

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

1 January 2011 – 30 June 2012



**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 2012 Annual Report. This Annual Report summarises and reviews parish life and administration for the period from 1 January 2011 until 30 June 2012.

This report covers an eighteen-month period because of a decision by the parish Council, late in 2011, to move to financial year reporting. Future reports will summarise financial years rather than calendar years.

According to the *Normal Parish By-Laws* ('the By-Laws') of parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, 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.

This Annual Report addresses the achievements of our parish over the past eighteen months in relation to our objective and aims. It also provides an overview of other activities and looks at needs and challenges in the immediate future and in the years ahead.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The By-Laws provide for a Parish Council consisting of the rector and other assigned clergy, and such lay members as are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the parish.

The clergy assigned to our parish during the period under review were Priest James Carles, the rector, and Deacon Martin Naef.

Father James was appointed to our parish in September 2001, immediately following his ordination to the priesthood. Since 2002, he has also served the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend. In September 2011 he celebrated ten years of priestly service. Father Martin has been with us since his ordination in January 2008.

The lay members of the Parish Council elected at the AGM convened in February 2011 were Kate Marcotrigiano (Secretary/Head Sister), Sophia Kfoury (Treasurer), Rick Golovin (Building & Maintenance), Paul Pereboeff (Fundraising & Charitable Work), Victor Bendeovski (Property & Contents), Bill Reid, Anna Kourbatov and Ivan Teliatnikov.

The By-Laws provides for five lay members of the Parish Council in addition to a Warden and Head Sister. With eight members, our current Parish Council is a little larger than provided for in the By-Laws.

THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

An Auditing Committee consisting of Andrew Kfoury, Sebastian Reid and Paul Douriaquine was elected in February 2011. It met on one occasion. To ensure that the parish accounts were being kept appropriately, and in response to changes in Diocesan policy, it was resolved in 2012 that all parish audits would henceforth be independent external audits.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Making available Orthodox Christian prayers and sacraments

Since our parish centre opened in 2004 we have had over 750 scheduled services.

In 2006 we settled on a regular pattern of services, Matins on Saturday evenings and Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings of the first, third and fifth weekends of each month. There are additional services during Great Lent and on Great Feasts.

From the earliest services in Gosford the community has maintained a commitment to the conduct of the divine services in both Church Slavonic and English. At evening services both languages are used, according to the capabilities and needs of those present.

New service books were obtained in both languages in 2011 and 2012. In June 2011, four copies of a new English-language *Pentecostarion*, published by the US-based Saint John of Kronstadt Press, were obtained. This book contains all the services for the period from Pascha until the third week after Pentecost.

In 2012 we obtained four copies of the Church Slavonic *Octoechos* ("Октоих") in Russian font so as to assist those who read Russian but have difficulty with the Church Slavonic script to read in church. These books have made it possible for more of the reading and chanting at evening service to be done in Slavonic.

At Divine Liturgy the choir sings in Church Slavonic and the litanies and readings are in both Church Slavonic and English. The parish choir has functioned under the direction of Olga Ivanovna Itsikson since 2000. Before taking up this role in our parish, Olga Ivanovna served for twenty years as choir director at Saint Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Church, Centennial Park. Her service to our parish and to the Diocese has been long and steadfast.

Sermons are given at every Divine Liturgy and delivered only in English. They generally focus on a practical theme drawn from the appointed readings from the Holy Scriptures.

Evening services are in general attended by very few people, with rarely more than 12 in attendance. Sunday morning services are now attended by approximately 65 worshippers. On special occasions more than 100 worshippers will be present. These

include our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon, celebrated by us each year on the Saturday closest to 9 August, and Pascha. There are frequently many communicants at Divine Liturgy, both children and adults. It is now unusual for there to be less than 20 communicants, adults and children, at a Sunday service.

