespers with the customary "kneeling prayers". We then had a short moleben and the blessing of the new awning adjacent to our parish centre. A parish BBQ followed, with George Karmadonoff having cooked a whole pig (given to our parish by the Kargin family in Canberra) on a spit! We were joined on the day by a number of parishioners from Saint Nicholas' in Wallsend. All had an enjoyable day. Pentecost was Father Martin's last service with us until August; he and his family left a week later to spend some time in Europe with family. Parish Council met on June 10th, with financial management once again the major focus. Parish Council next meets on July 8th, with plans for our feast-day the main item on the agenda.

CHURCH LIFE: EPISTLE OF METROPOLITAN HILARION, PRIMATE OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA, ON THE DAY OF YOUTH OF THE RUSSIAN CHURCH ABROAD

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

Dear in the Lord Brother Archpastors, Reverend Fathers,
Brothers, Sisters and Children!!

In May, 2006, the IV All-Diaspora Council convened in San Francisco. The first point of order in this historic event in our Church was the matter of our relationship with the Church in Russia. The second was the future of our Church in the diaspora with special attention paid to our youth and the problems it faces in contemporary society.

By the limitless mercy of God and thanks to the spiritual guidance and righteous labours of our memorable Primate, His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus of blessed memory, the painful division between the two parts of the Russian Orthodox Church was finally overcome with the signing in May, 2007, of the Act of Canonical Communion, and the process of healing began.

This means that the matter of work with youth today takes the forefront in the salvific labours of the Church in today's world, and demands the most serious attention on our part. This was especially clearly stressed by His Eminence Vladyka [Laurus] at the opening of the XII World Russian People's Council in Moscow: "Youth is not only our future, but also our present. Young people deserve our special attention by virtue of the fact that they are called upon to open new paths to disseminate the truths of the Gospel. Without the youth, we would not only be deprived of the ability to progress, we would stagnate." Further, he said: "But if we attract and unite our youth, especially those young people who burn with love for God and the desire to serve the Church and Fatherland, we will be able to accomplish great feats to the benefit of the Church, Orthodoxy and our much-suffering Motherland. The Russian Church Abroad, scattered throughout the world, can especially fulfill this mission, fostering the expansion of Orthodoxy and its great legacy among the peoples, spreading the good news to those 'which were afar off, and to them that were nigh' (Ephesians 2:17)."

Following the call of our late First Hierarch, the Council of Bishops this past May decided that the Sunday of All Saints would from now on be designated the Day of Youth of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. This celebration will be 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 have turned to Orthodoxy from the local populations where the Russian Church Abroad exists.

And so, dear brother archpastors, reverend fathers, brothers and sisters! I call upon you to active and salvific work with our youth! Our churches have parish schools where children are taught the Law of God, Russian language, Russian history and literature: there are youth groups led by priests and laypersons. There are summer camps and youth conferences. If we continue to follow the example of the old emigres who taught us, who burned with love for the Church, our history and culture, who founded Russia Abroad, if we share this wealth with the children and youth, and live by that which we received from our ancestors, then I am certain that the Lord will help us ignite young hearts with that same love, or at least, we can plant in them the good seed which will bear fruit. We are duty bound to walk among the people, remembering the Apostles, who were "weak, and not weak." Let us labour to the best of our abilities!

Now a few words to our youth. The Lord said: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). The closest interpretation of this is as follows: I do not demand that you completely abandon all cares in seeking external goods and eschew

daily joys. But I desire and request of you one thing: reorganize your priorities. Before you cared more for the temporal, but for the heavenly you cared little or not at all; and I say: place to the forefront all cares and desires for the heavenly, the eternal, and that which is worldly should be in second place. Christ then adds: if you seek the Kingdom of Heaven and His Truth over all things, know that the earthly needs will be granted to you—it will come as a result of a special benevolence to you from God. Our Lord Jesus Christ not only does not forbid happiness and the enjoyment of worldly success, but only under the mandatory condition that we hold these second in importance, ceding the first place to our cares in seeking eternal happiness, seeking perfect Good, Love and Beauty in God and in His Image, Which is reflected in our neighbour. One thing must be kept in mind: do what is needed for earthly life; a part of your time and efforts must be devoted to prayer and works of mercy; do not be prideful in happiness; do not despair in unhappiness; and remember that all—the good and the terrible—comes from God, Who loves us and directs us to blessedness. And God will be with you.

