

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

A Newsletter for the Russian Orthodox Parish of Saint Panteleimon, Gosford

~ Number 27, 2 May 2004 ~

ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

НЕДЕЛЯ О РАССЛАБЛЕННОМ

В неделю 4-ю по Пасхе прославляется исцеление Господом при овчей купели расслабленного, 38 лет томившегося в тяжелой болезни. В этом чуде Церковь видит обновление жизни всего человечества через Воскресение Христово. - "Надежда, которой жил расслабленный не обманула его. Что питает нашу надежду? - Ее сестра - вера в Господа. Надежда спасает от уныния и отчаяния, когда мы видим глубину своего грехопадения... Источник нашей надежды в слове Божиим. У надежды есть и другая сестра - святая любовь. Для того мы и живем, чтобы любовью соединиться с Господом навеки. Мы идем к порогу смерти с надеждой, какую растят в нас вера и любовь. Все, кто в этой жизни надеялся на Господа, веровал в Него, любил Его, - в жизни вечной найдут вечное счастье и вечный покой."

(Митр. Николай Ярушевич).

PARISH NEWS

~ Successful Concert ~

On April 25th a concert to raise money for our parish was held at the Russian Club in Strathfield. Organised by Katya Lugovoy, with help from choir mistress Olga Itsikson, the concert was a huge success, raising over \$5000 through ticket sales, a raffle, and the sale of tea and cakes. In addition to money raised, over \$2000 in donations were received on the day. The concert itself was of a high standard and most enjoyable, featuring a number of very talented vocalists, musicians and dancers from the Russian community, all of whom generously donated their time to help us in our efforts. Many others - both members and friends of our parish - helped by making cakes, donating prizes, making bouquets for the performers, assisting at the Russian Club on the day, and so on. May God bless all those involved for their zeal and kindness!

~ Archbishop's visit & church blessing on May 16th ~

The next big event in the life of our community will be the first visit of Archbishop Hilarion to our new church on Sunday, May 16th. Vigil will be served as usual at 6.00pm on the evening of Saturday, May 15th. At 8.00am on Sunday morning there will be a small blessing of water, and at 9.00am we will welcome Vladika Hilarion. Following the vesting

of the archbishop, our church will be blessed. As our church - beautiful though it is! - is only a temporary one, this will not be a full church consecration; Vladika Hilarion will simply bless it with holy water and read certain of the prayers from the full service. Following that will be the Divine Liturgy, a moleben of thanksgiving to God for the blessings that he has given us, and then a festive lunch for all at our old "home", the Narara Community Centre.

The lunch, especially, will require a big effort from the parish: setting up the hall, preparing food, purchasing drinks, cleaning up, and so on. As groups of people are traveling by bus from Fairfield, Centennial Park, and Newcastle, and as many others have indicated that they will be with us for our official opening, the Parish Council is expecting between 250 and 300 people on the day. Arrangements have already been made to put up a marquee outside the church for additional shelter, and the Ladies Committee has begun to plan a menu for the lunch. A meeting will be held after today's service in order to enlist as much help as possible and to ensure that everything needful is done. If you cannot be present at the meeting but would like to help, please talk to the head sister, Olga Petroff (4342-4241), or to Nina Golovin (4382-2307), about things that can be done.

~ New altar items expected soon ~

Shortly before the completion of our new church, the Parish Council agreed to purchase two important items for the altar: a «семисвечникъ» or candelabrum, the seven-branched lampstand that stands behind the altar, and a «дарохранительница» or tabernacle, the special vessel that stands on the altar table and contains the Holy Gifts kept for communing the sick. Father James had already investigated the matter and found that these items could be obtained by airmail from Russia for around \$2500, including postage. The following Sunday, thanks be to God, a friend of the parish came forward with a donation of \$3000 especially for altar items! With the extra money, it was decided to also purchase a set of «репиды», the liturgical "fans" used at hierarchical services. Father James has since placed the order, and has been advised by the company handling the matter that the items were shipped from Russia on April 27th. We now pray that they will arrive before Vladika's visit!

PARISH NOTICES

~ Church Cleaning~

At its' most recent meeting, the Parish Council discussed arrangements for church cleaning, including the possibility of a roster system. It was decided, however, that arrangements would continue to be informal, and that all present on Sundays should assist with cleaning after the service. As it is a small church, and "many hands make light work", this should not require a major effort from anyone. Cleaning tasks that need to be done after each service are: cleaning the glass on icons, cleaning the candlestands,

scraping wax from and sweeping the floor, and putting chairs, music stands, books and other items back in order. Please try and help! It was also agreed that three major church clean-ups will be held each year: one before Christmas, one before Pascha, and another before the feast of Saint Panteleimon.

