

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК  
PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 68, August 2007 ~

**PARISH FEAST-DAY CELEBRATIONS, AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2007**

The commemoration of our patron saint, the Holy Great-Martyr and Healer Panteleimon, began this year on Wednesday August 8<sup>th</sup>, the eve of his feast-day. A small number of parishioners and friends gathered in church that evening for Matins. Amongst them was Hieromonk Joachim (Ross) of Saint John the Baptist Skete in Kentlyn, editor of the English-language Diocesan journal, 'The Voice'.

The following morning approximately 40 people were present for Divine Liturgy, a large number for a working day in our small parish. Amongst those present was Alexander Yakimov, our founding warden, who was greeted warmly. Concelebrating with Father James were four visiting priests: Hieromonk Joachim; Priest Alexander Filichakov (of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Theophany in Newcastle, a Patriarchal parish); Hieromonk John (MacPherson); and Priest Alexander Korjenevski (of the Russian parishes of Saint George, Carlton, and Archangel Michael, Blacktown). Following the service, the clergy and many of the worshippers shared in a light festive meal prepared by the Ladies' Auxiliary.

On the evening of Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>, All-night Vigil commenced at 6.00pm. Father James again presided at this service, assisted by Protodeacon German Polorotov of the parish of Saint Nicholas in Fairfield. Stichera were once again sung in honour of Saint Panteleimon; the customary five loaves and wheat, wine and oil were blessed at the end of Vespers; and the magnification of the Great-Martyr was sung at Matins. Our parish choir was augmented by a number of visitors who had travelled to the Central Coast to be with us for the weekend.

On the morning of Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup> Father James served a moleben with blessing of water. Many guests arrived from Newcastle and Sydney, including Mitred Archpriest Michael Li and Protodeacon Basil Hadarin. Archbishop Hilarion arrived with the wonder-working "Kursk-Root" Icon of the Mother of God shortly before 9.00am. Hieromonk John carried the icon into the church as the faithful sang the troparion. Vladyka was then greeted at the church doors before being vested in the midst of the church and commencing Divine Liturgy.

Our choir sang beautifully, once again assisted by many visitors. Approximately 250 filled not only our small church, but also the adjoining hall and the paved area outside. At the small entrance, Father James was awarded the right to wear the purple skufiya (a soft velvet head-covering), a clerical award for given after at least six years of

priestly service. Vladyka later gave a sermon in Russian and in English, after which a moleben was served before the icons of the Mother of God and Saint Panteleimon. Many years was sung for the church authorities, the Russian land and this land, and for the parishioners. As the faithful venerated the cross at the end of the service they were sprinkled with holy water. Father Alexander Filchakov and some of his parishioners arrived from Newcastle to join us for lunch.

A festive banquet was then held at Mount Penang Parklands, a short drive from our church. This was something of a change, all our previous feast-day luncheons having been held at the Narara Community Centre. Approximately 220 people attended. Our parish Ladies' Auxiliary had prepared a splendid lunch that was enjoyed by all. Father James spoke at the lunch, noting the changes that had occurred since the last time the "Kursk-Root" Icon of the Mother had visited the parish: the purchase of our current premises and the building of our church, regular services, and the consolidation of parish life. He recalled that many prayed for and spoke of these things at an akathist before the icon served at Rick and Nina Golovin's home in 2002, observing that we too, in our small parish, had been blessed and strengthened through the prayers of the Mother of God.

A friend of our parish, Mrs Elena Yakupov, then read a poem that she had composed in honour of the occasion. The text of Mrs Yakupov's poem is given in full below.

We were greatly encouraged by the large number of people who travelled to celebrate our parish feast-day, and by the warm atmosphere that prevailed. Many people commented positively on the day and afterwards about our small church, the services, the wonderful banquet, and the diverse and friendly array of worshippers present. We also received generous donations from the Ladies' Auxiliary of Saint Peter & Paul Cathedral in Strathfield and the Holy Protection parish in Cabramatta. Thanks be to God for all things!

A number of photographs from our feast-day can be viewed on the Diocesan website, [www.rocor.org.au](http://www.rocor.org.au). Our own parish website should be updated soon.

### ПРЕСТОЛЬНЫЙ ПРАЗДНИК В ГОСФОРДЕ, 2007

Мы собрались помолиться  
И святому поклониться,  
Чтоб недуги исцелил,  
Чтобы дал нам свежих сил.