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

During the period under review a total of 154 services were held in our church at West Gosford. Services were held on all weekends on which we would usually have a service apart from three: two weekends on which we had parish camps and the services were at the campsite, and another on which Father James was in Adelaide for a wedding at the Russian Orthodox parish of Saint Nicholas there.

There were 67 evening services, 52 Divine Liturgies, and 35 other services. Details are as follows:

	Matins or Vigil	Divine Liturgy	Other services	Total
Summer January-February 2011	8	8	0	16
Autumn March-May 2011	14	8	16	38
Winter June-August 2011	10	9	0	19
Spring September-November 2011	7	7	0	14
Summer December-February 2011-12	9	9	4	22
Autumn March-May 2012	16	9	14	39
Winter June 2012	3	2	1	6
Total	67	52	35	154

Autumn was, as always, the busiest season in the life of our parish, with Great Lent falling predominantly during this time. We customarily have services on the first four evenings of the first week of Great Lent, on Sunday and Wednesday evenings thereafter, and on at least the first three evenings of Holy Week.

In accordance with parish custom, homes were blessed on the Great Feast of Theophany and in the days afterwards.

In January 2011 we welcomed Hieromonk Panteleimon (Lake), a priest of the Indonesian Orthodox Church, to our parish. After Divine Liturgy Hieromonk

Panteleimon and Protodeacon Christopher Henderson spoke about the life and work of the orthodox Church in Indonesia. It was with sorrow that we learned, in June 2011, of Father Panteleimon's untimely repose. May God grant him rest!

In both 2011 and 2012 we had services for Forgiveness Sunday. In 2012, there being no Divine Liturgy in our church, Vespers and the rite of asking forgiveness were served later in the afternoon. With the approach of Great Lent in both years, our Ladies' Auxiliary prepared blini.

In 2011 we had an early Paschal service as Father James served at midnight in Wallsend. In 2012, the midnight service was in our church. In both years, on the Sunday of Pascha itself we had Vespers at 11.00am, with many young families attending the service and remaining afterwards to celebrate.

We had the joy of receiving two miraculous icons during 2011. In February we received the myrrh-streaming icon of the Mother of God "Softener of Hardened Hearts". A moleben and an akathist were served before it, and afterwards the people venerated it and were anointed with the holy oil. In November we received the Protectress of the Russian diaspora, the revered "Kursk-Root" Icon of the Mother of God. A moleben and an akathist was served before it, first in Hornsby and later, after the icon visited Wallsend, in our church.

We were joined for the service before the "Kursk-Root" Icon at West Gosford by Greek Orthodox monks and nuns from the Pantanassa Monastery and the Holy Cross Convent in Mangrove Mountain on the Central Coast. Afterwards, Fathers James and Martin, together with a small number of parishioners, took the icon to visit these monastic houses.

In 2011 we celebrated our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 August. Having our festal services on the Friday evening and Saturday morning closest to the feast makes it possible for people from other parishes, clergy in particular, to attend. A number of priests and deacons from Sydney and Newcastle joined us, together with a large number of the faithful.

In February 2012 we made our church available to Father Theodor Postelnisecu, a priest of the Romanian Orthodox Church based in Newcastle, for a Romanian-language Divine Liturgy. A small number of Romanian Orthodox people attended this service.

In June 2012 on the Eve of Pentecost, a day of commemoration of the departed, we had a general memorial service ("panikhida") immediately before the festive vigil. A number of people attended, bringing with them kutiya and other foods for blessing in memory of their departed relatives and friends. This custom will be observed in parish life on all future "Soul Saturdays".

