2020 ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020



ABN 98 562 088 123

INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council of Saint Panteleimon Church, Gosford, is pleased to present its 2020 Annual Report.

Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR) 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 during the period from 1 July 2019 until 30 June 2020, considering the activity of our parish in relation to the objectives and aims set out in the By-Laws.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The By-Laws provide for a Parish Council that consists of the rector, any other assigned clergy, and a number of 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.

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 of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend since 16 December 2002. Father Martin was appointed to our parish upon his ordination to the diaconate on 26 January 2008 and – apart from a period when he and his family lived abroad from 2012-14 – has served with us since.

The lay members of the Parish Council elected at the AGM convened on 6 October 2019 were Vladimir ("Rick") Golovin, Anna Kourbatov, Anne Nielsen, Nina Golovin, Alla Karmadonoff, and Kate Marcotrigiano. Rick has served continuously on the

Parish Council since it was established late in 2003.

As our parish has not had a warden since 2004 the duties of the warden are shared between the members of the Parish Council, the rector included. In our parish a female member of the Parish Council is designated Head Sister so as to coordinate the activity of the Ladies' Auxiliary. For the past four years Nina Golovin has filled this role.

The Parish Council met nine times during this year – in July, September, November, and December 2019; and in February, March, April, May and June 2020. The July, September and December 2019 meetings and the February 2020 meeting were in person; the remainder of the meetings were by teleconference.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Making available Orthodox Christian prayers and sacraments

In the life of our small parish the main focus is the divine services. For many years we have had Divine Liturgy on the first and third Sundays of each month. Generally, All-night Vigil is served on the preceding Saturday evening. All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy are also served on most Great Feasts. On the second and fourth Sundays of each month and on Great Feasts when there are no services in our parish our rector serves in Wallsend. On the fifth Sunday of the month, when such occurs, he now serves on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

In addition to these regular weekend services we have a pattern of services during Great Lent. Vespers with the Passia is served on the evening of the first four Sundays of Great Lent and Great Compline is served each Wednesday evening. Akathists to Saint Panteleimon were served each month until August 2019 when they were discontinued.

During the year under review our choir conductor was Matushka Marie Carles.

We use both Church Slavonic and English in the divine services. At evening services both languages are used, according to the capabilities and needs of those present. At Divine Liturgy the choir generally sings in Church Slavonic and the litanies and readings are in both Church Slavonic and English. During 2020 we began the practice of singing some parts of weekday Divine Liturgies in English.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Sunday morning services were usually attended by around 60 people, with more present on significant occasions. Our church was closed for public services following Vespers and Passia on Sunday 22 March 2020, the Third Sunday in Great Lent, and did not reopen until the weekend of 16-17 May 2020. When services resumed, attendance was limited to ten worshippers in addition to essential workers. On 1 June 2020 the limit increased to a total of 30 per service and has remained at that level since.

Sermons are given on most Sundays and delivered only in English. At times a

pastoral epistle from Metropolitan Hilarion (Kapral), First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, is read in place of a sermon.

Four service schedules are drawn up by the rector each year: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

During the year under review a total of 111 services were held. Details are as follows:

2019-20	Vespers, Matins or Vigil	Divine Liturgy	Other services	Total
Winter 2019	8	8	4	20
July-August				
Spring 2019	7	7	1	15
September-November				
Summer 2019-20	9	9	1	19
December-February				
Autumn 2020	26	16	9	51
March-May				
Winter 2020	2	2	2	6
June				
Total	52	42	17	111

The services other than Vespers, Matins, Vigil or Divine Liturgy included akathists, Great Compline, blessings of water, and general memorial services.

More services than originally scheduled were held during the period of strict COVID-19 restrictions in New South Wales during March, April and May. This was because our rector was unable to serve in Wallsend. All these additional services were held behind closed doors and were not open to the public.

Changes to his secular work commitments since mid-2019 have, in general, prevented our rector from serving in our parish other than on scheduled weekends and Great Feasts.

The year in review

On 11-12 July our clergy and a number of our parishioners participated in services for the patronal feast of Saints Peter and Paul Diocesan Cathedral.

On Sunday 4 August Bishop George visited our parish in anticipation of our parish feast-day of Saint Panteleimon. The Russian Orthodox Male Choir of Australia sang at Divine Liturgy in place of our parish choir. Joining Vladyka and our parish clergy was Archpriest Quentin de Castelbajac, rector of the parish of Saint John the Russian in Lyon, France. The lesser blessing of water was served before Divine Liturgy and a moleben to Saint Panteleimon was served afterwards. Following the service Bishop George presented the prestigious Diocesan Cross to Rick and Nina Golovin in recognition of their exemplary service to our parish. After the services a

festive lunch was held at the East Gosford Progress Hall.

