

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ABN 98 562 088 123

INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council of Saint Panteleimon Church, Gosford, is pleased to present its 2018 Annual Report.

Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia operate according to a standard constitution, the *Normal Parish By-Laws* ('the By-Laws'). The By-Laws indicate that it is the objective of each parish to assist the faithful by making available Orthodox Christian prayers, sacraments, teaching and discipline and by facilitating worthy activity. To this end, the aims of the parish encompass care for the church building and its material needs; provision for the clergy and support for the higher church authorities; work to help others in need; and Orthodox Christian educational work.

For the information of parish members, the Diocesan authorities, and the wider church community, this Annual Report summarises and reviews parish life and administration for the period from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2018, considering the achievements of our parish in relation to the objective and aims set out in the By-Laws. It also provides an overview of other activities and looks at plans and challenges in the immediate future and in the years ahead.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The By-Laws provide for a Parish Council that consists of the rector, any other assigned clergy, and a number of lay (that is, non-clergy) members chosen by parish members at the parish Annual General Meeting (AGM). The By-Laws indicate that five lay members of the Parish Council should be elected in addition to a Warden and Head Sister.

The role of the Parish Council encompasses financial management and planning; asset management; compliance with civil law and church statutes and policies; governance; and the adornment of the church. In Australia, Parish Council members are also the parish's "responsible persons" for the purposes of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and "officers" under Work Health and Safety legislation. These are important roles that carry with them responsibilities under civil law.

The 2017-18 financial year was the fifteenth full year of operation of our Parish Council. The Parish Council met six times during this year – in August, September, October and November 2017, and in March and May 2018. The May 2018 meeting was by teleconference.

During the period under review the clergymen assigned to our parish were Archpriest James Carles, the rector, and Protodeacon Martin Naef.

Father James was appointed to serve our community upon his ordination to the priesthood on 23 September 2001. He has also served as the rector of the parish

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From 2000 until her retirement in October 2015, the parish choir was directed by Olga Ivanovna Itsikson. The choir has since been directed by Matushka Marie Carles.

Sermons are given at every Sunday Divine Liturgy and on most Great Feasts and delivered only in English. The sermons generally focus on a practical theme drawn from the appointed readings from the Holy Scriptures or relate to the particular feast or commemoration.

Very few people attend our evening services. Sunday morning services, however, are generally attended by approximately 60 worshippers. On special occasions more than 100 people will be present. These include our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon, Pascha and Christmas.

Four service schedules are drawn up by the rector each year: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. During the twelve months from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 a total of 123 services were held in our church at West Gosford, three less than in the previous year.

Details of our services are as follows:

	Vespers, Matins or Vigil	Divine Liturgy	Other services	Total
Winter July-August 2017	8	8	4	20
Spring September-November 2017	9	9	6	24
Summer December-February 2017-18	13	10	7	30
Autumn March-May 2018	21	10	12	43
Winter June 2018	3	2	1	6
Total	54	39	30	123

No services were cancelled this year. All services were conducted by our parish clergy.

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Great Feasts celebrated in our parish in the course of the year under review were the Dormition of the Mother of God, the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Exaltation of the Cross, the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), the Baptism of the Lord (Theophany), the Meeting of the Lord, the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the Annunciation of the Mother of God, and the Ascension of the Lord.

The first major services in parish life during the year under review were for our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon. In 2017 it was decided that the liturgical celebration of this feast would no longer be transferred to the nearest convenient Saturday or Sunday. Instead, there would be a hierarchical service and festive lunch on the closest Sunday to 9 August, and festive services for Saint Panteleimon on the eve and day of his commemoration, 8-9 August.

Although he planned to be with us, His Grace Bishop George of Canberra was prevented by illness from presiding at Divine Liturgy on Sunday 6 August 2017. Bishop George did not visit at any other time during 2017-18.

On 13-14 August 2017 we had services for the first day of the Dormition Fast and the day of commemoration of the Procession of the Cross of the Lord and of the Holy Maccabean Martyrs. There was a lesser blessing of water and a blessing of honey brought by the faithful for this purpose. The scheduling of smaller festive services such as this reflect the rector's desire to maintain at least some indicators of the fullness of Orthodox Christian liturgical life.

