

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017



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 2017 Annual Report.

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.

For the information of parish members, the Diocesan authorities, and the wider church community, this Annual Report summarises and reviews parish life and administration for the period from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2017, considering the achievements of our parish in relation to the objective and aims set out in the By-Laws. It also provides an overview of other activities and looks at plans 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 By-Laws indicate that five lay members of the Parish Council should be elected in addition to a Warden and Head Sister. With six elected members in total, our current Parish Council is a little smaller than provided for in the By-Laws.

The 2016-17 financial year was the fourteenth full year of operation of our Parish Council. The Parish Council met seven times during this year – in July, September, and December 2016, and in January, March, May and June 2017. At most meetings one or more members participated by Skype or telephone.

During the period under review the clergymen assigned to our parish were Priest James Carles, the rector, and Deacon 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 on 26 January 2008 and – apart from a period abroad in 2012-14 – has served with us since.

In November 2016 Fathers James and Martin were raised to the rank of Archpriest and Protodeacon respectively.

The lay members of the Parish Council elected at the AGM convened in September 2016 were Rick Golovin, Bill Reid, Anna Kourbatov, Reader Paul Douriguine, Anne Nielsen, and Nina Golovin. At the completion of their current terms of office Rick and Bill will have served continuously on the Parish Council for fourteen years.

At the 2016 AGM Kate Marcotrigiano decided not to stand for a further term on the Parish Council. Kate was a foundation member of the Parish Council who had served as Secretary and Head Sister.

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. There is also no formal Ladies' Auxiliary (or "Sisterhood") in our parish. The work of the Ladies' Auxiliary is undertaken informally, with a female member of the Parish Council designated Head Sister. In 2016-17 Nina Golovin filled this role.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Making available Orthodox Christian prayers and sacraments

Soon after moving to our parish centre in West Gosford in April 2004 we established the practice of serving Matins on Saturday evenings and Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings of the first, third and fifth weekends of each month. In Spring 2016 we began to serve All-night Vigil – Vespers, Matins and the First Hour together – on most Saturday evenings on which we have services, a return to the customary practice of the Russian Orthodox Church.

In addition, All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy are served on a number of Great Feasts. During Great Lent, Vespers with the Passia is served on the evening of the first four Sundays and Great Compline is served weekly. On the weekends and Great Feasts when there are no services in our parish, our rector serves in the parish of Saint Nicholas in Wallsend, Newcastle.

In late 2014 a twice-monthly moleben and akathist to Saint Panteleimon was added to our schedule of services. These services were scheduled on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The first service was entirely in Church Slavonic, and the second service entirely in English. In Spring 2016 this practice was changed to that of serving an akathist on the last Thursday of each month, with the language of the service alternating from month to month.

From the beginning our 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. At Divine Liturgy the choir sings in Church Slavonic and the litanies and readings are in both Church Slavonic and English.

From 2000 until her retirement in October 2015, the parish choir was directed by Olga Ivanovna Itsikson. The choir has since been directed by Matushka Marie

Carles. With a new conductor came changes in the selection of music and the approach to choral singing. Overall, the transition has been a smooth one.

Sermons are given at every Sunday Divine Liturgy and delivered only in English. They generally focus on a practical theme drawn from the appointed readings from the Holy Scriptures, or relate to the particular feast or commemoration.

Very few people attend our evening services. Sunday morning services, however, are attended by approximately 60 worshippers. On special occasions more than 100 people will be present. These include our patronal feast of Saint Panteleimon, Pascha and Christmas. There are frequently many communicants at Divine Liturgy, both children and adults.

Four service schedules are drawn up by the rector each year: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. During the twelve months from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 a total of 126 services were held in our church at West Gosford, 17 more than in the previous year.

Details of our services are as follows:

	Vespers, Matins or Vigil	Divine Liturgy	Other services	Total
Winter July-August 2016	8	8	4	20
Spring September-November 2016	9	9	4	22
Summer December-February 2016-17	13	13	8	34
Autumn March-May 2017	12	12	21	45
Winter June 2017	2	2	1	5
Total	44	44	39	126

Only one scheduled service was cancelled during the year under review, an akathist in July 2016. Cancellation of this service was made necessary because of unforeseen pastoral commitments.