There were nineteen baptisms, sixteen children and three adults, in our church during the period under review. The infants baptized were Lucas Kfoury, Alexander Zagvozkine, Daria Barry, Tara (Tamara) Turnbull, Jana (Ioanna) Druganov, Mikhail Shchelekov, Isabella (Elizabeth) Usacheva, Mikhail Sidorkin, Nikolay Fanygin, Alexandra Fanygina, Natalia Moyle, Alicia (Elizabeth) Tomachinsky, Evelyn (Eve) Bondarenko, Dmitry Tsyplakov, Maison (Moisei) Benson, and Genevieve Pereboeff. The adults baptised were Vyacheslav Tsyplakov, Oleg Timoshenko, and Dmitry Sheptitsky. Another child, Haylee (Sarah) Fitzsimons, was baptised at our 2011 Summer Camp at Galston Gorge.

There were no weddings or funerals in our parish during this period.

Deacon Martin Naef served our parish for the entirety of the period under review. In January 2011 the parish observed the third anniversary of Father Martin's ordination to the diaconate, presenting him with an English-language Holy Gospel. In November 2011 at a festive Divine Liturgy at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Strathfield, Metropolitan Hilarion awarded Father Martin the right to wear the double orarion. This award was given in recognition of Father Martin's diligent service to the Church of Christ.

During 2012 Father Martin's secular employment obliged him to travel extensively, and towards the middle of the year he accepted a three-year appointment in Europe. He and his family were farewelled by the parish on Sunday 1 July 2012. Metropolitan Hilarion presided at Divine Liturgy, and the parish presented Father Martin with an embroidered double orarion, the work of the sisters of the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus.

Two readers served our parish during 2011 and 2012. Reader Christopher Dowling returned to our parish from Canberra, resuming his previous duties. Reader Evgeny Bondarenko transferred to our parish from Newcastle, but subsequently undertook to assist Father Alexander Filchakov at the Holy Protection parish in Blacktown. Reader Christopher again left for Canberra in mid-2012. Since his departure, the reading of the Apostol at Divine Liturgy has been undertaken by Paul Douriaquine. It is hoped that in time others will also begin to serve at Divine Liturgy in this way.

Caring for the church building and its material needs

Together with the Diocesan authorities, we purchased our current parish centre in late 2003. A final payment on the \$125,000.00 loan taken out for this purpose was made on 31 December 2008, some 9 years earlier than anticipated. The parish owns 75 per cent of the building, and the Diocese 25 per cent. As with all church property belonging to parishes of our Diocese in New South Wales, the property is held in trust by the Russian Orthodox Property Trust.

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. A regular contribution of \$850.00 per month is made to this fund, which is supplemented by occasional donations. As of the end of June 2012, this fund totals \$42,808.88.

A major purchase this year was an icon of Christ the Bridegroom, painted by local iconographer and parishioner, Michael Galovic. Obtained in September 2011 and usually kept in the sanctuary, this icon was placed in the centre of church for veneration for the first time during Holy Week in 2012.

In 2010 funds were set aside for an icon of Martyr Irene of Egypt, the patron saint of a parish member who reposed in the Lord in 2010, Irene Claydon. This icon was completed by Sydney iconographer Dmitry Lihachov and received in December 2011. The icon was blessed at the end of Divine Liturgy and a litia was served for Irene's repose. A wooden case (or "kiot") was subsequently made for it and donated by Irene's husband, Bill Claydon.

A new icon of the Great-Martyr George was donated by Maria Lalic, an icon of the Great-Martyr Katherine was donated by Katia Waters, and a small icon of our patron, Great-Martyr Panteleimon, was donated by the Shchelokov family. A friend of the parish donated an icon of the Holy Forefathers. Icons were also obtained of Saint Gregory Palamas, Saint John of the Ladder, the Ladder of Divine Ascent, the Holy Fathers of the Seven Ecumenical Councils, and of the angel giving the monastic schema to Saint Pachomius.

During Great Lent in 2011 a picture of the Holy Royal Martyr, Grand Duchess Olga of Russia, was hung in our church hall. This is one of a set of portraits of the four martyred Grand Duchesses, three of which are in our possession, completed in 2001 by a young woman then undertaking studies at Terrigal High School, Mariko Ralph.