On 8-9 August we had services in honour of the heavenly protector of our parish, the Great-Martyr Panteleimon. Joining our parish clergy for Divine Liturgy on the day of the feast was Priest Dionysios Halim, the rector of the Holy Dormition Church in Wollongong, NSW.

On 13-14 August we had services for the feast of the Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and in honour of the Holy Maccabean Martyrs. At the end of Divine Liturgy on 14 August there was a blessing of honey. As in previous years, the honey had been donated by friends of the parish and was distributed as a blessing to our parishioners and friends.

On 18-19 August we had services for the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. On the day of the feast we were joined by friends from the Wallsend parish and there was a blessing of grapes, apples and other fruit.

On 14-15 September we had services in honour of Saints Peter and Fevronia of Murom, exemplars of love, faithfulness and family life. At the end of Divine Liturgy on 15 September there was a moleben to the saints at which all the married couples in our parish were commemorated by name. Immediately after the moleben the parish rector read the prayers of blessing over a new seven-branched lamp stand for our altar, three new candle stands for our church, a beautiful copy of the "Khabarovsk" Icon of the Mother of God, a gift from Evgenia Druganova and her family, and an icon of the Apostle Paul, a gift from the Douriaguine family in memory of Reader Paul Douriaguine.

On 20-21 September we had services for the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, and on 26-27 September we had services for the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord.

On Saturday 2 November, Saint Demetrius Saturday, a day of commemoration of the departed, there was a general panikhida prior to the evening service. At the evening service and at Divine Liturgy the following day were joined by Protodeacon German Polorotov of Saint Xenia Russian Orthodox Church, Tweed Heads. Following Divine Liturgy, new blue vestments for the altar, the table of oblation, the church, and our altar servers, were blessed. A collection was then taken up for the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, raising \$233.00.

On 3-4 December we had services for the Great Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. In a departure from our usual practice, the morning service commenced at 8.00am rather than 9.00am. This starting time has since been adopted for the majority of weekday morning services.

On Sunday 15 December a new gold protodeacon's orarion and cuffs were blessed, and after the dismissal these were presented to our parish protodeacon, Father Martin Naef. Upon presenting them to Father Martin our parish rector

congratulated him on his recent name-day (Saint Martin of Tours, 24 November) and commended him on his faithful service to the parish over the past eleven years.

With Bishop George's blessing, on Sunday 5 January a collection was commenced for the relief of those adversely affected by the 2019-20 bushfire emergency.

In January 2020 we had services over three days to prepare for and celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Matins for the Eve of the Nativity and in honour of the Martyr Eugenia was served on the evening of Sunday 5 January. On the morning of Monday 6 January Vespers with the eight prophetic readings from the Old Testament was served together with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, after which we decorated our small church for the main festive services. On Monday evening we had All-night Vigil, and on Tuesday morning Divine Liturgy was served. In place of a sermon at Divine Liturgy, our parish rector read aloud the Nativity Epistle of Metropolitan Hilarion. Following the service on Tuesday many gathered in the church hall for a festive meal.

On the weekend of 18-19 January we had services for the Great Feast of Theophany, the commemoration of the Baptism of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Great Blessing of Water was served following Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. As in previous years, we were joined for the Theophany services by many friends from the Sydney parishes spending their summer holidays on the Central Coast

At the end of Divine Liturgy on Sunday 2 February the prayers of blessing were read over a new icon of the Holy Fathers of the 1917-18 Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church, a set of new chalice covers, and a new server's sticharion. The icon was given to our parish by the Nagikh-Day family and the other items were made for us by the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus, from a beautiful piece of gold church brocade given to our parish many years ago.

At the December 2019 session of the Synod of Bishops of the ROCOR, consideration was given to special litanies and other prayerful supplications to mark this year's centenary of ROCOR's foundation. It was agreed that at the dismissal of every Divine Liturgy during 2020 the prayers of a number of saints important to ROCOR would be invoked. In addition, instructions were given for the commemoration at all memorial services of their Beatitudes the ever-memorable Metropolitans Anthony and Anastassy; the Metropolitans Philaret, Vitaly and Laurus; all those who for Christ and the Russian Church laboured in diverse lands, and for our righteous ancestors, and for their peaceful repose and blessed memory. We began these commemorations during February and March.

In February 2020 the Parish Council endorsed a contract with Moscow-based master iconographer Maria Burganova-Yaltanskaya for the design of a new iconostasis for our church.

On 14-15 February we had services for the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord.

In accordance with the custom of ROCOR's Sydney parishes there was a blessing of fruit at the end of Divine Liturgy on 15 February. As it was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the repose of the ever-memorable Archpriest Nicholas Grant - active in the life of the Diocese as a layman and clergyman for 45 years - and Archbishop Paul (Pavlov) - Ruling Bishop of our Diocese from 1980 until 1992 – a memorial litia was served. On 15 February we also welcomed Sister Maria from the Convent of Saint Elisabeth.