~ New Garage Sale location needed ~

We have now had a number of Garage Sales to help with our fundraising, and people continue to offer us many items of good quality for sale. The last few Garage Sales have been held in Schnapper Road, Ettalong, an excellent location, but one that is drawing the same people each time. What is needed is two or three alternative locations, allowing us to attract a wider range of people and possibly increase our sales! Ideal venues would have plenty of passing trade and a space suitable for setting out tables and clothes racks. The Garage Sales are both a fundraiser for the parish and an enjoyable social occasion for those involved. Please give some thought to suitable venues!

~ Being good neighbours ~

Although we are generally the only ones around on Sunday mornings, it is important to remember that we share № 7 Comserv Close with a number of others, and that we of all people should try to be good neighbours. This means not damaging any of the common property, cleaning up any mess that we make, and not obstructing access to the other units, should access be needed. Parents are encouraged to check and ensure that the children have not left any rubbish around the carpark. As a rule, it is probably best to park on the street outside the complex, although we can be flexible about this on rainy days!

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick & suffering: Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Fyodor & Antonina Tialshinsky, Vladimir, Ioann, Alexander, Nina, Alexandra, child Ksenia

Special needs: Katherine, David, Paraskeva, Antonina, Nicholas & family

Newly-baptised: Baby Monica (baptised on 4/4), Rose-Marie (baptised on 3/4)

Newly-married: Alexander & Rose-Marie (married on 25/4)

Prisoners: Dmitri, Irina, Elena & Timothy

МУДРОСТЬ СВЯТЫХ ОTCОВ О НЕОБХОДИМОСТИ БОЛЕЗНЕЙ

«Кто создал душу, Тот сотворил и тело, и Кто исцеляет бессмертную душу, Тот может урлечевать и тело от временных страданий и болезней.» (Треп. Макарий Египетский)

«Как не должно вовсе бегать врачебного искусства, так несообразно полагать в нем всю свою надежду. Но как пользуемся искусством земледелия, а плодов просим у

Господа..., так вводя к себе врача, когда позволяет сие разум, не отступаемся от упования на Бога.» (Свт. Василий Великий)

«Когда не могу сделать, чтобы не страдать, приобретаю страданием то, что переношу его и благодарю как в радостях, так и в скорбях, будучи уверен, что все случившееся с нами у Слова не без разумной причины, хотя нам и кажется, что нет причины. Болезни и для духовной моей части служат некоторым очищением, а в очищении всякий имеет нужду, как бы не был он крепок.» (Свт. Григорий Богослов)

«Бог часто попускает тебе впасть в болезни не потому, чтобы Он оставил тебя, но с тем, чтобы более прославить тебя. Итак, будь терпелив.» (Свт. Иоанн Златоуст)

«Если схватит тебя болезнь, не унывай и не падай духом, но возблагодари Бога, что Он промышляет доставить тебе болезнью благо. Когда человек болен, тогда и душа его начинает искать Господа. Посему вразумление хорошо, если только вразумленный благодарит.» (Преп. Ефрем Сирин)

«Болезни посылаются для очищения согрешений, а иногда для того, чтобы смирить возношение.» (Преп. Иоанн Лествичник)

GOSFORD SERVICES IN MAY & JUNE

A comprehensive schedule of services is available at the candle-desk. Significant services over the next month are Vladika's visit on Sunday 16/5 and Troitsa (Pentecost) on 30/5. Please note that there are akathists to Saint Panteleimon scheduled for 7.00pm on three Wednesday nights: May 12th, May 26th, and June 9th. These akathists will be served with a moleben and special prayers for all our parishioners and for the sick. The service should take around 45 minutes to an hour, and all are encouraged to stay for a cup of tea and a snack afterwards.

NEWCASTLE SERVICES IN MAY & JUNE

A copy of the schedule of services for Newcastle has been placed on the notice board in the new church hall. Father James serves there on the weekends that there is no service in Gosford, and on some major feastdays. Significant services over the next couple of months will be for Вознесение/Ascension (vigil 6.00pm on 19/5 and liturgy at 9.00am on 20/5); and the patronal feast of Saint Nicholas, to be served this year on Sunday May 23rd, the Sunday after Vladika's visit to us in Gosford. As a group of at least 25 Newcastle parishioners are traveling down to Gosford for the blessing of our church, it would be nice if as many of us could return the visit!

Father James tries to prepare this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. You can call him about it on 0428-639156 or email him at rev.james.carles@rocor.org.au.