Regular cleaning of the church continued to be undertaken voluntarily by a number of parishioners including Katia Waters, Anna Kourbatov, Maria Schreider, Ivan Teliatnikov and Maria Martynuk. General clean-up days involving parishioners and friends were held before the feasts of the Nativity and Pascha.

Our Ladies' Auxiliary has continued to raise funds for the furnishing and decoration of the church. An order was placed in 2012 with the Convent of Saint Elisabeth in Minsk, Belarus, for new red-gold vestments for our altar servers.

Flowers were purchased and arranged for special occasions. Nina Golovin and Matushka Marie Carles took responsibility 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 has for some years been generously donated by the Kfoury family.

Undertaking Orthodox Christian educational work

In January 2011 and again in January 2012, four children from our parish attended the annual camp of the National Organisation of Russian Scouts (NORS). The 2011 camp was held in Loftus in Sydney's south, and the 2012 camp was held near Nowra on the New South Wales South Coast.

Two parish camps were held in 2011, a winter camp was held in July and a summer camp in December. Dedicated to the memory of Saint John of Shanghai and San Franciscso, the Winter camp was held at Crosslands, Galston Gorge. Approximately 50 parishioners and friends participated. On the weekend of the camp, all services were at Crosslands. On Sunday after Divine Liturgy the children presented a play based on Saint John's life.

A summer camp was held in December 2011, again at Crosslands. This camp coincided with services for the Great Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. A child, Haylee (Sarah) Fitzsimons, was baptised at this camp. Unfortunately the camp was poorly attended, with many families finding it hard to be present for the whole weekend at this time of year. In view of this it was decided to not organize parish camps in 2012. Consideration will be given to parish camps again in the future.

Our bookstore continued to operate in 2011 and 2012, providing parishioners and friends with a range of edifying books, compact discs and DVDs in both Russian and English, in addition to devotional items such as calendars, baptismal crosses, and icons. Anna Kourbatov took over the management of the bookstore in June 2011.

Evening services in our church provided an opportunity for worshippers to learn more about the services and to begin to read in church. All with an interest in doing so were encouraged to help with the reading and singing.

Late in 2011 a group of our parishioners in the Hornsby area established a community Russian school named in honour of Saint Seraphim of Sarov. Although initially intended to be a parish school, it was ultimately registered independently, with the school's constitution stating that it operates in association with, and under the patronage of, our parish. In addition, the rector of our parish has an *ex officio* position on the school committee.

Paul Douriaguine, an active member of our parish, is the committee president and the school principal. The school commenced lessons for a pilot period late in 2011. It operates on Sunday afternoons between 1.15pm and 6.00pm. The Law of God is taught in addition to the fundamentals of the Russian language. The school community is a vibrant one and has organised picnics, a Christmas party, and a small concert. A number of our parish families participate, and the school has brought a

number of families from the Hornsby area and from the suburbs in Sydney's north into contact with the parish.

Providing for the clergy and supporting the higher church authorities

Regular stipends are paid to our clergy and choir director to offset the expenses associated with undertaking their duties. Occasional honoraria are paid to clergy visiting our parish on special occasions and when undertaking duties in the absence of parish clergy.

Parishes of the Diocese have a responsibility to support the higher church authorities – the Diocesan and Synodal administrations - financially. Such financial support is collected from parishes for the Diocese in the form of a 15% levy on both candle sales and the first collection plate, and for the Synod in the form of a 4.5% levy on candle sales, the first collection plate, donations, membership tithes, prosphora sales, bank interest and other revenue. The levies on candle sales are applied by the Diocese when candles are purchased from the Diocesan Candle Store.

At the initiative of the Diocesan Council, our parish was exempt from all levies – apart from those on candle sales – from the time we purchased our parish centre in 2004, allowing us to direct our financial resources towards the repayment of our mortgage. This was a great help to us, and we are grateful to the Diocesan authorities for this assistance.