On Sunday 16 February the prayers of blessing were read over new priestly vestments, a beautiful epitrachelion and cuffs, the work of the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus, and a collection was taken up in support of Orthodox Action, a Diocesan charitable organisation, raising \$479.00. Following Divine Liturgy many gathered in the parish hall to enjoy pancakes freshly prepared by the parish Ladies' Auxiliary.

On the weekend of 29 February-1 March we had services for Forgiveness Sunday. In accordance with the practice of many ROCOR parishes, Vespers with the rite of asking forgiveness was served immediately after Divine Liturgy. Early that afternoon a group of our parishioners gathered at Point Clare Cemetery for a memorial service to mark the first anniversary of the death of Reader Paul Douriaguine.

We commenced Great Lent on the evening of Monday 2 March with Great Compline and the reading of the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete. In accordance with Orthodox custom, Great Compline with further portions of the Great Canon was served on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. In addition, on the evening of Sunday 8 March we had Vespers with the First Passia.

In view of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, the Prayer in time of Devastating Epidemic began to be read at Divine Liturgy on Sunday 15 March. On that day a collection was taken up to benefit the Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York, raising \$190.00. As social distancing was recommended by the civil authorities, the usual refreshments were not offered after the Sunday service. That evening, we had Vespers with the Second Passia.

On Wednesday evening of the second and third weeks of Great Lent, Great Compline was served. Vespers with the Third Passia was served in the evening on the Third Sunday. This was our last service before strict Public Health Orders came into effect, preventing public services.

On the weekend of 28-29 March we had closed-door services for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. No services had been scheduled for this weekend as our rector had been due to make a pastoral visit to the Mid North Coast, but in view of the COVID-19 pandemic his visit was postponed. On Sunday the commemoration books of all our parishioners were read. Following Divine Liturgy a moleben to Saint Panteleimon was served at which our parishioners and their families were again commemorated. On Sunday evening Vespers with the Fourth Passia was served, also behind closed doors.

On the weekend of 4-5 April we had closed-door services for the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, On Sunday at Divine Liturgy the commemoration books of all the parishioners of Saint Nicholas, Wallsend, were read. Following Divine Liturgy a moleben to Saint Nicholas was served at which the Wallsend parishioners and their families were again commemorated. On Sunday evening there was a small service of General Anointing, also behind closed doors.

At each Divine Liturgy until churches were again open for public services, the practice of alternately commemorating our parishioners and Wallsend parishioners continued.

We had closed-door services for the Great Feast of the Annunciation on 6-7 April, for Lazarus Saturday on 10-11 April, and for Palm Sunday on 11-12 April.

Despite the restrictions on social activity and church life we were able to have several traditional services for Orthodox Holy Week and Pascha. Matins with the singing of "Behold, the Bridegroom comes" ("Се, Жених грядет") and the exapostilarion "Thy Bridal chamber" ("Чертог твой") was served in the evening on Sunday 12 April, Monday 13 April, and Tuesday 14 April. Matins and Divine Liturgy for Great and Holy Thursday were served on 15-16 April. Vespers with the bringing out of the Shroud of Christ was served in the afternoon on Friday 17 April and Matins with Lamentations before the Tomb of Christ was served later that evening. On the morning of Saturday 18 April, Great and Holy Saturday, Vespers with Divine Liturgy was served. On Saturday evening Midnight Office and a small procession were followed by Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy. The Paschal Hours and Vespers were served on the morning of Sunday 19 April. At each of these services a small number of experienced readers, singers and servers were present to ensure the orderly conduct of the services. At Divine Liturgy on Thursday the commemoration books of the Wallsend parish were read, and at Divine Liturgy on Saturday our parish commemoration books were read

On the weekend of 25-26 April, we had closed-door services for Thomas Sunday. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday a general pannikhida was served in anticipation of Radonitsa (the "Day of Rejoicing"), a commemoration of the departed that in the Russian Orthodox tradition is customarily observed on the second Tuesday after Pascha. At this pannikhida the names of the departed in all the commemoration books of our parish and the Wallsend parish were read.

We had closed-door services on the Third and Fourth Sundays of Pascha. On the weekend of 16-17 May, the Fifth Sunday of Pascha, we were able to have a small number of parishioners in church in addition to clergy, servers, singers and helpers. Many of those present took the opportunity to confess and receive Holy Communion. At the end of Divine Liturgy, prayers of thanksgiving were offered for the Reestablishment of Canonical Communion in the Russian Orthodox Church, accomplished in Moscow on 17 May 2007 in the signing of the Act of Canonical Communion by the wise and ever-memorable archpastors Patriarch Alexey II and Metropolitan Laurus (Skurla).