I conclude with the words of St Macarius of Egypt: "God sees neither virgin nor married person, neither monk nor secular; but seeks only earnest and good will. Obtain this good will and salvation is near, whosoever you are and wherever you may live." Amen.

+Hilarion

Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York
First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad

Sunday of All Saints, 2008

Editor's note: This epistle only came to our attention after the Feast of All Saints. As the 'Day of Youth of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia' will be an annual event, Parish Council will in future give consideration to suitable ways of marking this day.

METROPOLITAN HILARION SENDS A GREETING TO THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN CONFERENCE

Editor's note: In late June 2008, a conference on the theme of women in Orthodoxy was held in one of our parishes in New York. Vladyka Hilarion sent this epistle to those who attended. It is reprinted here to highlight Vladyka's comments on the important ministry of women in our church.

Dear fathers, brethren and sisters, beloved in the Lord!

I wholeheartedly greet those assemble at Holy Protection Parish in Glen Cove, New York, for the conference dedicated to a theme that is most important, though rarely touched upon in our Church: Women in Orthodoxy.

For their zeal for the Saviour, for their constant remembrance of Him, the myrrh-bearing women were richly rewarded: at His tomb they were the first to receive from the angel the most joyous tidings of the resurrection of Christ; they were the first to whom the resurrected Lord Himself appeared; and they were the first of all the people on earth to utter those most blessed words: "Christ is risen!"

Anyone who attentively studies the history of Christianity cannot fail to note a very significant and instructive circumstance: in almost all countries, women converted to Christianity before men and drew the men along with them by their example. This was the case in our own beloved homeland. Princess Olga was undeterred by her advanced years from travelling from Kiev to Constantinople to receive holy baptism. She did not have the consolation of seeing how the light of the Christian Faith illumined our land, but her example had a powerful and beneficial effect even after her death. Her grandson, the holy and right-believing Prince Vladimir the Great, Equal of the Apostles, was baptized and spread Christianity all throughout ancient Rus'. And we remember also the example of Saint Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Enlightener of Georgia.

With all her soul the Samaritan woman believed in the Lord, later received baptism (at which we was given the name Photina, i.e. the radiant), and fully justified the meaning of her new name, becoming the enlightener of many in her homeland, in Africa and in Italy. During the reign of the Emperor Nero, she suffered as a martyr for Christ, together with her five daughters and two sons. After many tortures, her body was cast into a well. Thus, she who by a well forsook the path of sin and received new and grace-filled life from the Bestower of life, departed this transitory life in a well and passed over to another, better, blessed life that is without end.

In our parishes and convents it is the women who take part in the life of the Church. And here we should note that the Church activity of women is not confined to merely going to church or to practical tasks, such as preparing meals, cleaning and adorning the church, etc. The chanting of the divine services is often led by female conductors who have mastered the typicon of the Church; and catechesis in our parish schools is, as everyone knows, more often than not conducted by women. And frequently, in our Church press, women also write articles on the burning topics of the day. Women scholars deliver reports at our Church conferences, sharing their knowledge.

We cannot but greet, we cannot but value such vital, educated participation in the life of the Church. The activity of our women bears witness not only to the high level of theological knowledge attained among them, as compared with past eras in the history of the Church, but also to the necessity of developing and transmitting liturgical, theological, ecclesio-historical, and other knowledge among the female laborers of our parishes and convents.

For this reason, I send my heartfelt greetings to all participants in our Church's first conference dedicated to the place and ministry of women in Orthodoxy and invoke the blessing of God upon your goodly undertaking. May the Lord grant that all of you may be enriched both by the prayer you share and the learning of new things, unto the glory of His holy name and for your own good and that of the Holy Church of Christ.