On Saturday-Sunday 19-20 August 2017 we received a reliquary containing portions of the relics of twenty-four New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Orthodox Church. A moleben with an akathist to the martyrs was served before the relics on Saturday evening. The visit of this reliquary was arranged at Diocesan level in connection with the one-hundredth anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the beginning of the persecution of the Russian Orthodox Church.

On Sunday-Monday 27-28 August 2017, the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, our parish commemorated the centenary of the opening of the 1917-18 Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church. A moleben was served to the canonised participants of the Council and an Epistle of Patriarch Kyrill on the occasion was read in place of a sermon on the day of the feast. Following Divine Liturgy a memorial service was served for those participants in the Council who had not been canonised.

On Saturday 2 September 2017 a memorial service was served for Hieromonk Seraphim (Rose) of Platina, California (+1982), it being the thirty-fifth anniversary of his repose. Hieromonk Seraphim was a clergyman of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and a writer, translator and publisher whose influence in the life of the Orthodox Church - both during his life and since his repose - has been immense.

In September 2017 we began to offer special prayers each Sunday for God's mercy and forgiveness, for the defeat of all impiety, and for the strengthening of lawful and blessed marriage. These prayers were offered in the context of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey that asked Australians to consider whether or not the law should be changed to allow the marriage of same-sex couples. These prayers continued until the Survey closed early in November. We also provided links on our website to help our parishioners and friends better understand the issues at stake in the marriage debate.

On Sunday 17 September 2017, the feast of the Translation of the Relics of Saints Peter and Febronia of Murom, the heavenly patrons of family, love and faithfulness, a moleben was served at which all the couples in our parish were commemorated by name. At the moleben prayers for the strengthening of lawful and blessed marriage were also offered.

In September 2017 a moleben with an akathist was served to Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye before an icon given to our parish by Olga Popova of Ekaterinburg. Saint Symeon is a greatly revered saint of the Russian Orthodox Church whose relics were preserved during the Soviet years and which are now again enshrined in Verkhoturye, a small town 300 kilometers north of Ekaterinburg. At the same time, information about Saint Symeon was posted on our website.

In October 2017 we purchased a new copy of the *Menaion*, the set of books that contains the services for each day of the month. This *Menaion*, in Russian rather than Church Slavonic script, was acquired to make it possible for those Russian-speakers who cannot read the Church Slavonic script to better participate in the services. In June 2018 our parishioner Evgenia Druganova gave us a set of books containing all the services for the first and last weeks of Great Lent. These services, too, were in Russian script.

As 2017 was the centenary year of the Russian Revolution, prayers were offered at a memorial service on Saint Demetrius Saturday in late October, for "the repose of the departed servants of God who [during the Soviet years] innocently died, endured suffering and torture, were exiled and imprisoned and tasted bitter death". These prayers were offered in accordance with a resolution of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

On Sunday 31 December Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye was again commemorated, with the Lesser Blessing of Water served in his honour.

Across the weekend of 6-7 January 2018, we had services for Russian Orthodox Christmas. Matins and Divine Liturgy with Vespers were served on 5-6 January and All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy were served on 6-7 January. On Saturday 7 January, Christmas Day, following Divine Liturgy we served the customary thanksgiving moleben for the defeat of the French and their allies under Napoleon on that day in 1812.

We also had services on 18-19 January 2018 for the Great Feast of the Baptism of Christ, Theophany. On the day of the feast and those that followed Father James visited and blessed homes across the parish.

On Tuesday 6 February 2018, the day of commemoration of Blessed Xenia of Saint Petersburg, we had a moleben with an akathist to the saint. The moleben was served in Church Slavonic and the akathist was read in English. As Blessed Xenia is the patron saint of our parish Ladies' Auxiliary this service was followed by a light festive meal.

On the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, 15 February, we had a blessing of fruit and of candles. On this day we also offered prayers for the repose of Archbishop Paul (Pavlov) and Archpriest Nicholas Grant (both +1995), two significant figures in the life of our Diocese.

We preceded Great Lent in 2018 with services for Forgiveness Sunday, including Vespers and the rite of asking forgiveness. For the third year in a row we had a morning service on the first day of Great Lent. During the first week of Great Lent we served Great Compline on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings with the reading of the four parts of the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete.

Great Compline was also served on Thursday of the second, third, fourth and sixth weeks of Great Lent. Great Compline was not served during the fifth week of Great Lent. Instead, Matins with the reading of the Life of Saint Mary of Egypt and the complete Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete was served on the Wednesday evening of that week.