On the weekend of 6-7 June we had services for Trinity Sunday, the Great Feast of Pentecost. Prior to the services the church was beautifully decorated with green branches symbolising the new life that we have in the Holy Spirit. On Sunday morning Divine Liturgy was preceded by the Lesser Blessing of Water and followed – in accordance with the custom of the Russian Orthodox Church – by Vespers with the kneeling prayers. Attendance was restricted by public health regulations to a total of thirty people, a limit that has remained in place since.

On the weekend of 20-21 June we had services in honour of All Saints of Russia. At Divine Liturgy, the Prayer for the Prosperity of the Russian Orthodox Church was offered and the Archpastoral Epistle of Metropolitan Hilarion to the Clergy and Flock of the Dioceses of Eastern American and Australia & New Zealand was read in place of a sermon.

There were four baptisms in our church during the period under review, three of which were of small children and one of which was an adult. The children baptized were Dominic (Michael) Sytin, Natalia Karonin, and Elliana (Elena) Sutula. The adult baptised was Martin Westcott.

There were no funerals in our church during the period under review.

In June 2019 our long-serving former Head Sister, Olga Petroff, reposed following a long illness. Her funeral was served at the Diocesan Cathedral in Strathfield. Our parish clergy served at her funeral together with the cathedral dean. Olga's service to our parish was immense. May God grant her rest with the saints!

Caring for the church building and its material needs

During the course of the year, Nina Golovin again took responsibility for the cleanliness of the church and for the cleaning, ironing and changing of church vestments. Others assisted by tidying up immediately after the services. A general clean-up day involving parishioners and friends was held before Christmas.

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

Our present circumstances are such that formal educational work is not possible in our parish. Our rector has full-time secular work in addition to responsibility for the Wallsend parish.

As a result, informal educational work has been undertaken as the need arises and significant emphasis has been placed on learning in a liturgical context. The blessing of new candles, icons, vestments, and honey and other items 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 2020 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 2020 wall calendar – designed by Wallsend Parish Council member Olga Bogacheva and published jointly with the Wallsend parish – was a commemorative calendar marking the centenary of the establishment of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

Through our parish website and Facebook page we have shared information about the life of the parish, the Diocese, and the wider Russian Orthodox Church. New information is added to the website regularly.

Providing for the clergy and supporting the higher church authorities

The Guidelines for Clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia provide a comprehensive outline of the role of the parish priest. He is to serve every Sunday and feast-day and during Great Lent. He is to supervise the educational, charitable, administrative and economic activity of the parish. He is to take care for the adornment of the church, the condition of the sacred vessels, and the activity of the choir. He is to supervise the assigned clergy of various ranks and to ensure the proper service of baptisms, weddings and funerals. In addition, he is often called upon to counsel parishioners in times of need and to represent their interests before the civil authorities.

To make this service possible, the By-Laws indicate that the pastor and deacon "shall receive living accommodations and subsistence from the parish". It is not possible for our small community to provide for the clergy in the manner envisioned in the By-Laws. Our rector therefore supports himself in full-time secular employment, attending to church duties as his circumstances permit. This places significant limits on what is possible in parish life.

Our parish does pay a small allowance to our deacon to offset his travelling expenses from Sydney. In addition, an honorarium was paid to Bishop George when he visited our parish, and also to the servers who accompanied and assisted him.

Parishes of our Diocese are also obliged to support both the Diocesan and Synodal administrations. Up until 2019 this involved 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 included candle sales, all collection plates, donations, membership tithes, prosphora sales, bank interest and other revenue.

Under this system, levies were payable at six-month intervals. In February levies were payable on income received in the period from July-December, and in August

levies were payable on income received from January-June. In addition, a contribution to Diocesan youth work was to be made in August and a contribution to the Needy Parish Fund was to be made in February.

On 30 August 2019 we paid levies of \$3423.28 for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019, together with a \$500.00 youth contribution. This was in accordance with the old levy system. No levy payments were required for the first half of the 2019-2020 financial year due to introduction of the new levy payments rules. Recognising that the Diocese would be in need of financial assistance and that we were not impacted by COVID-19 to the same extent as parishes that has wages to pay, our Parish Council decided not to accept the 50 per cent discount on 2020 levies. On 5 March 2020 and 30 April 2020 we paid levies totalling \$3,830 for the period from 1 January to 31 December2020. This was \$2,000 for the Diocese, \$1,500 for the Synod, and \$330 for Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Institute.

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 2019-20 \$922.00 was collected for these organisations and causes.

Mandatory collections taken up every year

Beneficiary	When taken	Amount
ROCOR Fund for Assistance	November 2019	\$233.00
Orthodox Action	February 2020	\$499.00
Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	March 2020	\$190.00
Total		\$922.00

The mandatory collection for the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission was not taken up in 2020 as we did not have services on Palm Sunday or during Holy Week.