Beloved, let us be penetrated through and through by the sincere desire to follow the example of the holy myrrh-bearers and the other holy women I have mentioned in this

greeting. Let us strive to love the Lord as the glorious myrrh-bearers loved Him. Their example tells us that if on earth we will share in the Savior's sufferings, in heaven we will be accounted worthy to share eternal joy with Him in His celestial kingdom.

+Hilarion

Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York
First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad

7/20 June, 2008

CHURCH LIFE: AN AUSTRALIAN-BORN BISHOP CONSECRATED FOR SOUTH AMERICA

During a meeting of the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia in May this year, it was decided to send the curriculum vitae of Abbot (or "Hegumen") John (Berzins) along with a corresponding appeal to His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia with the request to confirm his candidacy for episcopal consecration.

Father John was born Peteris Berzins in March 1957 in Cooma, Australia, of Latvian Orthodox refugees, Leonid (1921-1996) and Margarita (1924-) Berzins. He grew up in Cooma, later graduating with a philological degree from the Australian National University in Canberra. He is fluent in Ancient Greek and Latin. He entered the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville and enrolled in Holy Trinity Seminary in 1982, graduating in 1985. He was tonsured a monk in 1985 by Archbishop (later Metropolitan) Laurus and later ordained deacon and priest. From 1992-1996 and 2001-2005, he served as father-confessor at Gethsemane Convent in the Holy Land.

Having received the blessing of Patriarch Alexy, on June 21, 2008, Father John was consecrated to the episcopacy in the Church of the Nativity of Christ in Erie, Pennsylvania. Divine Liturgy and the rite of consecration were presided over by Metropolitan Hilarion, His Grace Bishop Daniel of Erie, and His Grace Bishop Peter of Cleveland. The divine services, as is customary in the Old-Rite Church of the Nativity of Christ in Erie, were performed according to the ancient tradition.

The newly-consecrated Bishop John was given the title Bishop of Caracas and will administer the South American parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Source: www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws

DIOCESAN LIFE: 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE RUSSIAN ROYAL MARTYRS

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the murder in 1918 by the Bolsheviks of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II, his family and loyal servants. To commemorate this event, All-Night Vigil and Divine Liturgy will be served in the presence of the Holy Relics of New Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth and the Nun Barbara at the Diocesan Cathedral of

Saints Peter and Paul in Strathfield, beginning at 10.00pm on Wednesday July 16th. The majority of the Sydney Deanery clergy will be in attendance. A moleben with an akathist will be served after the veneration of the cross. For further information contact Archpriest George Lapardin on 9868-5469 or Hieromonk Joachim on 4626-3945, or take one of the leaflets available in church.

CHURCH LIFE: BISHOPS' COUNCIL OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

The entire episcopate of the Russian Orthodox Church assembled in Moscow recently for a Bishops' Council, generally convened every four years. This Council was the first in which the episcopate of our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia participated.

In his report to the Bishops' Council, which opened on June 24, 2008, at the Church of Christ the Saviour, Patriarch Alexy pointed out that the year 2008 marked an important date - the 1020th anniversary of the Baptism of Russia. It is the date, he said, which makes us look back "at the one Kievan baptismal font in which the peoples now nourished by the Russian Orthodox Church have received salvation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit".

The anniversary of the foundation of the Russian Orthodox Church, he stressed, makes the faithful reflect on the ages-long path covered by her and become aware of the spiritual unity of the peoples of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. "Our church unity is a great treasure that our ancestors preserved despite the hardships they experienced", the Patriarch said, adding, "by God's mercy we have inherited the precious gift of unity and this places a special responsibility on us for preserving and handing it over to our descendants".

He described the two decades that had passed since the 1988 Council as "a period of finding freedom coupled with tremendous responsibility for the enlightenment of millions". "We have had to satisfy their spiritual thirst and lead those who sought the Truth to the initiation to the Church", His Holiness said.

At the same time he pointed to the ambiguity of developments which occurred in the country in the period under consideration, saying, "Among negative developments there are a wide range of social problems including a considerable decline in the living conditions of many people, an inrush of mass pseudo-culture, a weakened public morality, growing social intolerance and tension. All this cannot but disturb the Russian Orthodox Church, which has incessantly lifted up 'supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks for all people and for the authorities so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty' (1 Tim. 2:1-3)".