On the first four Sunday evenings of Great Lent Vespers was served with the reading of the akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ together with the appointed Gospel. By including the akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ in our Passia services we aligned our practice with that now customarily observed in Russia.

On the Second and Fourth Saturdays of Great Lent, days of commemoration of the departed, we had general memorial services. At these services many of the faithful brought koliva, sweet cakes and other foods for blessing in memory of their departed family members and friends.

In accordance with parish practice, the General Service of Anointing customarily served during Great Lent was served on the evening of the fifth Sunday. This year, 46 people were present for anointing, significantly more than in 2017.

On 31 March and 1 April, we had services for Palm Sunday, the Great Feast of the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem. Matins was served on Palm Sunday evening and again on Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week. Vespers with the bringing out of the Shroud and Matins with the Lamentations before the Tomb were served on Great and Holy Friday, and Divine Liturgy was served on Great and Holy Saturday, in 2018 also the Great Feast of the Annunciation.

This year we had an early Paschal service on Saturday evening as Father James was to be in Newcastle for the midnight service. On the Sunday of Pascha itself we had Vespers at 11.30am with a significant number of people attending the service and remaining afterwards to celebrate.

Late in April 2018 we celebrated both the tenth anniversary of Metropolitan Hilarion's service as First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Tsar Alexander II, the Tsar-Liberator.

In May, Matins with the Lesser Blessing of Water was served on the Eve of the feast of Mid-Pentecost. That same month, work commenced on the renovation of our parish centre agreed upon at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. We also had services in May for the leave-taking of Pascha and for the Great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord.

In June we observed the feast of All Saints of Ufa, a group of twentieth-century martyrs and righteous ones from the Bashkortostan region of Russia. During the services their icon and a cross containing the relics of Righteous Moses of Ufa (+1983), Righteous Zosima Ennatskaya (+1935), and Blessed Barbara Skvorchikhinskaya (+1966) - three of the most revered saints of Ufa - were set forth for veneration. The icon was a gift to our parish from the Holy Trinity Convent in Birsik, Bashkortostan, and the cross was given to our rector - a gift from the then Bishop of Neftekamsk and Birsik, Ambrose - when he visited Russia as part of a delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia in 2015.

There were six baptisms in our church during the period under review, all of which were of small children. This is far fewer than in recent years. Those baptized were William (John) Reid, Leonid Prikaznov, Boston (Alexei) Morozoff, Teagan (Ekaterina) Rochtchina, Emmelia Bolonina and Christopher Newton. The final baptism for the year under review, that of Christopher Newton in June 2018, was the one hundred and fifty-fifth baptism in our church at West Gosford.

There were no weddings and no funerals in our church this year.

Caring for the church building and its material needs

Our current parish centre was purchased in 2003 and opened for use in 2004. The cost was \$200,000, of which the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia invested \$50,000. As the parish had only \$25,000 to put towards the purchase \$125,000 was borrowed. Although the loan was for fifteen years and only due to be repaid by November 2018, this amount was repaid in full by the parish in December 2008.

In New South Wales all property belonging to the Diocese and to the parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia is held in trust for the owners by the

Russian Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust ("the Property Trust"). Accordingly, the Property Trust holds our parish property. As the purchasing arrangements suggest, the parish owns 75 per cent of the building and the Diocese owns 25 per cent.

A formal valuation of our parish centre was obtained in March 2016 from Preston Row Paterson Pty Ltd. The property was valued at \$280,000.

In February 2009 the Parish Council established a "Future Fund" to provide for the expected needs of the parish, including the eventual purchase of property for the construction of a permanent church. This fund is added to by regular contributions from parish funds. Over the twelve months under review the Future Fund increased from \$77,344.96 to \$90,359.87. Growth in the Future Fund came about by means of an \$850.00 per month parish contribution, interest on existing funds, and donations totaling over \$9,400 towards our renovation project. There was also expenditure from the Future Fund towards the renovation project.

At the November 2014 Annual General Meeting parish members endorsed an appeal to parishioners, friends and the wider community for financial assistance to purchase land for a future permanent church. By the end of the 2015-16 financial year donations in response to this appeal totaling just \$16,752.99 had been received. These funds were set aside and will not be used for any purpose other than the purchase of land for a future church. By 30 June 2018 interest earned had increased this amount to \$16,929.20.