The collections that we did take up were advertised in advance and envelopes with details of the date and purpose of each collection were distributed in church.

All the amounts collected had been remitted to the Diocesan Office by 30 June 2020.

At the request of Bishop George, in January 2020 we made a donation of \$500.00 to assist the widowed Matushka Helen Slade, whose home was badly damaged by fire on the anniversary of the repose of her husband, Priest Seraphim Slade (+2018).

Other charitable activities

In August 2019 the Russian Orthodox Male Choir of Australia sang at the hierarchical Divine Liturgy served in anticipation of our parish feast-day. As a

token of our appreciation, our parish made a donation of \$1,000, offset in part by a collection on the day, to assist with travel to New York in December 2019 for a series of concerts.

With Bishop George's blessing, two parish collections were taken up in 2020. The first of these, taken up at services on 5,6 and 7 January 2020, was for the relief of those adversely affected by the 2019-20 bushfire emergency. On 9 January 2020 the parish was able to donate \$2,055 to the Australian Red Cross to assist with bushfire relief.

The second collection, taken up during Great Lent, was in support of Coast Shelter, a local organization assisting the homeless. This was one of our customary "money-box" collections, with parishioners taking home a tin money-box within which to put aside money during Great Lent. The funds collected allowed the parish to donate \$1,200 to Coast Shelter.

Other activities

Improvements to the parish centre

In May 2018 we commenced the construction of a second floor to accommodate a choir loft, office, meeting room and storage space. This project was completed by the end of 2019 and has significantly enlarged and improved our parish centre.

In February 2020 we commissioned the design of a new iconostasis with the idea of both beautifying our present church and providing for a future permanent church. As it was planned to pay for this project with funds bequeathed to us by our late choir director, Olga Itsikson, the iconostasis was to incorporate saints of significance in her family. The design was completed in August 2020 and an estimate for construction was received in September 2020. At the date of publication of this report, a decision to proceed with the project had yet to be made.

Parish life

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Ladies' Auxiliary ensured that refreshments were available after Divine Liturgy on Sundays, thereby providing an opportunity for people to relax and socialise informally. These arrangements ceased with the commencement of COVID-19 restrictions and are not likely to resume before 2021.

From time to time throughout the year the Ladies' Auxiliary raised funds by cooking piroshki and preparing special lunches. Blini were prepared and served just before Great Lent, and our parish feast-day was catered for. The funds raised by the Ladies' Auxiliary made it possible for us to purchase another set of church vestments during the year under review.

Our current parish website was developed late in 2013. 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 pages about parish history and administration and the practical aspects of baptisms, weddings, funerals and other services of need. New content is developed by the parish rector.

Over the years our website has become an important source of information to the wider church community. During 2019 it received 24,982 visits, 60 per cent of which were unique.

The parish also has a Facebook page that presents photographs and less formal news items.

In October 2019 we again had our customary October Long Weekend gathering at Heazlett Park in Avoca Beach.

Diocesan life

Engagement in the life of the Diocese is difficult given the distance of our parish centre from Sydney and the other parishes, and the fact that our rector has full-time secular employment. COVID-19 restrictions further limited engagement during 2020.

In November 2019 our clergy, together with parish delegates Rick Golovin, Anna Kourbatov, and Nina Golovin, participated in the work of the Nineteenth Diocesan Assembly of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and the associated divine services. The Assembly was held on the grounds of Saints Peter and Paul Diocesan Cathedral in Strathfield, NSW. Over two days the Assembly heard reports and considered proposals concerning the life and administration of the Diocese and its various parishes, missions, monasteries and organisations. Consideration was also given to Diocesan observance of two significant anniversaries in 2020: the two hundredth anniversary of the first Russian Orthodox services in Australia, and the centenary of the foundation of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. A Diocesan Council was elected to assist His Grace Bishop George of Canberra administer the Diocese over the coming three years. On the morning of Sunday 17 November, the gathering of clergy and delegates from across Australia and New Zealand culminated in Divine Liturgy at which His Eminence Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada presided together During the Divine Liturgy a number of clergymen with Bishop George. received awards for their service to the Holy Orthodox Church.

The Diocesan journal *Word of the Church* was made available in church and promoted on our website and Facebook page. Prayers were offered for Orthodox unity 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.

COVID-19 response

The spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 and the public health measures implemented to manage it have had a profound impact on social interaction around the world. The Orthodox Church has not been exempt from this. Our parish has taken the public health risk seriously and has strictly complied with the directives of the relevant civil authorities in this country including limits on the number of people present at services and registration of attendance.