In the four years that have passed since the previous Bishops' Council, the Patriarch said, new challenges have emerged to pose new tasks for the Church.

Among the characteristic features of today, which need the Church's special attention, the Patriarch believes, is the secularization of society. The secular way of thinking as

well as aggressive and intolerant atheism have not become weaker for the past years but rather stronger and more active in their attempts to prevent Orthodoxy from carrying out its salvific mission to lead people to the knowledge of the Gospel's Truth.

His Holiness also called upon the Council members to discuss the urgent problems of church life in a spirit of openness, honesty, brotherly love and desire of unanimity. "Conciliarity, which is the seeking of one another's counsel, is the best way for avoiding conflicts, divisions, bewilderment", he said, adding, "Receiving the patriarchal insignia eighteen years ago, I spoke about the importance of governing church life while developing conciliarity. I would like to remind you of those words at a time when they become especially important".

The period between the Councils, according to Patriarch Alexy, has shown that the dynamic of church growth has remained the same. "At the same time, it should be mentioned that the rate of quantitative changes has taken the lead over that of qualitative changes. Today our most important task is to build up church life spiritually, to build up human hearts and minds. It is in this direction that we should adjust and develop our work", His Holiness said.

On 29 June 2008, the day when the Russian Orthodox Church commemorates All Saints who shone forth in the Land of Russia, the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church completed its work. One hundred and eighty-three archpastors from twenty countries had participated. On the day of the feast, Patriarch Alexy presided at the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow. Metropolitan Philaret of Minsk and Slutsk, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, read out the Epistle of the Holy Council of Bishops to the clergy, monastics and all faithful children of the Russian Orthodox Church. A copy of this Epistle is printed in full below.

Russian President Medvedev greeted His Holiness the Patriarch after the festive prayer service. He congratulated all those present with the beginning of the celebration of the 1020th anniversary of the Baptism of Russia and noted that people in Russia had actively discussed the work of the Council. President Medvedev remarked that thanks to the Orthodox faith, Russian culture had acquired the Biblical values on which the system of moral ideals common to Europe is built. "The celebration of the millennium of the Baptism of Russia was a momentous event for our country. The two decades that followed was a time when Orthodoxy flourished. Not only church buildings were restored, but also the integrity of the Church", President Medvedev said.

The festive divine service concluded the work of the Bishops' Council and began the celebration of the 1020th anniversary of the Baptism of Russia.

Source: www.mospat.ru

EPISTLE OF THE HOLY COUNCIL OF BISHOPS TO THE CLERGY, THE HONORABLE MONASTICS AND ALL THE FAITHFUL CHILDREN OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

On June 27, 2008, the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church addressed an Epistle to the whole of the Russian Orthodox Church:

Beloved in the Lord—most honorable father priests, right honorable deacons, monks and nuns beloved in God, pious layfolk—faithful children of our Holy Mother, the Russian Orthodox Church!

The Holy Sobor of Bishops, which met between 24 and 29 June, 2008, in the city of Moscow, addresses to all of you the Apostle's words of greeting: "Grace [unto you], mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord" (II Timothy 2:1).

The present Council of Bishops has been marked by a symbolic date. This year marks 1,020 years from the time when, in accordance with God's will, through the labors of Saint Vladimir the Great, Prince of Kiev, our ancestors accepted Holy Orthodoxy and were numbered among the people of God in Kiev's baptismal font.

Although more than a thousand years has passed since Rus' converted to Christianity, the goals of the Church of Russia have not changed. As in previous centuries, it is called to sanctify and transform this world, leading it into unity with its Lord and Savior, producing within human society the fruits of the vivifying activity of the Holy Spirit: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Despite all trials and temptations, people are searching for God, sometimes without even being aware of it; and the third millennium, like all of previous history, reveals to us the unsurpassed value of the glad tidings of Christ.

The present Holy Council of Bishops has, as a sign of the victory of Christ, glorified for veneration throughout the whole Church locally revered saints who have been canonized earlier: saints who lived in various times and in various places, yet who together reveal to the world the triumph of the Gospel tidings that the risen Savior has trampled down sin and death. These are: the holy Hierarch Anthony (Smirnitsky) of Voronezh, the holy Hierarch John (Maximovich) of Shanghai and San Francisco, and the venerable Abbess Juliana and the Nun Eupraxia of Moscow.