In 2016 the patronal feast of our parish was transferred to Sunday 6 August, the closest Sunday to the date of commemoration of the saint. His Grace Bishop George of Canberra presided at Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with Bishop George

and Father James were Priest Dionysios Halim (Saint John the Baptist Skete, Kentlyn), Protodeacon Constantine Moshegov (Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Strathfield, and All Saints of Russia, Croydon), Father Martin, and Deacon Simeon Polorotoff (Saint Nicholas, Fairfield).

Great Feasts celebrated in our parish in the course of the year under review were the Transfiguration of the Lord, the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Exaltation of the Cross, the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), the Baptism of the Lord (Theophany), the Meeting of the Lord, Annunciation, the Ascension of the Lord, and Pentecost. There were more feast-day services in our parish during this year as circumstances prevented our rector from serving as often in Newcastle on weekdays.

On the Great Feast of the Transfiguration in August 2016 grapes, other fruits and honey were blessed, and on the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord fruit was blessed. The honey, a gift to our parish, was afterwards distributed to the faithful.

In September 2016 we served a moleben to Saints Peter and Febronia, the heavenly patrons of love and faithfulness in marriage, on the day of their commemoration. At this moleben all the couples in our parish were commemorated by name.

On Sunday 25 December prayers were offered for the repose of the soul of Andrei Gennadyevich Karlov, the Russian Ambassador to Turkey brutally murdered in Ankara on 19 December by an Islamist extremist. On Sunday 1 January 2017 prayers were offered for the souls of the victims of the crash of Tupolev TU-154 into the Black Sea. On Saturday 7 January, Christmas Day, following Divine Liturgy we served the customary thanksgiving moleben for the defeat of the French and their allies under Napoleon on that day in 1812.

On Sunday 15 January, the day of commemoration of Saint Seraphim, a brief moleben to the saint was served following Divine Liturgy.

The Great Blessing of Waters was served on the Feast of Theophany in January 2017. In accordance with parish custom homes were blessed that day and during the week afterwards.

On Thursday 26 January, the Australia Day Public Holiday, we received the Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Mother of God, "Softener of Evil Hearts". A moleben and an akathist were served before the icon. A great many people gathered for this service, including the abbess and sisters of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Convent in Mangrove Mountain and many Greek Orthodox faithful.

In February 2017 we again had all-night vigil and Divine Liturgy for All Saints of Ekaterinburg. An icon of the saints – amongst whom are the Royal Passionbearers of Russia and Righteous Symeon of Verkhoturye – that our rector had brought back with him from his visit to the Ekaterinburg Diocese was placed in church for veneration. This commemoration will be an annual feature of our schedule of

services. Following Divine Liturgy a memorial litia was served for Monk Joseph (Reader Isaac Lambertsen), the translator of the service to these saints into English.

We preceded Great Lent in 2017 with Vespers and the rite of asking forgiveness. For the second year in a row we had a morning service on the first day of Great Lent. During the first week of Great Lent we served Great Compline on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings with the reading of the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete.

Great Compline was also served on Thursday of the second, third, fourth and fifth weeks of Great Lent. This departure from our usual practice of serving Great Compline on Wednesday evenings occurred in order to accommodate the needs of those who regularly attend. Great Compline was not served during the sixth week because of All-night Vigil for the Great Feast of the Annunciation.

In accordance with a resolution of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia to mark the centenary of the Russian Revolution, at general memorial services during Great Lent prayers were especially offered "the repose of the departed servants of God who innocently died, endured suffering and torture, were exiled and imprisoned and tasted bitter death" during the harsh years of Soviet persecution.

On the first four Sunday evenings of Great Lent Vespers was served with the reading of the Gospel appointed for the Passia service. In 2018, God willing, the Passia service will include the akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ, an inclusion that aligns our practice with that customarily observed in Russia.

The customary General Service of Anointing was served on the evening of the fifth Sunday of Great Lent. This year, less than 30 people were present for anointing. This is significantly fewer than in previous years.

In 2017 the midnight Paschal service was again held in our parish. Although Pascha fell on the same day as Western Easter there was not a noticeable increase in attendance at the main services for Holy Week and Pascha.

On the Sunday of Pascha itself we once again had Vespers at 11.00am with a significant number of people attending the service and remaining afterwards to celebrate. As in previous years, those attending were primarily those who have recently emigrated from Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union.