In May 2018 we commenced a significant renovation of our parish centre. This project is discussed elsewhere in the Annual Report.

In July 2017 our parish was given a beautiful copy of the "Port Arthur" Icon of the Mother of God by Arthur and Natasha Tane. In October 2017 we were given an icon of Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow by Roger and Elena Thornhill. The icon of Saint Tikhon was blessed at the Donskoy Monastery in Moscow, the place where his relics are enshrined. In June 2018 we were given a copy of the revered Georgian icon, 'Glory of Iveria', by Alexei Kozlovski and Svetlana Bolonina.

In September 2017 we received four beautiful new silver candle stands for our church. These replaced the wooden stands that we had been using since the early days in parish life at Narara. In May 2018 we ordered two more candle stands in anticipation of the additional floor space in the church upon completion of our renovation project. At the same time we ordered six small liturgical cups for altar use. The candle stands and cups were paid for by a bequest to our parish from the late Helen Leidl (+2016).

In May 2018 we also ordered a new set of gold vestments for the altar and the church icon stands. This order was placed in view of the need to replace our original gold vestments and in anticipation of a greater number of icon stands in church upon completion of our renovation project.

During the course of the year church cleaning was undertaken by Nina Golovin. Others assisted by tidying up after the services and, from time to time, with larger cleaning tasks. General clean-up days involving parishioners and friends were held before Christmas and Pascha.

Nina Golovin also took responsibility this year for the cleaning, ironing and changing of church vestments. Matushka Marie continued to bake prosphora for each service and the five loaves blessed on Great Feasts. The flour for prosphora and these loaves has for many years been generously donated by the Kfoury family.

Undertaking Orthodox Christian educational work

Over the years it has not been possible to undertake a great deal of formal educational work in our parish. Factors influencing this have been the rector's other parish commitments in combination with his secular work, a lack of resources and suitable persons to assist with this work, diverse language needs, and the distance that most parishioners live from the parish centre. Informal educational work has nevertheless been undertaken as the need arises.

Significant emphasis is placed on learning in a liturgical context. The blessing of new candles, icons, vestments, and honey and other items – in addition to the regular blessings of fruit and Paschal foods – is incorporated into the common worship of the parish. The prayers of the Orthodox Church appointed for such blessings are theologically rich and instructive for the faithful to hear. In addition, all who wish to assist with reading, singing and serving in church are encouraged to do so, thereby becoming more familiar with the order of services and with the various books used in the Divine Services of the Orthodox Church.

In 2018 the Parish Council again provided parish families and households with a wall calendar in Russian and English that included details of feasts and fasts – together with the rules of fasting – and the readings for each day. Our 2018 wall calendar was a commemorative calendar marking the centenary of the tragic martyrdom of the Royal Passion bearers of Russia, Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II and his family.

Our parish website and Facebook page assisted with Orthodox Christian educational work by enabling us to share information about the practical aspects of the life of the parish, the Diocese, and the wider Russian Orthodox Church.

A particularly valuable online resource provided jointly by our parish and the parish of Saint Nicholas, Wallsend, since 2015 explains the legal and church requirements for marriage in parishes of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and when weddings can be held in the Russian Orthodox Church. It also gives a list of available dates for the current year and the year ahead.

In December 2017 this resource was comprehensively reviewed and updated to reflect the adoption by the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church on 2 December 2017 of the document 'On the Canonical Aspects of Church Marriage' ('О канонических аспектах церковного брака') and the commencement on 9 December 2017 of amendments to the *Australian Marriage Act 1961* (Cth).

In 2017 our website also included banners with links to articles and other resources marking three important anniversaries in 1917: the centenary of the Russian Revolution and the beginning of the persecution of the Russian Orthodox Church; the centenary of the election of Patriarch Tikhon; and tenth anniversary of the signing of the Act of Canonical Communion between the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and the Moscow Patriarchate.

In February 2018 we included detailed information on our website about the Passia, a Great Lenten service that is unique to the Russian Orthodox Church. This information, perhaps the fullest known English-language discussion of the Passia to date, included the history of the service and the different forms in which it is observed both in Russia and abroad.

In April 2018 our parish began to promote the work of Saint Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Institute (SCMOI). Information was posted prominently on the parish website and made available in church. Founded in 2017, SCMOI is the theological and higher learning institute of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. It provides undergraduate and postgraduate award courses by arrangement with the Adelaide College of Divinity and the Uniting College for Leadership and Theology.