We have also introduced sanitary measures including the provision of hand sanitiser at the entry to the church; discouraging people from kissing the Holy Gospel, the icons, the chalice, the Cross, and the hand of the priest; cleaning icons regularly with methylated spirits; anointing the faithful with disposable cotton swabs rather than a single brush; the provision of disposable napkins for use when receiving Holy Communion; the provision of disposable cups from which to receive the warm water and wine ("zapivka") after Holy Communion; and the cancellation of our usual "cup of tea" after services. In addition, we have marked places on the floor in church to help worshippers maintain appropriate distance from one another and have brought to the attention of those in attendance the recommendation of the NSW Department of Health that face masks be worn in places of religious worship.

A *Parish life and COVID-19* page added to our website in March 2020 presented statements and guidance from the church authorities, public health information, a selection of prayers, links to streamed liturgical services from other parishes, and later our parish COVID-19 Safety Plan. In July 2020 we registered as a COVID-safe place of worship.

From 1 June 2020 New South Wales law limited the number of people who could be in our church for services to 30. This is because the total area of our parish centre and choir loft is approximately 130 squares metres, and four square metres per person was required for social distancing to be maintained.

To comply with these restrictions our servers and helpers were divided into two teams of approximately eight people and our parishioners and regular worshippers were divided into six teams of approximately twenty people. Helpers and servers were able to be in church on one Sunday morning every four weeks, and those assigned to one of the six teams were generally able to be in church on one Sunday morning every twelve weeks.

These arrangements were extremely limiting and most of our parishioners had much less opportunity to be in church than they would like. In addition, those who were in church and who had customarily sung in the choir were not able to do so, the number of places in the choir being limited to four.

Matushka Marie managed our attendance arrangements. Early in the week before each Sunday service, she contacted the members of the team that was scheduled to attend. Those invited were asked to confirm their attendance. To the extent

possible, any vacancies that arose were allocated to others who had expressed an interest in attending that service.

There was a sheet at the candle-desk on which to record attendance and contact details. The completed attendance sheets were stored securely and retained for four weeks in the event that they would be required by the NSW Chief Health Officer for the purpose of contact-tracing community transmission of COVID-19.

As attendance at evening services is generally low, these services were open to all who wished to attend. Attendance at the very few weekday services was facilitated by a system of registration in advance.

Other activities

At the time of the Diocesan Assembly in November 2019, Bishop George offered to send a second priest to our parish to make services every Sunday possible. In December 2019 the Parish Council declined this offer as being beyond the means of the parish.

In November 2019 we resolved to sponsor the restoration of an icon of Saint Panteleimon in the Saint Seraphim of Sarov church in Sea Cliff, NY, a memorial to the Reestablishment of Unity within the Russian Orthodox Church. US\$150 (A\$280.86) was allocated for this purpose.

At the same time we made two other contributions to important church projects. The first was a donation of US\$500 (\$772.20) in support of an icon-painting competition arranged by the Synod of Bishops to mark the centenary of ROCOR. The second was a donation of US\$250 (\$384.79) in support of the ROCOR Studies project, an initiative of Deacon Andrei Psarev, Associate Professor of Canon Law and Russian Church History at the Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, NY.

December 2020

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 2020. 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 2020 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2020 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: 0404 421 176

ABN: 69 887 100 989 6 September 2020

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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.

Note 7: Contract to Design New Iconostasis

A contract has been signed with an agent in Russia to undertake work on the design of a new Iconostasis at a fixed cost of 333,000 Russian Rubles. Work on this project is expected to be completed during the 2020/21 financial year. The sum of AUD \$5,566.89 has already been expensed on the project. An estimate of \$2,500.00 has been made to cover the balance of the project cost.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

		2020		2019
Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2019 Add:	\$	121,814.43	\$	124,907.13
Church Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$	83,442.92	\$	(432.36)
Bookstore Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance Ladies Auxiliary Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred	\$	(139.22)	\$	330.96
from Statement of Financial Performance ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2020	\$	(1,690.02) 203,428.11	\$	(2,991.30) 121,814.43
The above Funds are represented by :				
CURRENT ASSETS Westpac Banking Corporation				
Working Account No. 032-596 14-0923	\$	48,345.71	\$	24,149.20
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 28-9049	\$	-	\$	17,106.08
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 33-4604	\$	0.28	\$	0.01
Bookstore Account No. 032-523 31-7943	\$	2,964.95	\$	2,174.41
Ladies Auxiliary Account No. 032-527 15-5689	\$	5,249.02	\$	9,431.78
Cash Reserve Account No. 032-527 24-1982	\$	-	\$	11,005.47
Term Deposit No. 032-523 33-4612 Term Deposit No. 032-523 42-1468	\$	101,408.13 12,000.00	\$	42,428.79
Cash on Hand - Church	\$ \$	200.00	\$	200.00
Cash on Hand - Bookstore	\$	165.00	\$ \$	620.00
Cash on Hand - Ladies Auxiliary	\$	0.65	\$	020.00
Payments in Advance	\$	1,915.00	Ψ	
Withholding Tax Paid	\$	139.00	\$	139.00
Bond	\$	110.00	\$	110.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$	172,497.74	\$	107,364.74
NON CURRENT ASSETS				
Plant & Equipment at Cost	\$	30,025.93	\$	30,025.93
Add: Purchases	\$	15,015.08	\$	-
	\$	45,041.01	\$	30,025.93
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$	13,291.92	\$	9,404.35
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	\$	31,749.09	\$	20,621.58
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	204,246.83	\$	127,986.32
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$	818.72	\$	2,748.61
Accrued Diocese Levies Payable			\$	3,423.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	818.72	\$	6,171.89
NET ASSETS	\$	203,428.11	\$	121,814.43