There were eight baptisms in our church during the period under review, six of infants and children and two of adults. This is far fewer than in recent years. The infants and children baptised were Florence (Monica) Yakimov, Natalia Lucas, Eva Ivanovna, Elizaveta Voronov, Varvara Rezk, and Grace (Anna) Kobeleff. The adults baptised were Rodney (John) Johnstone and Thomas Janson. The final

baptism for the year under review, that of Grace Kobeleff in May 2017, was the one hundred and forty eighth baptism in our church at West Gosford.

Two marriages were blessed during the year under review – that of Alexei Kozlovski and Svetlana Bolonina in September 2016, and that of Thomas Janson and Valentina Biryukova in January 2017.

There were two funerals. Our parishioner Helen Leidl passed away suddenly early in November 2016 and her funeral was served on 23 November. Helen had been involved in our parish from the time of the very first services on the Central Coast. The funeral of Alexander Momot, a long-term friend of our parish, was served on 30 June 2017. Another parishioner, Tatiana Krikunov, reposed on 8 February 2017. Her funeral was served at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Strathfield.

Caring for the church building and its material needs

Our current parish centre was purchased in 2003. The cost was \$200,000, of which the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia invested \$50,000. As the parish had only \$25,000 to put towards the purchase \$125,000 was borrowed. This amount was repaid in full by the parish in December 2008.

As with all property belonging to the Diocese and the parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in New South Wales, the property is held in trust for the owners by the Russian Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust. The parish owns 75 per cent of the building, and the Diocese 25 per cent.

A formal valuation of our parish centre was obtained in March 2016 from Preston Row Paterson Pty Ltd. The property was valued at \$280,000.

During the course of the year consideration was given to the purchase of another industrial unit as an investment and to a residential property not far from the church as a potential site for a future church. After careful consideration it was agreed that it would be a substantial risk to the parish to proceed with either purchase.

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. This fund is added to by regular contributions from parish funds. Over the twelve months under review the Future Fund has decreased from \$62,435.95 to \$60,591.97 as new air conditioning costing \$9,295.00 was installed.

In July 2016 the parish received a copy of an icon of All Saints of Ufa from Abbess Philareta of the Holy Trinity Convent, in Birsk, Bashkortostan. Early in 2017 this icon and our icon of All Saints of Ekaterinburg were placed in wooden frames at the expense of a friend of the parish.

In January 2017 Reader George Karmadonoff made a number of processional candle-holders for our altar-servers and a stand to hold them.

A new censer was given to the parish by the Day-Nagikh family early 2017. This was used for the first time at the Paschal services.

In June 2017 four new candle-stands were ordered to replace the remaining wooden candle-stands made for us by George Krauihin when we were still gathering for services at Narara Community Centre. These were paid for in July 2017 and received late in August 2017. The cost including shipping was \$4,724.19. This was our most significant purchase for a number of years and has considerably improved the appearance of our small church.

During the course of the year basic church cleaning was undertaken on the basis of a roster of regular worshippers. Nina Golovin and Anna Kourbatov undertook additional cleaning. General clean-up days involving parishioners and friends were held before Christmas and Pascha.

Nina Golovin took responsibility this year 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 and these loaves has for many years been generously donated by the Kfoury family.

Undertaking Orthodox Christian educational work

For many years, the primary means of formal educational work in our parish has been preaching. Sermons are generally given every Sunday and major feast-day.

Significant emphasis is placed on learning in a liturgical context. All who wish to assist with the reading and singing in church are encouraged to do so, thereby becoming more familiar with the order of services and with the various books used in the Divine Services of the Orthodox Church.

This year, Matushka Marie commenced work with some of the parish children to have them sing "Our Father" at Divine Liturgy. This occurred twice. Efforts to involve the children in singing at the services will continue.

To the extent possible the blessing of new candles, icons, vestments, and honey and other items – in addition to the regular blessings of fruit and Paschal foods – 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 2017 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 2017 wall calendar was a commemorative calendar marking ten years since the

reestablishment of Canonical Communion between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

Our parish website and Facebook page, discussed elsewhere in this report, also assisted with Orthodox Christian educational work by sharing information about the practical aspects of the life of the parish, the Diocese, and the wider Orthodox Church. A particularly valuable online resource provided by our parish since 2015 explains when weddings can be held and gives a list of available dates for this year and next.