In June 2018 our parish published an educational leaflet, 'What is prosphora?' This leaflet, written by our rector and published in collaboration with our neighbouring parish of Saint Nicholas, Wallsend, explained the symbolism and use of prosphora, the small loaves of bread offered during Divine Liturgy. The leaflet also explained the commemoration of the names of the living and the departed at Divine Liturgy. Printed copies were made available in church.

At the end of 2017 our formal association with the Saint Seraphim Community Russian School in Hornsby came to an end. This reflected both changes in the administration of the school and in the extent of parishioner involvement in school life.

Providing for the clergy and supporting the higher church authorities

The By-Laws indicate that the pastor and deacon "shall receive living accommodations and subsistence from the parish". The size of our parish is such that it is simply not possible to provide for the clergy in the manner envisioned in the By-Laws. As in most parishes of the Diocese, our clergy support themselves in secular employment, attending to their church duties as their circumstances

permit. A small regular stipend is nevertheless paid to our deacon to offset his travelling expenses from Sydney.

An honorarium is paid to hierarchs and servers visiting our parish on special occasions.

Parishes of our Diocese are obliged to support the Diocesan administration by paying a 5.5 percent levy on all parish income for the needs of the Diocesan administration and a 5 per cent levy on all parish income for the needs of the Synodal administration. All parish income includes candle sales, all collection plates, donations, membership tithes, prosphora sales, bank interest and other revenue.

Levies are payable at six-month intervals. In February levies are payable on income received in the period from July-December, and in August levies are payable on income received from January-June. In addition, a contribution to Diocesan youth work is made in August and a contribution to the Needy Parish Fund is made in February.

On 30 August 2017 we paid levies of \$2,621.77 for the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017, together with a \$500 youth contribution. On 23 February 2018 we paid levies of \$2,385.02 for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017, together with a \$500 contribution to the Needy Parish Fund.

Working to help others in need

Each year the parish is asked to take up a number of collections for organisations and causes nominated by the church authorities.

In 2017-18 \$1,275.90 was collected for charitable purposes. The collections taken up were as follows:

Mandatory collections taken up every year

Beneficiary	When taken	Amount
Synod Liturgical Music Commission	September 2017	\$141.50
ROCOR Fund for Assistance	November 2017	\$315.00
Orthodox Action	February 2018	\$245.00
Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	March 2018	\$265.00
Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, Jerusalem	April 2018	\$309.40
Total		\$1,275.90

As in previous years, collections were advertised in advance and envelopes with details of the date and purpose of each collection were distributed in church.

Apart from \$20.00 collected to assist the Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville all the amounts collected had been remitted to the Diocesan Office by 30 June 2018.

We also took up three special collections. The first was taken up on 19-20 August 2017 during the services at which the reliquary of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia was present. The purpose of this collection was to assist with the costs of transporting the reliquary from parish to parish. \$66.00 was collected, to which the Parish Council added another \$134.00.

The second special collection was taken up late in 2017. The purpose of this collection was to assist the construction of a church in Shonoktui in the Transbaikial region of Russia, a project being undertaken under the leadership of the Sydney-based Russo-Chinese Orthodox Mission. \$493.00 was raised. As at 30 June 2018 \$186.00 remained to be passed on to the Diocesan Office.

The third special collection was taken up during the Nativity Fast in December-January 2017-18 to benefit the Sunday School for Girls in Brisk, Bashkortostan. \$931.30 was collected.

This Sunday School for Girls is a project of the Holy Trinity Convent in the Diocese of Birska and Beloretsk, a vicariate of the Ufa Metropolitanate. Our rector visited the convent in October 2015 and was impressed by the work done there. At the school the girls are taught the basics and history of the Orthodox faith, the lives of saints, church singing, needlework on church items, and to have a positive view of themselves and of the world. Birska is an industrial town of just over 40,000 people on the Belaya River. It has a number of churches and monasteries that suffered greatly during the Soviet years and that are in need of support.

In November 2017 we donated \$1,500.00 to the Holy Trinity Convent to provide for the purchase of a laptop and other equipment to be used to print a school newsletter.

In December 2017 we prepared small Christmas gifts for the students. The cost of the gifts and of postage was \$921.21. This was offset by the proceeds of the parish collection for the convent and school during the Nativity Fast. We received a number of hand-crafted gifts from the Sunday School in exchange.