After members of the Parish Council attended the first Diocesan Wardens and Treasurers Conference in March 2011 it was decided that the parish would commence payment of levies. In any case, the Diocese formally revoked all exemptions from the payment of levies on 14 November 2011.

Levies are payable at six month intervals. In February levies are paid on income collected in the period from July-December, and in August levies are paid on income collected from January-June. In July 2012 we paid levies totaling \$4028.80 for the previous eighteen months. A process has now been established whereby levies are calculated month-by-month and promptly paid.

We also responded to a request from parishes for a contribution to make possible the May 2011 Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. As a parish with between 100-200 people, we contributed \$250.00. In 2011 we paid a levy of \$500.00 towards the annual Diocesan Youth Conference.

Working to help others in need

Each year the parish is obliged to take up a number of collections for organisations and causes nominated by the church authorities. In our parish it has been customary to take up additional collections during Great Lent, the Apostles' Fast and the Nativity Fast.

In 2009 we collected \$3,104.50 for charitable causes, and in 2010 we collected \$4,533.10. The total collected in 2011 was \$2,451.65. In the first half of 2012, \$1819.69 was collected.

The breakdown of Diocesan and Parish collections is as follows:

Diocesan Collection Beneficiaries 2011	When taken	Amount
Orthodox Action	February 2011	156.75
Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	February 2011	265.90
Victims of Chernobyl	April 2011	198.00
Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, Jerusalem	Palm Sunday 2011	320.00
Saint Nicholas', Christchurch (NZ)	June 2011	511.00
Synod of Bishops Fund for Assistance	November 2011	300.00
Total		\$1751.65

Parish Collection Beneficiaries 2011	When taken	Amount
Central Coast Area Health Service	Nativity Fast 2010-11	\$500.00
Geelong Parish Iconography	Collection tin in church	\$200.00
Total		\$700.00

The collections for the Synod of Bishops Fund for Assistance, the Central Coast Area Health Service, and the Geelong Parish Iconography Project were all supplemented with parish funds.

Diocesan Collection Beneficiaries 2012	When taken	Amount
Orthodox Action	February 2012	457.00
Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	March 2012	250.00
Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, Jerusalem	Palm Sunday 2012	451.15
Total		\$1158.15

Parish Collection Beneficiaries 2012	When taken	Amount
Saint Elisabeth Convent, Belarus	Nativity Fast 2011-12	\$661.54
Total		\$661.54

By the end of July 2012, all collected funds had been paid on to the Diocese or the specific beneficiary.

Diocesan collections were advertised in advance, and envelopes detailing the date and purpose of each collection were distributed in church and by post. For parish collections, labeled money boxes were prepared for parishioners and friends to take

home and use to set aside contributions during the course of the three longer fasting periods.

Late in 2010 we donated \$1,252.12 (US\$1,200.00) to the Haiti Orthodox Family Relief Program, an initiative that operates in partnership with the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. This money was provided directly to needy Haitian Orthodox families in 2011. We renewed this commitment in 2012, donating a further \$1,193.44 (again, US\$1,200.00).

Other activities

Parish life

Throughout the period under review, the Ladies' Auxiliary under Kate Marcotrigiano's direction ensured that refreshments were available after each Divine Liturgy, thereby providing an opportunity for people to relax and socialise informally. This has been an important part of parish life.

Since March 2010 Kira Paznikov Barry has produced, edited and distributed our parish newsletter. In February 2011 issue number 100 was published and in June 2012, number 116. The newsletter remains an important source of information for our parishioners and friends.

Over the same period, Susanna Bendeviski has managed the content of our parish website, www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au. Since taking over, Susanna has reviewed the website content and ensured that it is regularly updated. A new website is now under development.

In 2011 the parish began to make use of social media Facebook and Twitter. Kira Paznikov Barry and Susanna Bendeviski have shared in this work.