During the year under review our parish maintained formal links with the Saint Seraphim Community Russian School in Hornsby and a number of our parishioners actively participated in the life of the school. The school principal, Reader Paul Douraguine, reported regularly at Parish Council meetings on the life and achievements of the school, and our rector visited the school to serve a moleben at the end of the 2016 school year. In 2017 our parish again provided funds for scholarships to cover the full expenses of one student and part expenses of two students.

Providing for the clergy and supporting the higher church authorities

Our parish took the important step in April 2014 of making available to the parish rector an expense account – a non-taxable fringe benefit – that allowed him to reduce his secular work commitments by one and a half days each fortnight. As for a range of reasons this arrangement proved unsustainable, it ceased on the rector's initiative at the end of February 2016. It is unlikely that such an arrangement will again be considered.

A small regular stipend is paid to our deacon to offset his travelling expenses. An honorarium is paid to hierarchs visiting our parish on special occasions.

Up until the end of 2016 parishes of our Diocese were obliged to support the Diocesan administration by paying a 15 per cent levy on candle sales and the first collection plate. Similarly, support for the Synodal administration was gathered by way of a 4.5 percent levy on candle sales, the first collection plate, donations, membership tithes, prosphora sales, bank interest and other revenue. The levies on candle sales were applied by the Diocese when candles are purchased from the Diocesan Candle Store.

At the Diocesan Assembly in November 2017 it was agreed to change this system to 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 includes candle sales, all collection plates, donations, membership tithes, prosphora sales, bank interest and other revenue. This new system took effect on 1 January 2017.

Levies are payable at six month intervals. In February levies are payable on income received in the period from July-December, and in August levies are payable on income received from January-June.

In August 2016 we paid levies of \$1,843.34 for the period 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016. In February 2017 we paid levies of \$1,840.65 for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017.

In August 2017 we paid a further \$2,621.77 for the period from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017. Had our levies for the period from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017 been paid under the old system we would have paid \$1740.16.

In addition, in February 2017 we paid a mandatory contribution of \$500.00 to the Diocesan Needy Parishes Fund.

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.

Over the years we have also taken up additional collections during certain fasting seasons. This was not done during the year under review.

In 2016-17 \$1,970.00 was collected for charitable purposes. This was significantly less than in previous years. The collections taken up were as follows:

Mandatory collections taken up every year

Beneficiary	When taken	Amount
ROCOR Fund for Assistance	December 2016	\$220.00
Orthodox Action	February 2017	\$330.00
Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	March 2017	\$300.00
Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, Jerusalem	April 2017	\$300.00
Total		\$930.00

Mandatory special collections

Beneficiary	When taken	Amount
Holy Dormition Lavra, Svyatogorsk	October 2016	\$460.00
Synod Liturgical Music Commission	October 2016	\$190.00
Serbian Memorial Church	June 2017	\$390.00
Total		\$1040.00

As in previous years, collections were advertised in advance and envelopes with details of the date and purpose of each collection were distributed in church.

Apart from our collection for the Serbian Memorial Church, all collections had been passed to the Diocesan Office by 30 June 2017. This outstanding amount was paid in August 2017.

From 2011 until 2016 we contributed annually 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. Our contributions were provided directly to needy Haitian Orthodox families, clergy and teachers. In January 2017 we decided to discontinue this support and instead support the Sunday School for Girls in Birsk, Bashkortostan.

This Sunday School for Girls is a project of the Holy Trinity Convent in what was then the Diocese of Neftekamsk and Birsk, a vicariate of the Ufa Metropolitanate. Our rector visited the convent in October 2015 and was impressed by the work done there. At the school the girls are taught the basics and history of the Orthodox faith, the lives of saints, church singing, needlework on church items, and to have a positive view of themselves and of the world. Birsk is an industrial town of just over 40,000 people on the Belaya River. It has a number of churches and monasteries that suffered greatly during the Soviet years and that are in need of support. In 2017 we donated \$1,200.00 to the convent.

As mentioned earlier in this report, we again provided three scholarships to the Saint Seraphim Community Russian School in Hornsby. One provided a 100 per cent fee subsidy for the year and the other two provided a 50 per cent subsidy over the same period. The combined value of these scholarships was \$1,840.00.

Other activities

Parish life

Throughout the period under review, our informal Ladies' Auxiliary under Nina Golovin'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. In 2016 and 2017 a roster has helped involve more people in this work.