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

		2020		2019
INCOME				
First Plate Second Plate Candles Prosphora Tithes Bank Interest Donations - Money Box Donations - Other Donations - Hall Renovations Miscellaneous Income GST Refund TOTAL INCOME	***	7,109.70 3,706.80 12,321.55 1,744.00 600.00 1,920.63 6,219.90 89,830.10 - 749.69 1,744.39	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	9,628.95 5,780.85 15,097.90 2,280.00 600.00 1,432.19 7,775.30 10,053.01 5,270.75 568.16 2,693.00 61,180.11
EXPENSES Clergy Bank Charges Utilities Donations Candles Strata Levies Insurance Admin & Stationery Repairs & Maintenance Miscellaneous Expenses Diocesan & Synodal Levies Depreciation Building Works TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	***	3,100.00 107.01 3,495.27 4,299.28 5,673.33 3,167.52 3,018.40 5,276.49 645.40 4,458.71 1,915.00 3,132.13 4,215.30	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	2,695.00 15.00 3,492.07 7,134.02 6,397.00 3,180.16 2,332.84 4,415.17 - 4,149.65 5,674.78 2,252.18 19,874.60 61,612.47
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$	83,442.92	\$	(432.36)

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD BOOKSTORE ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

		2020		2019
INCOME				
Sales Bank Interest TOTAL INCOME	\$ \$	1,095.00 2.44 1,097.44	\$ \$	3,492.00 1.96 3,493.96
EXPENSES Purchases TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ \$	1,236.66 1,236.66	\$ \$	3,163.00 3,163.00
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$	(139.22)	\$	330.96

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD LADIES AUXILIARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

		2020		2019
INCOME				
Bank Interest Donations Functions Fundraising Plate Collections TOTAL INCOME	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	16.57 1,522.50 2,451.80 3,686.00 284.45 7,961.32	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	57.81 3,464.70 4,934.60 3,526.00 - 11,983.11
EXPENSES Depreciation Flowers & Gifts Functions Fundraising Rent Sundry Expenses Vestments TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	***	755.44 350.00 2,109.85 300.00 - 72.90 6,063.15 9,651.34	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	215.59 610.20 2,530.12 445.75 25.00 371.05 10,776.70 14,974.41
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$	(1,690.02)	\$	(2,991.30)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

TOR THE TEAR ENDED OF TORRE 2020	2020	2019
Total of all bank accounts as at 1 July 2019	\$106,295.74	\$117,575.23
Cash was generated from		
Surplus for year - Church operations Surplus for year - Bookstore operations Surplus for year - Ladies Auxiliary operations Depreciation provided during the year Decrease in cash on hand	\$ 83,442.92 \$ 3,887.57 \$ 454.35	\$ 330.96 \$ 2,467.77
Cash was applied to		
Deficit for year - Church operations Deficit for year - Bookstore operations	\$ (139.22)	\$ (432.36)
Deficit for year - Ladies Auxiliary operations Acquisition of plant and equipment	\$ (1,690.02) \$ (15,015.08)	\$ (2,991.30)
Decrease in current liabilities Increase in current assets	\$ (5,353.17) \$ (1,915.00)	\$ (10,545.51)
Increase in cash on hand		\$ (109.05)
Total of all bank accounts as at 30 June 2020	\$ 169,968.09	\$106,295.74

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

Westpac Banking Corporation Account No. 032-596 14-0923		
Cash Book Balance 1 July 2019 Add: Receipts for year	\$ 86	1,149.20 6,746.87 0,896.07
Less: Payments for year Cash Book Balance 30 June 2020	\$ 62	2,550.36 3,345.71
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2020 Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$	3,345.71
Less: Unpresented Cheques Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2020	\$	3,345.71 - 3,345.71
Westpac Banking Corporation Account No. 032-523 28-9049		
Cash Book Balance 1 July 2019 Add: Receipts for year	\$	7,106.08 5.03
Less: Payments for year Cash Book Balance 30 June 2020		7,111.11 7 <u>,111.11</u> -
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2020 Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$ \$	-
Less: Unpresented Cheques Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2020	\$ \$ \$	-
Westers Barbing Comparation		
Westpac Banking Corporation Account No. 032-523 33-4604		
Cash Book Balance 1 July 2019 Add: Receipts for year	Φ 0.5	0.01 5,018.82 5,018.83
Less: Payments for year Cash Book Balance 30 June 2020		0.28
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2020 Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$ \$ \$	0.28
Less: Unpresented Cheques Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2020	\$ \$ \$	0.28