Пантелеймон - наш Целитель  
И небесный покровитель,  
В честь которого семь лет  
Православной веры свет  
Город Госфорд окормляет.

И сегодня храм справляет  
Свой престол. Как хор звучал,  
Прихожан к молитве звал!

Как лампадки трепетали  
И иконы освещали,  
И хористов голоса  
Уносились в небеса.

У сестричества застолье  
Настоящее приволье  
Для ценителей еды!  
Сёстрам же за их труды  
Благодарность выражаем  
И от всей души желаем,  
Чтоб Целитель их хранил,  
Бодрость духа дал и сил.

Духовенство поздравляем  
Божью милость призываем,  
Пусть растёт из года в год  
Дружный госсфордский приход.

**Елена Якупова**

*От сестричества Кройдонской церкви, Всех Святых в Земле Российской Просиявших*

## **GUESSING COMPETITION PRIZE WINNERS**

The following people were the winners of prizes in our Guessing Competition, drawn at our festive lunch on Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>:

- 1st prize, a television: Pavel Kolesnikov (Ticket № 1915)
- 2nd prize, a picture: Elizabeth Terry (Ticket № 962)
- 3rd prize, a basket of wine: Galina Cherkasov (Ticket № 515)
- 4th prize, a Bohemia crystal bowl: Bill Reid (Ticket № 1459)
- 5th prize, a Mikasa photo frame: Sadovnikov family (Ticket № 1185)
- 6th prize, Royal Worcester savoury dish: Pavel Kolesnikov (Ticket № 1244)
- 7th prize, a tablecloth: Raya Zyza (Ticket № 289)
- 8th prize, queen bed satin sheets: Dubov family (Ticket № 2202)
- 9th prize, Bohemia crystal glasses: Klavdia Dmitrieff (Ticket № 1297)
- 10th prize, a Mikasa Bowl: Christina (Ticket № 85)
- 11th prize, a brooch: Mrs T. Elgin (Ticket № 1393)
- 12th prize, a hairdryer: an anonymous prizewinner (Ticket № 325)

Our Guessing Competition raised \$3310.00! Many thanks to all for their kind support, both those who donated prizes and those who purchased tickets! The Ladies Auxiliary also raised a further \$1512.00 through donations at lunch and by auctioning a number of beautiful cakes.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS AND PARISH LIFE IN AUGUST

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August, with most of the matters discussed relating to arrangements for our parish feast-day observances. Other items considered included charitable activities, plans for our Annual General Meeting, and parish finances. The Parish Council is due to meet next on Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Apart from feast-day arrangements this month has been a quiet one. Our only other services are for the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God («Успение») on Monday August 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup>. These are particularly beautiful services, with a "tomb" of the Virgin Mary set forth in the centre of the church for veneration by the faithful.

Adding to the beauty of the services in our small church on this feast-day will be newly-made blue vestments, used on all feasts of the Mother of God. Katya Lugovoy worked hard to complete these in time for the feast, and Father James read the prayers of blessing over them on the morning of Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Katya and those who assisted her!

### NEW ICONS IN OUR CHURCH

When visiting our church on Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>, Protodeacon Basil Hadarin delivered eight new icons that he had framed at Father James' request. These icons are of Saint Margarita; Saint Veronica; Saint Ignatius (Brianchaninov) of the Caucasus; Saint Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow; Righteous Theophil of Kiev, the fool-for-Christ; the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia; Saint Antipas of Valaam; and the Resurrection of Lazarus. At around the same time we were given another framed icon, one of Saint Maxim of Serbia. These beautiful new icons will be placed in the church - some in the main part of the church, and some in the sanctuary - as soon as is possible. More information about these saints and others depicted on icons in our church will be given in future issues of this newsletter.