Our current parish website was first published in November 2013. By the end of June 2017 it had received over 75,000 visits, with over 21,000 visits in 2016-17. 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 information about parish history and administration and practical aspects of baptisms, weddings, funerals and other services of need. New content is added to the website regularly.

The parish Facebook page is fully integrated with the website and presents photographs and less formal news items. The level of engagement with our parish

on Facebook has again increased over the year under review, raising the profile of the parish and assisting in the work of Orthodox Christian education.

Our parish newsletter, previously the most significant means of communication with our parishioners and friends, was less prominent in parish life in 2016-2017. Only one issue was published – in June 2017 – of an anticipated twelve. A further issue was published in July 2017, and it is expected that publication will continue in 2017-18.

In 2016 we did not have our customary October Long Weekend gathering at Heazlett Park in Avoca Beach. This event will recommence in 2017.

In the first half of 2017 the Parish Council endorsed a new Privacy Policy and a new child-safe, child-friendly policy. These were submitted to the Diocesan authorities and posted prominently on our website.

In June 2017 new stationery was printed to update that which had been in use since 2005. The new stationery has our new postal address and reflects some other changes in our contact details.

Diocesan life

Our small parish engaged in the life of the Diocese to the extent possible given the distance of many of our parishioners from Sydney and the pastoral and secular work commitments of our clergy.

Father James participated in services for the fiftieth anniversary of the repose of Saint John of Shanghai on 1-2 July and the cathedral feast-day of Saints Peter and Paul on 11-12 July 2016. He assisted with the organisation of and attended a seminar in memory of Hieromonk Seraphim (Rose) (+1982) at Croydon in September 2016. He served at the Intercession of the Holy Virgin parish in Cabramatta at the feast-day services on 13-14 October 2016 and the Holy Protection parish of the Moscow Patriarchate in Blacktown later that month.

From 1 July 2016 until the Diocesan Assembly was convened in November 2016, Father James continued to serve as one of the clergy members of the 2013-2016 Diocesan Council and as Secretary of the Diocesan Council and of the Russian Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust. During this period he worked extensively on preparations for the Diocesan Assembly.

Early in September 2016 Father James advised the Diocesan authorities that he would be unable to continue to serve on the Diocesan Council. His term came to an end with the closure of the Diocesan Assembly on 19 December 2016. All residual work arising from his membership of the Diocesan Council and his role as Secretary of the Diocesan Assembly was completed by 31 December 2016.

Also participating in the work of the Diocesan Assembly were Father Martin, Anna Kourbatov, and Anne Nielsen. Together with Bill Reid and Lilije Sile they attended

a Diocesan banquet on 17 November 2017 in honour of Metropolitan Hilarion's twentieth anniversary as Ruling Bishop of the Diocese.

As a result of secular work commitments it was not possible for either Father James or Father Martin to participate in the Great Lenten Pastoral Conference in March 2017. These commitments – and, in the case of Father James, pastoral commitments in our parish and in Newcastle – have made it difficult for our clergy to be involved in Diocesan activities during 2017.

We nevertheless endeavoured to maintain our connection to the life of the Diocese and the wider Russian Orthodox Church in a number of ways. Epistles from Patriarch Kyrill and Metropolitan Hilarion were read aloud at Christmas, Pascha, and on other important occasions. The departed and ever-memorable First Hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, the departed Ruling Bishops of our Diocese, and other notable church figures were commemorated in prayer. Prayers of thanksgiving were offered for the unity of the Russian Orthodox Church and for the deliverance of the Ukrainian land and people from civil strife.

Plans and challenges

Parish life

At the 2016 AGM a number of suggestions to improve parish life were put forward. These included helping people better understand the system of parish membership, the organisation of family days, making newcomers feel more welcome, compiling a directory of businesses linked to the parish, and varying the service schedule – for example, by having a shorter service on Saturday evenings followed by a talk – to encourage attendance.

These suggestions were discussed extensively in late 2016 and early 2017. Other initiatives suggested in these discussions included developing a shared parish directory to help parishioners contact one another and exchange ideas, a parish fundraising activity on Harmony Day in March 2017, educational talks and activities for adults and children, the composition of leaflets to explain various aspects of church life, visiting our parishioners in nursing homes and hospitals, and helping those without transport to come to church.