In June 2012 Father James began to make use of MailChimp, an online tool that allows users to create and send email and social media messages and obtain general statistics about the receipt of such messages. This simplified the sending of bulk email messages, provided recipients with an opportunity to manage their own email contact with the parish, and provided useful information about the extent to which parish communications are read.

By mid-2012, the management and coordination of content across these five platforms – newsletter, website, Facebook, Twitter, and bulk emails – had become increasingly challenging. Work will be required in future to ensure consistency of content and to avoid duplication of work.

In May 2011 we had a successful kids' fishing day at Patonga for the parish children. This was a social activity rather than a fundraiser, gathering around 30 parishioners and friends. As in previous years, Paul Pereboeff organised this event.

Another successful social activity in 2011 was our customary October Long Weekend BBQ at Avoca Beach, with many parishioners and friends gathering for fellowship and fun. Rick Golovin organized this event.

A comprehensive parish directory for pastoral and Parish Council use was first compiled in 2010. Revised editions of the directory were prepared in 2011 and 2012. At present, the use of this directory is confined to the parish priest and the newsletter editor.

In 2011 attention was given to risk management and to child and occupational health and safety. It is expected that general policies relating to safety, security and stability in parish life will be presented to the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

Work was commenced in 2012 on a number of policies and administrative guidelines to improve parish decision-making and administration. This work will continue in the year ahead.

Diocesan life

Our small parish has been fully engaged in the life of the Diocese.

To the extent possible, Father James and Father Martin visited parishes in Sydney on the occasion of their patronal feasts. In 2011-12, this included the cathedral in Strathfield; the parishes in Fairfield, Croydon, Centennial Park, and Blacktown – both the Archangel Michael and the Holy Protection parishes; the convent in Kentlyn; and the monastery near Dungog. Both participated in the festive services at the Archbishop's Chapel in Croydon on the second days of Christmas and Pascha, and at Strathfield for Metropolitan Hilarion's name day in November 2011. Many of our parishioners also participated in these services, in addition to visiting the Wallsend parish for special occasions.

Father James participated in pastoral conferences and associated joint services during Great Lent in 2011 and 2012, December 2011, and June 2012. He was an organiser of the 2011 Diocesan Youth Conference held in Wisemans Ferry. Our parish provided all necessary items enabling the Divine Liturgy to be served at this conference.

In March 2011, Rick Golovin, Sophia Kfoury and Anna Kourbatov attended the first Diocesan Wardens and Treasurers Conference. In June 2012, Father James, Rick Golovin, Anna Kourbatov and Kate Marcotrigiano attended the Diocesan Wardens Treasurers and Senior Sisters Conference. A great deal of the material distributed at these conferences had its origins in our parish.

Our parish responded promptly to Diocesan policy concerning the need for Working with Children Checks and National Criminal History Checks. As of July 2012 all clergy, officials and volunteers in our parish requiring these checks had provided the Diocese with the necessary documentation.

Plans and challenges

Parish administration

Changes in Diocesan and parish life over the past eighteen months have made it more important than ever that the parish has administrative practices that are sound, effective, and well-documented.

In 2011 the Diocesan authorities took a number of steps to improve governance at all levels of church life. Instructions were issued concerning employment, awards, ordinations and professional development. The importance of compliance with child safety laws was emphasized. In March 2011 and June 2012 the Diocesan Council held conferences to educate clergy and parish officials about the Church's statutory framework and to provide instructions and advice with regard to risk management, insurance and financial management. There is a great deal of ongoing work that the parish needs to do to ensure compliance with civil law and Diocesan policy.

In this same period, our parish has become more diverse. It has, in addition, been in existence for over ten years, acquiring in that time significant assets and extensive records. Consideration has been given to the purchase of investment property. Parish processes for communication and the management of assets and records require ongoing review. Care must be taken to ensure that responsibility for these tasks is shared, and that administrative tasks do not impede the essential pastoral work of the clergy.

