



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

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PARISH LIFE: AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2011

After all the services and events in parish life during July and early August, the past few weeks have been quiet. On 28 August a few Gosford parishioners travelled to Newcastle for the feast day of the Dormition of the Mother of God, joining parishioners there for a festive BBQ after the service. We had an opportunity to venerate the Tomb of the Mother of God in our own parish the following Sunday, it still being the Afterfeast of the Dormition. That day, Sunday 4 September, Father James blessed a beautiful icon of Christ "the Bridegroom" («Жених Церковный»), the work of our parishioner, well-known iconographer Michael Galovic. On Sunday 11 September, our parish again had a presence in Newcastle, with bookstore manager Anna Kourbatov taking a selection of books and other items there for sale.



Parish Council met on Tuesday 13 September. Approval was given to the purchase of twenty-one red-gold sticharia for our altar-servers, to be made by the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus. Red-gold was chosen as these will suffice for the great majority of services, gold being used for regular Sundays and red being used during all fasting periods. In time, vestments in other colours will be acquired.

Approval was also given to Father James' proposal to purchase the icon of Christ "the Bridegroom" blessed on 4 September. Icons of this style are customarily placed in the middle of church on the evening of Palm Sunday and remain there until the evening of Holy Wednesday, during which time the troparion "Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night" («Се жених грядет в полунощи») is sung at Matins.

Other items discussed by Parish Council include the possibility of an October Long Weekend BBQ (at time of writing, not yet confirmed) and the appropriateness of commercial advertising on church premises. It was decided that commercial advertising material is not to be displayed on church premises. Father James also reported on the possibility of the establishment of a Russian-language Saturday school in the Hornsby area under the auspices of the parish.

PARISH LIFE: BOOKSTORE NEWS

Our bookstore has a number of new items recently arrived from overseas. These include small lacquered icons of Christ, the Mother of God, the Guardian Angel, Saint Panteleimon, and

Saint Nicholas. These lovely icons, produced by the Saint Elisabeth Convent in Minsk, Belarus, are backed with adhesive and are suitable for display on car dashboards, at desks, and so on. There are also a number of new English-language books from the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY, including prayer books. A number of DVDs have been marked down for clearance. 2012 calendars and prayer books in Russian have also been ordered.

COMMUNITY LIFE: RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE PLAYGROUP

Readers of this newsletter may recall mention of the possibility of a Russian-language playgroup being set up in the local area. Although such a group has yet to develop on the Central Coast, playgroups have been organised in the Hornsby and Lane Cove areas by our parishioner, Evgenia Druganov. For further information, please visit Evgenia's site: <http://www.ruskids.com.au/>.

PARISH LIFE: SUMMER CAMP

Inspired by the success of our 2011 winter parish camp, plans have been made for a summer camp. Crosslands, a convenient and now familiar venue, has been booked for the weekend of December 3-5. This means that the services for the great feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple will be at the camp. As the weather will be warm, swimming and canoeing will be possible, and we also hope to book the high ropes challenge. Paul and Elena Douriaguine have taken responsibility for organising this camp, and they can be contacted by email at camp@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au. Readers are reminded that our camps are not just for children and families, but for all parishioners and friends. More information will soon be made available.

DIOCESAN LIFE: UPCOMING CONFERENCES UPDATE

Readers will recall that the annual Diocesan Youth Conference, or Syezd, was held on the Central Coast last year, and that Father James was on the organising committee. He is involved again this year, with the conference to be held at the Australis Resort at Wisemans Ferry on the Hawkesbury River. This is an over-18s conference and will take place from December 27-31. The Syezd website, www.syezd.info now has registration details and a call for papers.

During the week of December 19-23 the Diocese will hold its first ever "Teen Retreat", open to young people in Grades 9-12. Archpriest George Lapardin (Strathfield), Priest Seraphim Chemodakov (Croydon) and Priest Simon Nekipelov (Strathfield) are organising this event, to be held at Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney. Further information is available online at www.rocorteenretreat.info. Leaflets for both the Syezd and the Teen Retreat are now available in church.

PARISH LIFE: FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

As readers know, a parish presence has been established on the social networking applications Facebook and Twitter. Facebook, in particular, has been important in getting information about church life out to many parishioners and friends much more quickly than is possible through the newsletter or the parish website. Photographs, service-day arrangements, and news are the focus. A lot of photographs from parish life have recently been posted on our Facebook site. Search for 'Gosford Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Panteleimon' on Facebook to "like" the page, or to become a follower on Twitter, search for "Gosford Church".