This year also marks another memorable date: 90 years since the martyrdom of the Imperial Family. Rendering honour to the Holy Royal Passion-bearers, we should all immerse ourselves in the veneration of their struggle of strength and courage, and, seeing how they opposed evil with meekness and humility, we should imitate their faith

(Hebrews 13:7). We are likewise convinced that today's society and state should make a moral evaluation of the crime committed in 1918.

The fellowship of the episcopate, clergy and flock which has become possible thanks to the re-establishment of the unity of the Church of Russia last year, is a good example of mutual support and brotherly love. May the joy and spiritual benefit found in common labors and prayers serve as a pledge and a foundation for the further, unshakable unity of the Church against all the temptations and divisions instigated by the enemy of the human race, who tries to introduce schism into the one Body of Christ. Our Church embraces people of various nationalities, generations and cultures. Many of them have differing views on various aspects of Church life. However, we must not forget the words of the Savior: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee" (John 17:21). Let neither national borders, nor human distinctions, nor the differences of opinions natural among Christians, separate us. The holy Apostle Paul writes: "Let all your things be done with charity" (I Corinthians 16:14). Let all our discussions, and our whole life, be imbued with the spirit of brotherly, Christian love.

The path which all of us must tread to follow the Lord and Savior is a thorny path, which demands that the disciples of Christ stand firmly in the Faith. The divine Truth is not always readily accepted by the world, which lies in sin. According to the words of the Scriptures: "We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness" (I Corinthians 1:23).

The concept of human rights has become one of the main considerations when the laws and policies of states are formulated. Lately, this concept is being used to justify sin and to diminish the role of religion in the life of society, to deprive people of the possibility of being able to live according to their faith.

The Council has set forth the Orthodox view of this problem, approving "The Bases of the Teaching of the Orthodox Church on the Dignity, Freedom and Rights of Man." This document speaks of the inseparability of human rights from moral values and the responsibility of the person before God and his fellow man.

Orthodoxy is not, by its very nature, an ideology, nor a form of culture, nor yet a slogan on the banner of any political power whatever, but is the image of life in Christ, according to the words of the Gospel: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6).

We must remember that the Christian is called to seek first "the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33), and to conduct his activity in the world in accordance with such an understanding of the goal of the Christian life.

Holding fast to the immutable principles of the Gospel, the Church remains steadfast in its ministry and foreign to all possible extremes. The pastors and the children of the Church ought not to indulge in self-isolation or to avoid the challenges posed to Orthodoxy by our times; nor must it adopt a position of silent collusion with "the spirit of this world" (I Corinthians 2:12), lest we become subject thereto.

The Council of Bishops calls all the people of God to oneness of mind, steadfastness in the Faith, and life according to the Gospel, that, looking to this, all may glorify the heavenly Father (Matthew 5:16).

With paternal love the Council addresses itself to those Orthodox Christians who have not been able to overcome the temptation of schism and find themselves outside the bosom of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, having followed schismatic teachers. Fulfilling the commandment of the Savior that the penitent be forgiven, the Church is prepared to clasp to its bosom with meekness and humility all who, having rejected spiritually destructive fellowship with schismatics, have recourse with repentance to its maternal protection.

For the preservation of the unity of the Church, of peace, concord and ecclesiastical discipline, the Council has reinstated the Ecclesiastical Court, which is called upon to preserve the purity of the Faith, canonical order, and the inviolable nature of the moral principles of Orthodoxy.

Let us pray that all of us may with our whole soul be filled with an understanding of the will of God, "in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that [w]e might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-10).

We address to you, dear fathers, brethren and sisters, words of joy and hope: "The God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21).

PARISH LIFE: WINTER 2008 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

A Winter 2008 Schedule of Services covering the months June, July and August is now available in church and on the parish website.

July will be a quite month with only our regular Saturday night and Sunday morning services.

