

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DIOCESE

OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

20 CHELMSFORD AVENUE, P.O. BOX 38, CROYDON N.S.W. 2132

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5th September 2023

No. 3-9-23

UKASE – Auckland Collection

Dear Fathers, Mothers and all parishioners of the ANZ Diocese.

The Resurrection of Christ, Auckland, New Zealand parish of our diocese has finally been able to secure a larger building for use as a church and parish centre. After spending almost 70 years praying in a small 30 sq. m. church with several car parking spaces down a narrow right of way with no road frontage, a neighbouring 4-storey building has been acquired.

The 40-year-old building zoned "commercial with mixed-use" has underground parking for 20 cars (level 1), 160 sq.m. of space for the church and library on level 2, large space for the vestry and a future apartment on level 3, and a 170 sq.m. community hall with a large commercial kitchen on Level 4. Importantly, in this seismically active part of the world, the building has a very stable 90% earthquake rating.

They received access to the building on September 1 and this week they begin the initial task of remodelling and renovating the church space to be ready for services by October 1. There is much to do, and the parishioners are committed to doing much of the work themselves, but, as can be expected there are many tasks for which they will have to hire outside help, like renovating the roof and the external cladding of the building.

For many years the Auckland parish has struggled to find a suitable home for their large and expanding community. The dean of the New Zealand Deanery, Fr

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Vladimir, has worked continually to find a solution to this critical problem that has stunted the growth of the parish for 20 years. Now, with God's help, a new building has been found that will give a stable, comfortable, and expansive platform to serve the parish into the future.

I urge all of our parishes to help our brothers and sisters in Auckland in this noble effort by taking up collections during the month of September. Please send all funds to the diocese with the reference "Auckland parish" by the end of September.



+Bp. George

**Bishop George of Sydney, Australia, and New Zealand
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**