Other activities

Parish life

For the greater part of the period under review, our informal Ladies' Auxiliary under Nina Golovin's direction ensured that refreshments were available after Divine Liturgy on Sundays, thereby providing an opportunity for people to relax and socialise informally. When renovations of our parish centre commenced in May 2018 this practice was temporarily discontinued.

From time to time throughout the year the Ladies' Auxiliary raised funds by cooking piroshki and arranging barbecue lunches.

Our current parish website was first published in November 2013. By the end of June 2018, it had received over 93,000 visits, with just under 20,000 visits in 2017-18. The site is supported by a US-based company, Orthodox Web Solutions, and combines a blog-style home page with news of coming and recent events in the life of the parish and the Diocese with information about parish history and administration and practical aspects of baptisms, weddings, funerals and other services of need. New content is added to the website regularly.

The parish Facebook page presents photographs and less formal news items. The level of engagement with our parish on Facebook has again increased over the year under review, raising the profile of the parish and assisting in the work of Orthodox Christian education.

In the early years of parish life our parish newsletter, generally published every month and distributed in church and by post, was the most significant means of communication with our parishioners and friends. As our website and Facebook page have become a more important source of information the role of the newsletter has diminished. Only two issues were published in 2017-18, one in July 2017 and another in December 2017.

In October 2017 we again had our customary October Long Weekend gathering at Heazlett Park in Avoca Beach.

During the year under review both Father James Carles and Matushka Marie Carles undertook accredited training in keeping children and vulnerable people safe. This training was provided by Childsafe. Father James also undertook training in governance with a focus on membership of not-for-profit boards. This training was provided by Community Compass.

Diocesan life

Our small parish engaged in the life of the Diocese to the extent possible given the distance of our parish centre from Sydney and the other parishes.

As a result of secular work commitments, it was not possible for either Father James or Father Martin to participate in the Great Lenten Pastoral Conference in March 2018. Secular work and pastoral commitments in our parish and in Newcastle have made it difficult for Father James to have any significant involvement in Diocesan activities during 2017-18.

We nevertheless did all that we could to maintain our connection to the life of the Diocese and the wider Russian Orthodox Church. The Diocesan journal 'Word of the Church' was made available in church and promoted. An Epistle from Patriarch Kyrill was read aloud on the occasion of the Centenary of the commencement of

the 1917-18 Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church. Epistles from Metropolitan Hilarion were read aloud in Russian and English at Christmas and on at Pascha. The departed and ever-memorable First Hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, the departed Ruling Bishops of our Diocese, and other notable church figures were commemorated in prayer. Prayers of thanksgiving were offered for the unity of the Russian Orthodox Church and for the deliverance of the Ukrainian land and people from civil strife. Collections were taken up to assist the charitable causes nominated by the Diocesan authorities.

In November 2017 we donated US\$250.00 (A\$343.81) to assist the work of ROCOR Studies, a project based at the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY, and focused on the study of the history and path of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

Plans and challenges

Parish life

We have no plans at this point for significant change in parish life. Given our circumstances, the existing parish model is a successful one. People of different backgrounds are made welcome, there are ample opportunities to participate in parish life, and the needs of the faithful are attended to as they arise. Father James has in the past indicated that significant parish growth would require weekly services and a strongly bilingual rector with the capacity to work at least part-time on pastoral care and religious education. Our parish simply does not have the resources for that at this stage.

The main priorities in parish life remain the scheduled services, cleanliness and order in the church, and charitable activity.

Improvements to the West Gosford parish centre

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting it was agreed that a second floor would be constructed above the rear of the church and the hall to accommodate a choir loft, and office, a meeting room, and storage space.

In addition, it was agreed that the altar area would be enlarged, a new iconostasis would be installed, and additional decorative work would be undertaken in church.

These decisions were based on the understanding that the parish centre in West Gosford would be our place of worship for many years to come.

Work on the first stage of this plan, the second floor, commenced in May 2018 and was substantially completed by early August 2018. Some work remains to be done on the meeting room and the fit out of the storeroom.

This project proved to be an immensely positive activity in the life of our small parish. Although Rick Golovin took the lead and managed the project as a whole, a wide range of people were engaged in the construction process and in the associated work. All our parishioners and friends were edified and encouraged by the enlarged and transformed space.