The Parish Council has undertaken work in 2012 to develop policies and administrative guidelines, including position descriptions and selection criteria for key parish officials. It is important that this work continues. Active commitment to good governance is essential for all who work on the Parish Council. The incoming Parish Council must ensure that people with appropriate skills and qualities have responsibility for essential tasks.

Funding

Although our parish has a modest income we have managed to increase our Future Fund by over \$13,000.00 in the past eighteen months. We have budgeted for it to increase by \$10,200.00 each year. As the principal increases, so will the interest paid on it.

As noted above, consideration has been given in the course of the period under review to changes in clergy remuneration and to the purchase of an investment property. Work undertaken by Father Martin on behalf of the Parish Council showed that an investment property with tenants would, for at least the first ten years, significantly *increase* parish expenses.

If such initiatives or projects are to be seriously considered, additional sources of income must be found. This could involve fundraising or – in the case of acquisition of property for a future church – an appeal to the wider church community. To date, the Parish Council has chosen to work within its means.

Property acquisition and investment

It is expected that our parish will continue to find the premises at West Gosford adequate for its needs for some years to come. Although vibrant, our parish is a small one, and there is as yet little discussion within it concerning the possibility of services every Sunday. Many are content to visit other parishes, whether in Sydney or Newcastle, on the Sundays and feast-days on which there are no services in our parish.

The current Parish Council nevertheless recognises the desirability of a permanent church building in a traditional Russian Orthodox style. To this end, the Parish Council has worked to lay a sound material foundation for the future needs of the parish and thereby increase the options available to future Parish Councils. We own the premises at West Gosford, and the Parish Council has established a growing 'Future Fund' for our expected building and investment needs.

Saint Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the six months ending June 2011

Position at 1 January 2011		\$25,477.84
Income		
First Plate	5369.95	
Second Plate	2033.55	
Candles	4955.80	
Prosphora	1104.00	
Tithes	640.00	
Bank Interest	567.20	
Donations – moneybox	0.00	
Donations – other	2550.00	
Donations – for charity	500.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00	
Total Income		\$17,720.50
Expenses		
Clergy	400.00	
Choir	1450.00	
Bank charges	17.50	
Utilities	707.90	
Donations	448.65	
Periodicals	44.00	
Candles	1404.00	
Strata	1227.60	
Insurance	0.00	
Special purchases	1150.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	120.90	
Admin & stationery	630.50	
Miscellaneous	379.80	
Diocesan & Synodal levies	250.00	
Total expenses		\$8,230.85
Profit (Loss)		\$9,489.65
Position at 30 June 2011		\$34,967.49
Future Fund	28710.09	
Cheque account balance	7199.40	
Cash on hand	100.00	
Less unrepresented cheques	-516.00	
Less unpaid collections	-526.00	
Total	\$34,967.49	

Saint Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ending June 2012

Position at 1 July 2011		\$34,967.49
Income		
First Plate	8584.05	
Second Plate	5401.20	
Candles	7984.65	
Prospora	2229.00	
Tithes	780.00	
Bank Interest	1931.63	
Donations – moneybox	4973.45	
Donations – other	2150.00	
Donations – for charity	0.00	
Miscellaneous	31.00	
Total Income		\$34,064.98
Expenses		
Clergy	1000.00	
Conductor	2300.00	
Bank charges	12.50	
Utilities	1285.94	
Donations	1501.44	
Periodicals	112.00	
Candles	3718.00	
Strata	2459.60	
Insurance	1928.67	
Special purchases	3130.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	154.00	
Admin & stationery	1039.32	
Miscellaneous	177.69	
Diocesan & Synodal levies	500.00	
Total expenses		\$19,319.16
Profit (Loss)		\$14,745.82
Position at 30 June 2012		\$49,713.31
Future Fund	42808.88	
Cheque account balance	7251.12	
Cash on hand	314.85	
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00	
Less unpaid collections	-661.54	
Total	\$49,713.31	