CHURCH LIFE: MEMORIAL FOR HIEROMONK PANTELEIMON

Earlier this year, on the Sunday of All Saints, Hieromonk Panteleimon from our Indonesian Deanery reposed in the Lord, aged only 38. Many readers will remember Hieromonk Panteleimon's visit to our church in January this year. An icon of the Great Martyr and Unmercenary Healer Panteleimon has been ordered, to be painted by Sydney iconographer Dimitri Lihachov. This icon is intended to be gifted to Saint Thomas Orthodox Church, Jakarta, in memory of Father Panteleimon, from his brother clergy in Australia.

Father Panteleimon was priest-in-charge of Saint Thomas' for a number of years before doing locum work and preparing to establish his monastery and mission in West Timor. Father Panteleimon's death was felt particularly hard at Saint Thomas' where he was much loved by his parishioners and spiritual children.

The cost of the icon is \$650.00, and those who had the privilege of meeting Father Panteleimon during his 3-month visit to Australia are asked to consider making a donation towards its purchase. Should more than \$650.00 be raised, a lampada will be bought for the icon and the balance will be given to Friends of Indonesia-Australia. This is but a small way to show our support of the Indonesian Orthodox Mission, especially after losing one of their young educated priests. Please send your donation to St John the Baptist Skete, PO Box 321, Leumeah, NSW 2560. God willing, the icon will be presented to the parish of Saint Thomas later this year.

SPIRITUAL LIFE: ORTHODOX NEW YEAR

Editor's note: Wednesday September 14 was September 1 on the Church calendar, and so the first day of the ecclesiastical year.

It can be frustrating to move suddenly from the end, back to the beginning of something. But this is what Orthodox believers do as we move from August 31st — the last day of the old year, to September 1st, the first day of the new year.

It is part of the goodness of God, that He, who has no beginning and no ending, the Eternal Trinity, should take such care to give us a year which begins and ends, and then begins all over again. In our human and finite state we need fresh starts, and this is one of them. From the peaks of Pascha, Ascension, Pentecost, and Transfiguration, we move back to beginnings, the Nativity of the Mother of God, and then in December [the Nativity] of the Son of God Himself. We start this wonderful cycle all over again. But the Holy Spirit, as we trust Him, will renew this new year to us, and give us a whole new understanding of it.

"Behold I will do a new thing", God says through the prophet Isaiah (43:19). The new wine will come to us in new wineskins.

The God who has put eternity in our hearts, knows our human frailty. He knows that marriages need their anniversaries, and all of us, especially children, need their birthdays from year to year. We in the Orthodox Church also hold a special place for the anniversaries of those who have died in Christ. We recall every year the glorious deaths of the saints. But the whole of this is held in a solid framework - the Orthodox Calendar. Through the God-inspired wisdom of our fathers and mothers, we have a beautifully constructed lectionary [system of

scripture readings – ed.], which flows through the year, like the streams of an effortless river, blessing whatever they touch.

It is significant that the last great feast of the old year is that of the Dormition of Mary, the Mother of God. Her human passing was to heaven's glory. And the first great feast of the new year is her Nativity. It is not that Mary is more important than Christ, around which most of the Calendar revolves. Mary is not God. She did not exist from eternity. But she is honoured in this way because she is our supreme example. She lived a life of complete obedience to God.

Fr Michael Harper, Orthodox Research Institute

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/48652.htm>

CHURCH LIFE: METROPOLITAN HILARION AND THE KURSK-ROOT ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

From 17 October until 17 November, God willing, Metropolitan Hilarion will be visiting Australia. It is expected that a great many of the clergy and the faithful will gather at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Strathfield for the celebration of Vladyka's name-day on Thursday 3 November. The Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God will also be in Australia at this time. At the time of writing, it is expected that the icon will be visiting Hornsby, Gosford and Newcastle on 19 November. We hope that it will be possible to have a moleben and akathist in Hornsby late in the morning and that the icon will be present that evening for the scheduled service at West Gosford.

PARISH LIFE: FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Readers are reminded that we will have services on Monday-Tuesday 26-27 September for the Great Fast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of the Lord. Vigil with the blessing of loaves, wheat, wine and oil, and the bringing-out of the Cross, will be at 6.00pm on Monday evening. Divine Liturgy will be at 9.00am Tuesday morning, a day of fasting.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Nun Euphrosyne; our parishioners Nestor, Natalia, Michael, Tatiana, Nina, and Boris.

Departed: Patriarch Alexis, Metropolitan Vitaly, Metropolitan Laurus, infant Ekaterina, and former parishioners and benefactors Irene (Claydon), Victor (Manjetny), Vladimir (Dmitrieff), George (Fomin), Irina (Kamenev), Nun Maria, George (Kraihin), Theodore & Antonina (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina), Alexander (Dikan), Elena (Yakupova), Lydia (Ustimko).

Expectant mothers: Daria, Svetlana, Maria, Anastasia, Natalia.



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