During the year ahead the first stage will be completed and work will be undertaken to redistribute the icons in church to better fill the reshaped wall space. Attention will then be given to the second stage of the project, the enlargement of the altar area and the installation of a new iconostasis.

November 2018

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD**

Scope

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of St Panteleimon Orthodox Community of Gosford for the year ended 30 June 2018. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of and the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. The procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding to the organizations financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of St Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Community of Gosford presents a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2018 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2018 in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Evan Nicholas FIPA, A Fin
PO Box 6330
West Gosford NSW 2250
Tel: (02) 4324 7819
ABN: 69 887 100 989
16 August 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report. The committee has determined that the organization is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASB's).

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Note 2: Income Tax

The organisation is exempt from Income Tax.

Note 3: Fixed Assets

Plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the organisation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Depreciation rates have been applied on a straight-line basis at rates of 20% per annum. Items, which cost less than \$400.00, are fully depreciated in the year of acquisition.

Some fixed assets have been classified as non-depreciable and no depreciation is calculated on such items. Building works completed are paid for by the Parish, while ownership of the premises is held by a church controlled property trust.

Note 4: Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues and expenses are recognised inclusive of the amount of GST. In these circumstances any GST is recognised and paid to/recovered from the Australian Taxation Office by the Church Diocese. The net amount is subsequently charged or remitted to the Parish Council.

Note 5: Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when the organisation is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Note 6: Donations and grants

Donations and grants are recognised as revenue when the organisation gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount/s can be measured reliably.

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2017	\$ 118,249.89	\$ 102,897.12
Add:		
Church Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 270.39	\$ 12,068.42
Bookstore Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 931.08	\$ 1,111.68
Ladies Auxiliary Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 5,455.77	\$ 1,256.00
Write back of depreciation charge from 2016 following re-classification of an asset as non-depreciable asset		\$ 916.67
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2018	\$ 124,907.13	\$ 118,249.89

The above Funds are represented by:

CURRENT ASSETS

Westpac Banking Corporation		
Working Account No. 032-596 14-0923	\$ 2,587.10	\$ 2,158.74
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 28-9049	\$ 16,929.20	\$ 16,752.99
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 33-4604	\$ 22,205.67	\$ 10,591.97
Bookstore Account No. 032-523 31-7943	\$ 1,952.50	\$ 203.27
Ladies Auxiliary Account No. 032-527 15-5689	\$ 11,717.67	\$ 5,252.81
Cash Reserve Account No. 032-527 24-1982	\$ 10,958.09	\$ 10,900.40
Term Deposit No. 032-523 33-4612	\$ 51,225.00	\$ 50,000.00
Cash on Hand - Church	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Cash on Hand - Bookstore	\$ 510.95	\$ 1,329.10
Cash on Hand - Ladies Auxiliary	\$ -	\$ 751.75
Withholding Tax Paid	\$ 139.00	\$ 139.00
Bond	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 118,535.18	\$ 98,390.03

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Plant & Equipment at Cost	\$ 27,173.85	\$ 21,595.90
Add: Purchases	\$ 2,852.08	\$ 5,577.95
	\$ 30,025.93	\$ 27,173.85
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 6,936.58	\$ 4,427.06
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 23,089.35	\$ 22,746.79

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 141,624.53	\$ 121,136.82
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 13,307.06	
Accrued Diocese Levies Payable	\$ 3,204.34	\$ 2,496.93
Other Collections Payable	\$ 206.00	
Serbian Collection Payable		\$ 390.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 16,717.40	\$ 2,886.93