### SERBIAN ORTHODOX SLAVA: ALL SAINTS OF SERBIA MISSION

Some parishioners may recall that members of the Serbian Orthodox community here on the Central Coast made use of our parish hall for a time back in 2004-05. Although we have had only limited contact since then, we have been invited to join the Serbian Orthodox Mission as they celebrate their patronal feast (or "slava") of All Saints of Serbia on Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>. Divine Liturgy will be served at 10.30am that day at the Saint Dionysios Greek Orthodox Church, Nurses Road, Mangrove Mountain. A festive banquet and concert will follow. Although Father James will be serving in Wallsend that morning, he hopes to make it to the events after Divine Liturgy. This is an opportunity to strengthen our friendship with other Orthodox Christians on the Central Coast, and all parishioners and friends of our parish are encouraged to attend

the service and lunch if they can. Further information can be obtained from the Serbian Mission on 4367-7937.

### **SPRING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

A new Spring 2007 schedule of services covering September, October and November is now available in church and on the parish website. This year, September will be a busy month for our parish liturgically, with services on three Sundays (the first, third, and fifth of the month) and for the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The service on the fifth Sunday (September 30<sup>th</sup>, the day of commemoration of Martyr Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope and Love) will be an entirely English-language service, as is usual when five Sundays fall in any given month. Careful readers of the schedule may note an error in the English version: services scheduled for Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> will in fact be on Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks to Elizabeth Carles for pointing out this mistake!

### **THINKING AHEAD: PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Our parish Annual General Meeting (AGM) is generally held each year on the first Sunday in November. In the July newsletter it was reported that it is likely that the AGM will be convened on Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> this year. This has proved difficult to arrange, and so Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> is now the most likely date. Once again, parish members are asked to keep this date free so as to attend the meeting, an important event in parish life. Membership dues should also now be paid. Those wishing to become members are welcome to apply for parish membership at any time, although new members are ineligible to vote at an AGM until they have been members for at least 6 months.

### **DIOCESAN LIFE: 43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE**

As has been noted in a previous issue of the newsletter, this year's Diocesan youth conference will be held in Sydney, at the Crosslands Youth & Convention Centre in Galston, near Hornsby. The conference will run from December 23<sup>rd</sup> until December 28<sup>th</sup>. Further information is available at [www.syezd2007.com](http://www.syezd2007.com).

Vladyka Hilarion has recently asked that a collection be taken up in each parish to assist the Conference organizers. In our parish, this collection will be taken up after the service on Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **SAD NEWS**

On Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> Father James received the sad news that one of our parishioners, Alexander Dikan, had passed away. Mr Dikan lived with his wife Bridget in West Gosford. He had been quite unwell for many years, but came whenever possible to services at Narara and West Gosford. May the Lord grant him rest! Our sincere

condolences to Mrs Dikan. God willing, Father James will attend the funeral at the Strathfield cathedral on Monday August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **VISIT TO AUSTRALIA OF PATRIARCHAL DELEGATION AND THE MIRACLE-WORKING 'DERZHAVNAYA' (OR 'REIGNING') ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia, an official delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate, headed by His Eminence Metropolitan Isidor of Ekaterinodar and Kuban, will participate in celebrations of the reestablishment of canonical unity of the Russian Orthodox Church.

During this trip, divine services are planned to be held in the churches and monasteries of the Russian diaspora. The visitors will have with them an icon dear to the heart of every Orthodox Christian, the 'Derzhavnaya' [Reigning] Icon of the Mother of God.

The members of the delegation and the choir of the Sretensky Monastery in Moscow will participate in the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the episcopal service of the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus of Eastern America and New York.

In addition to participating in divine services in New York, Jordanville, Boston, Toronto, Chicago, Washington DC, San Francisco, Melbourne, Sydney, Geneva, Berlin, London and Paris, the Sretensky Choir will also perform "Masterpieces of Russian Choral Singing" in the great concert halls of these cities.

### **The Derzhavnaya Icon of the Mother of God**



The miracle-working "Reigning" icon of the Mother of God was found the same day on which Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II abdicated the Russian throne— March 2<sup>nd</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>, 1917. The Russian Orthodox people accepted this occurrence as a witness that the ultimate authority over and care for Russia had passed to the Heavenly Queen Herself.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1917, the Most Holy Mother of God appeared in a dream to the peasant girl, Evdokia Adrianova, and spoke to her these words: "There is a large, dark icon in the village of Kolomenskoe. It must be taken from there; the people must pray." On February 26<sup>th</sup>, in a second dream, the girl saw a white church and a majestic Lady within it. The peasant girl decided to search for the church she had seen in her dream. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the village of Kolomenskoe, near Moscow, she recognized the Church of the Lord's Ascension as that very church. A diligent search by the girl and the church's rector revealed a large, dark icon of the Mother of God—the very image that had revealed itself to Evdokia in her dream.