August is much busier, with services for our parish feast-day of Saint Panteleimon on Friday August 8th and Saturday August 9th. God willing, we will have Vladyka Hilarion with us on the day, in his first visit to us as Metropolitan. We will have lunch

afterwards at our old home, the Narara Community Centre. We will also have our regular Saturday night and Sunday evening services, mid-week services for the Great Feast of the Transfiguration (including the blessing of fruit after Divine Liturgy), and on Sunday August 31st, our first all-English service in almost a year.

DIOCESAN LIFE: SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING JULY IN OTHER PARISHES

Apart from the services for the Royal Martyrs already mentioned, there are a number of events of significance during July at other parishes in the Sydney Deanery.

On Sunday 6 July at 6.00pm and Monday 7 July 2008 at 8.00am, Father James will be serving at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Strathfield for the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. A number of us also plan to be at the Cathedral for the patronal feast of Saints Peter and Paul on Saturday 12 July 2008.

On Sunday 13 July our neighbouring parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend will have a parish BBQ following Divine Liturgy, the Apostles' Fast having ended on the previous day. All friends of the parish are invited to attend.

On Monday 28 July 2008 the Centennial Park parish will celebrate its patronal feast of Saint Vladimir. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the parish, and the services on that day will also be the main celebration in Sydney of the 1020th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus'. Information about the services and a festive banquet afterwards can be obtained from Matushka Helen Metlenko on 9663-3341. Posters on display in the church hall also give further details.

PARISH LIFE: OUR FEAST DAY ON AUGUST 9TH

Our parish feast-day is one of the major events in the life of our parish and one that brings with it many opportunities to assist the Ladies' Auxiliary in their work. As in previous years, the Ladies' Auxiliary has organised a raffle with twelve prizes. Major prizes include a TV set, a DVD player, a beautiful Russian doll, and a basket of wine. There are 200 books of 10 tickets to be sold, with tickets \$2.00 each. We hope to be able to sell all 2000 tickets to assist our parish. All parishioners and friends of the parish are encouraged to take books of tickets to sell to family and friends. Books can be obtained from Olga Petroff.

The wine basket is customarily filled with contributions from parishioners and friends. Please bring a bottle or two to church for inclusion in the basket!

Those who are able to are also asked to assist in the setting up of the Narara Community Centre on the evening of Friday August 8th. The more who can help, the quicker and easier this task is. If you can assist, please let Olga Petroff know.

PARISH LIFE: CHARITABLE WORK

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, our parish undertakes charitable collections during the three longer Lenten periods in the church year: Great Lent (before Pascha), the Apostles' Fast (before the feast of Saints Peter and Paul on July 12), and the Nativity Fast (before Christmas). This is important in that it helps us as individuals to link our prayer and fasting during these times to almsgiving, the provision for material needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

The monies collected during Great Lent this year totalled \$1957.15 (!), and have been passed via an Australian Foundation to the Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. The monies collected during the current fast, that of the Apostles, will be directed to Camp Breakaway (<http://campbreakaway.com.au>), a charitable organisation that provides care for children and adults with disabilities.

Paul Pereboeff is the Parish Council's Charities and Fundraising Coordinator. Parishioners and friends of our parish are welcome to discuss charitable projects with either Paul or Father James.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

Metropolitan Hilarion; Ioanna; Anatoly and family; Maria; Archpriest Michael and family

The sick & suffering: Priest Simeon; our parishioner Victor (Manjetny); and also for Zinaida, Vasili, Vera, Eugenia, Olga, Margaret, Galina, Tatiana, Nun Euphrosyne

Traveling abroad: Deacon Martin, Matushka Tatiana and family; Michael and Ellen; Donat and Deborah

Expectant mothers: Anastasia, Olga, Natalia

Departed: Metropolitan Vitaly, Metropolitan Laurus, and former parishioners and benefactors Irina (Kamenev), Nun Maria, George (Kraihin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan)



4/7 Comserv Close
West Gosford NSW 2250

PO Box 3356
Erina NSW 2250

www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au
info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au

Our parish newsletter is published monthly. If you wish to receive it by post or email, please talk to Father James (0428-639156) or Katya Marcotrigiano, the parish secretary (4369-1765).