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

Westpac Banking Corporation Account No. 032-523 31-7943		
Cash Book Balance 1 July 2019 Add: Receipts for year	\$ \$ \$	2,174.41 1,552.44 3,726.85
Less: Payments for year Cash Book Balance 30 June 2020	\$ \$	761.90 2,964.95
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2020 Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$ \$	2,964.95
Less: Unpresented Cheques Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2020	\$ \$	2,964.95 - 2,964.95
Westpac Banking Corporation Account No. 032-527 15-5689		
Cash Book Balance 1 July 2019 Add: Receipts for year	\$ \$	9,431.78 15,310.39
Less: Payments for year Cash Book Balance 30 June 2020	\$ \$ \$	24,742.17 19,493.15 5,249.02
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2020 Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$ <u>\$</u>	5,249.02
Less: Unpresented Cheques Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2020	\$ \$	5,249.02 - 5,249.02
Westpac Banking Corporation Account No. 032-527 24-1982		
Cash Book Balance 1 July 2019 Add: Receipts for year	\$ \$	11,005.47 8.92
Less: Payments for year Cash Book Balance 30 June 2020	\$ \$	11,014.39 11,014.39 -
Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2020 Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$ \$	-
Less: Unpresented Cheques Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2020	\$ \$ \$	<u>-</u>

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

Description	Historical [Details	Opening	ning New Acquisitions Va		Value for Rate Depreciation		equisitions Value for Rate Depreciation C		Closing
	Date	Cost	Written Down Value	Date	Cost	Depreciation	%		Written Down Value	
Non-depreciable Assets			20						201111 10110	
Commemoration Box	08/08/2015 \$	5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00			\$ 5,500.00	0%	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00	
Icon of Holy Trinity	05/10/2015 \$	3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00			\$ 3,000.00	0%	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	
Frame for Icon of Holy Trinity	07/05/2016 \$	500.00	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00	0%	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Candle Stands (4)	28/06/2017 \$	4,586.60	\$ 4,586.60			\$ 4,586.60	0%	\$ -	\$ 4,586.60	
Candle Stands (2) and Communion Cups (6) Candle Stands (2), Branch Floor Candle	24/05/2018 \$	3,265.48	\$ 3,265.48			\$ 3,265.48	0%	\$ -	\$ 3,265.48	
Stand, Church Votive Glass				09/07/2019 \$	6,315.24	\$ 6,315.24	0%	\$ -	\$ 6,315.24	
Design of new Iconostasis				30/06/2020 \$	5,566.89	\$ 5,566.89	0%	\$ -	\$ 5,566.89	
								\$ -		
Church										
Speaker, Microphone and Cables	08/09/2015 \$	480.15	\$ 120.04			\$ 120.04	20%	\$ 96.03	\$ 24.01	
Television Set, Accessories and Camera	17/11/2015 \$	1,485.75	\$ 420.96			\$ 420.96	20%	\$ 297.15	\$ 123.81	
Daikin 20Kw Inverter	20/01/2016 \$	9,295.00	\$ 2,943.42			\$ 2,943.42	20%	\$ 1,859.00	\$ 1,084.42	
Lifetime Stacking Chairs - order of 28				28/10/2019 \$	879.95	\$ 879.95	100%	\$ 879.95	\$ -	
								\$ 3,132.13		
Ladies Auxiliary										
Stainless Steel Bench	27/09/2012 \$	835.00	\$ -			\$ -	20%	\$ -	\$ -	
Stove	21/09/2014 \$	500.00	\$ 25.00			\$ 25.00	20%	\$ 25.00	\$ -	
Marguee and Attachments	29/09/2016 \$	577.95	\$ 260.08			\$ 260.08	20%	\$ 115.59	\$ 144.49	
Technika Dishwasher Model TGDW6BK				14/09/2019 \$	649.00	\$ 649.00	20%	\$ 97.35	\$ 551.65	
Technika Upright Cooker Model TEG95DUA				22/11/2019 \$	1,230.00	\$ 1,230.00	20%	\$ 143.50	\$ 1,086.50	
Stainless Steel Serving Trolley 930mm				25/11/2019 \$	374.00	\$ 374.00	100%	\$ 374.00	\$ -	
								\$ 755.44		
	_	00.005.00	* 00 004 50		45.045.00	. 05 000 00		Ф. 0.007.57	. 04 746 00	
	\$	30,025.93	\$ 20,621.58	\$	15,015.08	\$ 35,636.66		\$ 3,887.57	\$ 31,749.09	