The Parish Council discussed these matters early in 2017. At that time it was agreed that the existing parish model was a successful one. It was noted that people are made welcome and are given almost instant opportunities to participate in various aspects of parish life, and that as Father James has full-time secular work and responsibility for another parish he was unable to do much more. Father James' view was that significant parish growth would require a full-time bilingual rector and weekly services, something that he was unable to provide. He nevertheless expressed his willingness to help the parish work towards that if need be.

The view of the Parish Council at that time was that the main priorities in parish life were the services, the cleanliness of the church, and charitable activity. A decision was made at that time to work within existing structures such as the Parish Council and the Ladies' Auxiliary to maintain and improve parish life. It was also agreed that the newsletter and the website would continue to be used for explanatory and educational items.

Property purchase

At the November 2014 Annual General Meeting parish members endorsed an appeal to the wider community for financial assistance to purchase land for a future permanent church. Publication of this appeal was delayed as certain practical matters were worked through during the first half of 2015, but it was published online and in the Diocesan journal, *Word of the Church*, in July 2015.

At the end of the 2015-16 financial year donations in response to this appeal totaling \$16,752.99 had been received. These funds have been set aside and will not be used for any purpose other than the purchase of land for a future church.

Although the Parish Council resolved in 2015-16 to indefinitely set aside plans to purchase property, we did in fact consider two properties in 2016-17 and approached financial institutions to discuss loans. As has been noted elsewhere in this report, the risk to the parish was considered too great and these possibilities were not pursued.

Improvements to the West Gosford parish centre

In September 2017 the Parish Council acknowledged that the parish centre in West Gosford would be our place of worship for many years to come. In view of this, it was agreed that steps would be taken to

- install a mezzanine floor at the rear of the church and above the existing hall to provide for a choir loft and for office and storage space

and that

- the altar area would be slightly enlarged;
- a new iconostasis – one that can be moved to a new church, when built – would be purchased and installed; and
- additional decorative work would be undertaken in the church.

The work of planning and undertaking these improvements will be entrusted to the 2017-18 Parish Council.

September 2017

**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 2017. 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 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2017 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: (02) 4324 7819
ABN: 69 887 100 989
2 August 2017

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

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.

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.

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2016	\$ 102,897.12	\$ 89,660.86
Add:		
Church Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 12,068.42	\$ 10,656.13
Bookstore Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 1,111.68	\$ 345.00
Ladies Auxiliary Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	\$ 1,256.00	\$ 2,235.13
Write back of depreciation charge from 2016 following re-classification of an asset as non-depreciable asset	\$ 916.67	
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 30 JUNE 2017	<u>\$ 118,249.89</u>	<u>\$ 102,897.12</u>

The above Funds are represented by :

CURRENT ASSETS

Westpac Banking Corporation		
Working Account No. 032-596 14-0923	\$ 2,158.74	\$ 4,581.09
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 28-9049	\$ 16,752.99	\$ 1,315.32
Future Fund Account No. 032-523 33-4604	\$ 10,591.97	\$ 7,404.63
Bookstore Account No. 032-523 31-7943	\$ 203.27	\$ 2,856.69
Ladies Auxiliary Account No. 032-527 15-5689	\$ 5,252.81	\$ 4,796.34
Cash Reserve Account No. 032-527 24-1982	\$ 10,900.40	\$ 10,825.23
Term Deposit No. 032-523 33-4612	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 53,716.00
Cash on Hand - Church	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Cash on Hand - Bookstore	\$ 1,329.10	\$ 304.00
Cash on Hand - Ladies Auxiliary	\$ 751.75	\$ 251.65
Withholding Tax Paid	\$ 139.00	\$ 139.00
Bond	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$ 98,390.03</u>	<u>\$ 86,499.95</u>

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Plant & Equipment at Cost	\$ 21,595.90	\$ 1,335.00
Add: Purchases	\$ 5,577.95	\$ 20,260.90
	<u>\$ 27,173.85</u>	<u>\$ 21,595.90</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 4,427.06	\$ 2,737.86
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$ 22,746.79</u>	<u>\$ 18,858.04</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 121,136.82</u>	<u>\$ 105,357.99</u>
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued Diocese Levies Payable	\$ 2,496.93	\$ 1,843.34
Accrued Expenses Reimbursable		\$ 617.53
Serbian Collection Payable	\$ 390.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 2,886.93</u>	<u>\$ 2,460.87</u>

NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 118,249.89</u>	<u>\$ 102,897.12</u>
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SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
INCOME		
First Plate	\$ 10,006.90	\$ 10,853.20
Second Plate	\$ 5,533.45	\$ 5,745.45
Candles	\$ 14,557.15	\$ 9,725.70
Prospora	\$ 2,204.00	\$ 2,091.00
Tithes	\$ 570.00	\$ 630.00
Bank Interest	\$ 1,501.93	\$ 1,797.81
Donations - Money Box	\$ 9,517.50	\$ 7,260.00
Donations - Other	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 10,116.80
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 258.00	\$ 2,075.36
GST Refund	\$ 314.00	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 50,562.93</u>	<u>\$ 50,295.32</u>
 EXPENSES		
Clergy	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 9,904.00
Utilities	\$ 3,810.69	
Donations	\$ 3,421.00	\$ 4,692.07
Candles	\$ 6,078.97	\$ 4,321.00
Strata Levies	\$ 3,170.21	\$ 3,170.20
Insurance	\$ 2,381.91	\$ 2,293.60
Admin & Stationery	\$ 3,027.38	\$ 2,759.48
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 1,090.70	\$ 158.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 6,111.13	\$ 1,227.92
Diocesan & Synodal Levies	\$ 6,100.34	\$ 3,662.42
Depreciation	\$ 2,252.18	\$ 1,019.94
Conductor		\$ 650.00
Periodicals		\$ 56.00
Website		\$ 859.29
Council Rates		\$ 425.24
Electricity		\$ 1,590.32
Telephone		\$ 823.93
Water Charges		\$ 230.97
Audit Fees		\$ 500.00
Bank Charges		\$ 35.61
Capital Items <\$400		\$ 239.20
Drop Box Levy		\$ 1,020.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$ 38,494.51</u>	<u>\$ 39,639.19</u>
 OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
	<u>\$ 12,068.42</u>	<u>\$ 10,656.13</u>

**SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
BOOKSTORE ACCOUNT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
INCOME		
Sales	\$ 1,920.10	\$ 1,771.00
Donation	\$ 498.00	
Bank Interest	\$ 1.58	\$ 2.34
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 2,419.68</u>	<u>\$ 1,773.34</u>
EXPENSES		
Purchases	\$ 810.00	\$ 1,375.09
Bank Charges		\$ 41.25
Framing	\$ 498.00	
Cash Discrepancy		\$ 12.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$ 1,308.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,428.34</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$ 1,111.68</u>	<u>\$ 345.00</u>

**SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
LADIES AUXILIARY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
INCOME		
Bank Interest	\$ 79.61	\$ 142.25
Donations	\$ 925.00	\$ 1,398.80
Functions	\$ 2,165.40	\$ 2,085.10
Fundraising	\$ 1,767.00	\$ 2,547.00
Sundry Income	\$ 87.08	\$ 98.20
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 5,024.09</u>	<u>\$ 6,271.35</u>
EXPENSES		
Decorations	\$ 900.00	
Depreciation	\$ 353.69	\$ 1,183.67
Functions	\$ 1,602.80	\$ 1,908.20
Fundraising	\$ 344.90	\$ 752.85
Printing & Stationery	\$ -	\$ 36.50
Rent	\$ 530.00	\$ 95.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 36.70	\$ -
Subscriptions	\$ -	\$ 60.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$ 3,768.09</u>	<u>\$ 4,036.22</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$ 1,256.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,235.13</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
Total of all bank accounts as at 1 July 2016	\$ 85,495.30	\$ 89,264.08
<i>Cash was generated from</i>		
Surplus for year - Church operations	\$ 12,068.42	\$ 10,656.13
Surplus for year - Bookstore operations	\$ 1,111.68	\$ 345.00
Surplus for year - Ladies Auxiliary operations	\$ 1,256.00	\$ 2,235.13
Depreciation provided during the year	\$ 2,605.87	\$ 2,203.61
Decrease in cash on hand		\$ 369.95
Increase in current liabilities	\$ 426.06	\$ 682.30
<i>Cash was applied to</i>		
Acquisition of plant and equipment	\$ (5,577.95)	\$ (20,260.90)
Increase in cash on hand	\$ (1,525.20)	
Total of all bank accounts as at 30 June 2017	<u>\$ 95,860.18</u>	<u>\$ 85,495.30</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-596 14-0923

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2016	\$ 4,581.09
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 51,555.19</u>
	\$ 56,136.28
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 53,977.54</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2017	<u>\$ 2,158.74</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2017	\$ 2,158.74
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 2,158.74
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2017	<u>\$ 2,158.74</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 28-9049

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2016	\$ 1,315.32
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 15,437.67</u>
	\$ 16,752.99
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ -</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2017	<u>\$ 16,752.99</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2017	\$ 16,752.99
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 16,752.99
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2017	<u>\$ 16,752.99</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 33-4604

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2016	\$ 7,404.63
Add: Receipts for year	<u>\$ 17,482.34</u>
	\$ 24,886.97
Less: Payments for year	<u>\$ 14,295.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2017	<u>\$ 10,591.97</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2017	\$ 10,591.97
Add: Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 10,591.97
Less: Unpresented Cheques	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2017	<u>\$ 10,591.97</u>

SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-523 31-7943

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2016	\$	2,856.69
Add: Receipts for year	\$	<u>86.58</u>
	\$	2,943.27
Less: Payments for year	\$	<u>2,740.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2017	\$	<u>203.27</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2017	\$	203.27
Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$	<u>-</u>
	\$	203.27
Less: Unpresented Cheques	\$	<u>-</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2017	\$	<u>203.27</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-527 15-5689

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2016	\$	4,796.34
Add: Receipts for year	\$	<u>2,198.47</u>
	\$	6,994.81
Less: Payments for year	\$	<u>1,742.00</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2017	\$	<u>5,252.81</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2017	\$	5,252.81
Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$	<u>-</u>
	\$	5,252.81
Less: Unpresented Cheques	\$	<u>-</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2017	\$	<u>5,252.81</u>

Westpac Banking Corporation
Account No. 032-527 24-1982

Cash Book Balance 1 July 2016	\$	10,825.23
Add: Receipts for year	\$	<u>75.17</u>
	\$	10,900.40
Less: Payments for year	\$	<u>-</u>
Cash Book Balance 30 June 2017	\$	<u>10,900.40</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement as at 30 June 2017	\$	10,900.40
Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$	<u>-</u>
	\$	10,900.40
Less: Unpresented Cheques	\$	<u>-</u>
Balance as per Cash Book as at 30 June 2017	\$	<u>10,900.40</u>

**SAINT PANTELEIMON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF GOSFORD
LADIES AUXILIARY**

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Description	Historical Details		Opening Written Down Value	New Acquisitions Date	Cost	Value for Depreciation	Rate %	Depreciation	Closing Written Down Value
	Date	Cost							
Non-depreciable Assets									
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				28/06/2017	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0%	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
								\$ -	
Church									
Speaker, Microphone and Cables	08/09/2015	\$ 480.15	\$ 408.13			\$ 408.13	20%	\$ 96.03	\$ 312.10
Television Set, Accessories and Camera	17/11/2015	\$ 1,485.75	\$ 1,312.41			\$ 1,312.41	20%	\$ 297.15	\$ 1,015.26
Daikin 20Kw Inverter	20/01/2016	\$ 9,295.00	\$ 8,520.42			\$ 8,520.42	20%	\$ 1,859.00	\$ 6,661.42
								\$ 2,252.18	
Ladies Auxiliary									
Stainless Steel Bench	27/09/2012	\$ 835.00	\$ 208.75			\$ 208.75	20%	\$ 167.00	\$ 41.75
Stove	21/09/2014	\$ 500.00	\$ 325.00			\$ 325.00	20%	\$ 100.00	\$ 225.00
Marquee and Attachments				29/09/2016	\$ 577.95	\$ 577.95	20%	\$ 86.69	\$ 491.26
								\$ 353.69	
		<u>\$ 21,595.90</u>	<u>\$ 19,774.71</u>		<u>\$ 5,577.95</u>	<u>\$ 25,352.66</u>		<u>\$ 2,605.87</u>	<u>\$ 22,746.79</u>



russian orthodox
church of
saint panteleimon
gosford

ABN 98 562 088 123

Saint Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church
4/7 Comserv Close
(Post Office Box 6039)
WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250

www.gosfordrussianchurch.org.au
info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.au