The icon quickly came to be venerated as miraculous; many copies were painted of it, and it was taken to all the surrounding villages, monasteries, churches—even factories—throughout Moscow, and molebens were served. A service and akathist were written at the blessing and with the participation of Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow and all Russia.

The icon's name reflects its iconography. The Mother of God is represented as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Dressed in a green gown and red garments reminiscent of an imperial mantle, she is seated upon a throne, her right hand bearing a sceptre, her left hand resting upon the royal orb. Upon Her head is a crown encircled by a golden halo. The Infant Christ sits upon her knees, His right hand raised in blessing, His left hand pointing towards the monarchical orb.

It is thought that the "Reigning" icon, painted in the 18th century, was earlier located in the Ascension Convent of the Moscow Kremlin, from which it was taken to Kolomenskoe during the Napoleonic invasion of 1812.

After the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, the Ascension Church was closed; the icon and other holy objects from that church were taken to various storage rooms of the State Historical Museum, where they remained for seven decades.

The miracle-working icon's return corresponded significantly with Russia's liberation from the yoke of the godless regime. At the end of the 1980's, through the efforts of Metropolitan Pitirim (Nechayev) of Volokolamsk and Yuriev, and of Archimandrite Innokenty (Prosvirnin), the icon was taken quietly upon orders from the director of the museum, KG Levykin, to the publishing department of the Moscow Patriarchate, and kept for several years in the altar of the house church dedicated to St Joseph of Volokolamsk.

On July 27, 1990, at the blessing of His Holiness Alexy, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Orthodox clergy and faithful of Moscow triumphantly carried the icon to Kolomenskoe to be placed in the Kazan Church, which was not closed. The icon was installed at the right kliros. Since that time, every Sunday, the akathist hymn composed under Patriarch Tikhon's patronage has been read before the miracle-working icon of the "Reigning" Mother of God.

The icon will be in Sydney on Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> - at Holy Protection church, Cabramatta - and on Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> - at the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral in Strathfield. As we have no services in Gosford that weekend, all who are able to travel to these services are urged to do so. It is understood that the Sretensky Choir will sing at the Divine Services on those days. A concert will be held at Sydney Town Hall at 5.00pm on the evening of Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## SEMINAR COMMEMORATING THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPOSE OF FATHER SERAPHIM (ROSE) OF PLATINA

Father Seraphim (Rose) was an American convert to Orthodoxy and a priestmonk in our Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. A prophetic voice for Orthodox Christians, prolific author and defender of traditional, patristic Orthodoxy, Blessed Father Seraphim of Platina continues to have a profound impact upon today's Orthodox Christians and those searching for authentic Christianity.

This seminar, which will look at the Church's teaching and understanding of the soul, will be held on **Friday August 31st 2007** at All Saints of Russia Russian Orthodox Church, 18 Chelmsford Avenue, Croydon.

A panikhida will be served in English by His Grace Archbishop Hilarion at 6.30pm, with the seminar following in the parish hall at 7.30pm.

Guest speaker Archpriest Nicholas Dalinkiewicz, assistant priest of the Holy Protection Cathedral, Brunswick (Melbourne), will then speak on "The Human Soul—From Conception to Departure". Supper will follow, and books will be available for purchase on the night.

This seminar has been organised by Father Joachim of the Auxiliary Committee of St John the Baptist Skete, Kentlyn. For further information please telephone Father Joachim on (02) 4626 3945.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

**Traveling abroad:** Deacon Christopher and Matushka Julie

**The sick & suffering:** Our parishioners Antonina (Tialshinsky) & Victor (Manjetny); and also for Vasili, Vera, Eugenia, Olga, Galina, Tatiana and Daniel

**Expectant mothers:** Matushka Marie, Phillipa

**Preparing for baptism:** Philip

**Preparing for marriage:** Paul and Maria

**Newly-departed:** Alexander (Dikan), a parishioner at West Gosford

**Departed:** Metropolitan Vitaly, Irina (Kamenev), Nun Maria, George (Kraihin), Theodore (Tialshinsky), Lyubov (Smieska), Victor (Pulkownik), Olga (Timohina)



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