NET ASSETS

\$ 124,907.13	\$ 118,249.89
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SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	2018	2017
INCOME		
First Plate	\$ 9,673.90	\$ 10,006.90
Second Plate	\$ 4,252.25	\$ 5,533.45
Candles	\$ 15,179.05	\$ 14,557.15
Prospora	\$ 2,383.00	\$ 2,204.00
Tithes	\$ 480.00	\$ 570.00
Bank Interest	\$ 1,552.70	\$ 1,501.93
Donations - Money Box	\$ 5,657.90	\$ 9,517.50
Donations - Other	\$ 3,470.00	\$ 6,100.00
Donations - Hall Renovations	\$ 8,480.85	
Fundraising	\$ 942.05	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 100.00	\$ 258.00
GST Refund	\$ 783.00	\$ 314.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 52,954.70	\$ 50,562.93
EXPENSES		
Clergy	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,050.00
Bank Charges	\$ 202.90	
Utilities	\$ 2,773.74	\$ 3,810.69
Donations	\$ 1,967.72	\$ 3,421.00
Candles	\$ 4,110.00	\$ 6,078.97
Strata Levies	\$ 2,377.68	\$ 3,170.21
Insurance	\$ 2,514.47	\$ 2,381.91
Admin & Stationery	\$ 3,613.66	\$ 3,027.38
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 981.06	\$ 1,090.70
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 5,069.64	\$ 6,111.13
Diocesan & Synodal Levies	\$ 7,214.20	\$ 6,100.34
Depreciation	\$ 2,252.18	\$ 2,252.18
Building Works	\$ 18,307.06	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 52,684.31	\$ 38,494.51
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		
TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 270.39	\$ 12,068.42

**SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
BOOKSTORE ACCOUNT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	2018	2017
INCOME		
Sales	\$ 929.80	\$ 1,920.10
Donation		\$ 498.00
Bank Interest	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.58
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 931.08	\$ 2,419.68
EXPENSES		
Purchases		\$ 810.00
Framing		\$ 498.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ 1,308.00
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 931.08	\$ 1,111.68

**SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
LADIES AUXILIARY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	2018	2017
INCOME		
Bank Interest	\$ 9.51	\$ 79.61
Donations	\$ 1,539.05	\$ 925.00
Functions	\$ 3,495.75	\$ 2,165.40
Fundraising	\$ 3,770.00	\$ 1,767.00
Sundry Income	\$ 85.00	\$ 87.08
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,899.31	\$ 5,024.09
EXPENSES		
Advertising	\$ 60.00	
Decorations	\$ 25.90	\$ 900.00
Depreciation	\$ 257.34	\$ 353.69
Functions	\$ 2,393.45	\$ 1,602.80
Fundraising	\$ 178.00	\$ 344.90
Printing & Stationery	\$ 220.00	\$ -
Rent	\$ 300.00	\$ 530.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 8.85	\$ 36.70
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 3,443.54	\$ 3,768.09
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 5,455.77	\$ 1,256.00

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	2018	2017
Total of all bank accounts as at 1 July 2017	\$ 95,860.18	\$ 85,495.30
<i>Cash was generated from</i>		
Surplus for year - Church operations	\$ 270.39	\$ 12,068.42
Surplus for year - Bookstore operations	\$ 931.08	\$ 1,111.68
Surplus for year - Ladies Auxiliary operations	\$ 5,455.77	\$ 1,256.00
Depreciation provided during the year	\$ 2,509.52	\$ 2,605.87
Decrease in cash on hand	\$ 1,569.90	
Increase in current liabilities	\$ 13,830.47	\$ 426.06
<i>Cash was applied to</i>		
Acquisition of plant and equipment	\$ (2,852.08)	\$ (5,577.95)
Increase in cash on hand		\$ (1,525.20)
Total of all bank accounts as at 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 117,575.23</u>	<u>\$ 95,860.18</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-596 14-0923

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2017	\$ 2,158.74
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 51,571.30</u>
	\$ 53,730.04
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 51,142.94</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 2,587.10</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2018	\$ 2,587.10
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 2,587.10
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 2,587.10</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 28-9049

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2017	\$ 16,752.99
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 176.21</u>
	\$ 16,929.20
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ -</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 16,929.20</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2018	\$ 16,929.20
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 16,929.20
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 16,929.20</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 33-4604

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2017	\$ 10,591.97
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 22,077.70</u>
	\$ 32,669.67
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 10,464.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 22,205.67</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2018	\$ 22,205.67
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 22,205.67
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 22,205.67</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 31-7943

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2017	\$ 203.27
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 1,749.23</u>
	\$ 1,952.50
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ -</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 1,952.50</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2018	\$ 1,952.50
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 1,952.50
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 1,952.50</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-527 15-5689

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2017	\$ 5,252.81
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 6,684.86</u>
	\$ 11,937.67
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 220.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 11,717.67</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2018	\$ 11,717.67
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 11,717.67
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 11,717.67</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-527 24-1982

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2017	\$ 10,900.40
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 57.69</u>
	\$ 10,958.09
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ -</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 10,958.09</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2018	\$ 10,958.09
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 10,958.09
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2018	<u>\$ 10,958.09</u>

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation