



ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК PARISH NEWSLETTER

~ Number 131, March 2014 ~

PARISH LIFE: THE CLOSURE OF OUR CHURCH FOR RENOVATIONS

In order to undertake renovations and important maintenance work before Pascha and the celebration, later this year, of ten years of parish life at West Gosford, **our church will be closed from the afternoon of Sunday 16 March until the morning of Saturday 5 April 2014. There will be no services in our parish during this time.** We ask your forgiveness for any inconvenience.

Our renovation plans include repainting the church interior, panelling the lower part of the church walls, repairing the ceiling and filling most of the ventilation holes, repairing and cleaning the chandeliers, remodelling the kitchen and installing a gas oven and cooktop, erecting a small storage shed for the BBQ and cleaning items, cleaning up the church exterior. While all this is going on, the Ladies' Auxiliary will be having a major cleanout of the kitchen and upstairs storage area, and Father James plans to put the parish records in order. Rick Golovin will be managing the renovation project, and anyone willing and able to assist should talk to him. He can be contacted by telephone (0402-631472) or by email (rick.golovin@gmail.com).

PARISH LIFE: JANUARY – MARCH 2014

Our last newsletter was published on the first weekend in January 2014, and a great deal has happened in parish life since then. On Saturday 4 January and Sunday 5 January we had services for the Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord. Our church was full, with many taking the opportunity to confess and receive Holy Communion at our last parish service before the Nativity of Christ. As it was also the last service for 2013 according to the Julian calendar, a year during which the four-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Romanoff Dynasty was celebrated, a brief moleben to the Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia was served after the Prayer before the Amvon. Later, a memorial litia was served and 'Eternal Memory' was sung for all the pious Tsars and Tsarinas and all the departed members of the All-Russian Imperial House. Our 2014 commemorative calendars were distributed to parishioners and friends, and at our customary "cup of tea" the Ladies' Auxiliary drew their Christmas raffle.

As Father James served in Wallsend on the Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ, we had no Christmas services this year. A number of Gosford parishioners travelled to Wallsend for the festive services, and others took the opportunity to visit one the Sydney parishes.

On Wednesday 8 January, the second day of Christmas, Father James and Father Martin – who was at that stage still in Sydney with his family – served with Metropolitan Hilarion and other clergy of the Sydney region at the parish of All Saints of Russia in Croydon. As is customary, Vladyka Hilarion afterwards welcomed the clergy and other into his home for a festive reception.

On Friday 10 January 2014 the funeral service for 61 year-old John Gordeyeff was held in our church. John reposed in the Lord on 4 January 2014, having suffered grievously from a serious illness in the months leading up to his death. After his burial at Point Clare Cemetery, family and friends returned to our church hall for a commemorative meal. On the following day, Saturday 11 January, 'Eternal Memory' was sung for the newly-departed servant of God John at the summer

camp of the National Organisation of Russian Scouts (Национальная Организация Русских Скаутов), John having been a member of that organisation in his youth and remembered by many of the current leaders.

On Saturday 18 January and Sunday 19 January we had services in honour of the Great Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. All-night vigil was served on Saturday evening and Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water was served on Sunday morning. A great many of the faithful gathered in church on Sunday morning, with regular worshippers being joined by friends from Sydney holidaying on the Central Coast and further north. As is customary, Father James visited the homes of the faithful around the Central Coast and in the Hornsby region that afternoon and on the days following, sprinkling them with the Theophany Water.

On Saturday 1 February and Sunday 2 February we had services in honour of Saint Euthymius the Great (+473). In accordance with Metropolitan Hilarion's request, following the service a collection was taken up to benefit the family of the infant Maxim Lvov, the son of a deacon serving in the Synodal cathedral in New York. This collection raised \$470.00.

On the evening of Thursday 6 February 2014, the day of commemoration of Blessed Xenia of Saint Petersburg, the heavenly patron of our Ladies' Auxiliary and a beloved helper of many of our parishioners, a moleben and akathist to Blessed Xenia were served in our church. Following the moleben, many years was intoned for Ksenia Teliatnikova and Ksenia Shevchenko, two of our parishioners celebrating their name-day that day. Afterwards, most present remained behind to share tea and cake. Holy Blessed Mother Xenia, pray to God for us!

On Saturday 15 February and Sunday 16 February we had services for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son and for the Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Following the Prayer before the Amvon, Father James blessed two new icons, both gifts to our church. The first was an icon of Saint Pimen of Ugreshk (+1880), the long-serving abbot of the Nikolo-Ugreshky Monastery in Moscow glorified in 2004. This icon was a gift from Rimma Nagikh, whose grandson Daniel was baptised in our church in March 2013. The second was an icon of Saint Mary of Egypt and the Righteous Zosima. This icon was brought to us from the Holy Land by our parishioner Sergei Schreider. Through the prayers of Saints Pimen, Mary and Zosima, may God bless his servants Rimma and Sergei and their families!

On Saturday 22 February Father James baptised the infant Maria, the second daughter of Eric and Katya Yakimov and a baby sister for Tatiana. Maria's patron saint is Saint Mary of Egypt, and her godparents are Veronica Paznikov and Alexis Yakimov. It was fitting that Maria's baptism was the one-hundredth in our church at West Gosford since it opened in April 2004: her great-grandfather Alexander Yakimov was the founding Starosta of our parish, he and his son Constantine Yakimov - Maria's grandfather - were builders of our church, and Eric was an altar-server both at the Narara Community Centre and at West Gosford. Congratulations to Eric, Katya, Veronica and Alexis. May God grant his newly-baptised handmaiden Maria many years!

On Sunday 23 February Father James baptised Alexander Sukhov, the infant son of the late Igor Sukhov and his widow Natalia, and a baby brother to Victoria. Alexander's patron saint is the Holy Right-Believing Grand Duke Alexander Nevsky, and his godparents are Vitaly Brusentsev and Lilia Ishutina. We warmly congratulate Natalia, Vitaly and Lilia, and pray that God will grant his newly-baptised servant Alexander many years!

On Saturday 1 March and Sunday 2 March we had services for the Sunday of Forgiveness and in honour of the Holy Hieromartyr Hermogenes (Ermogen), Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. During the Augented Litany at Divine Liturgy, prayers were offered for the Ukrainian land and people and for the grievously ill Protodeacon Nicholas Triantafillidis, a well-known and greatly-respected former cleric of our Diocese now serving in the Cathedral of the Mother of God, "Joy of All Who Sorrow" in San Francisco. Vespers was served immediately after Divine Liturgy, followed

by the rite of asking forgiveness. Many parishioners and friends then stayed behind to enjoy blini prepared by our Ladies' Auxiliary and to prepare the church for the services during the first week of Great Lent.

At 7.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the First Week of Great Lent we had the service of Great Compline with the reading of the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete. The Odes of the Great Canon were read by Father James alternately in Slavonic and English, and of those who attended the services, many took the opportunity to assist with the reading of the psalms and prayers at Great Compline.

On the afternoon of Sunday 9 March, Father James baptised Thomas Matei Strezea, the infant son of Marius and Teodora Strezea of Bucharest, Romania. Thomas' godparents were Matthew and Adriana Harrison, whose own son Thomas was baptised in our church in November 2008. Marius and Teodora were married here on the New South Wales Central Coast in January 2013. We warmly congratulate Marius, Teodora, Matthew and Adriana, and pray that God will grant his newly-baptised servant Thomas Matei many years!

At 6.00pm on Sunday 9 March, the First Sunday in Great Lent, a small number of the faithful gathered for Vespers with the first Passia and the reading of Chapters 26 and 27 from Saint Matthew's Gospel. The beautiful stichera from Great and Holy Friday and Great and Holy Saturday were sung, and the faithful venerated the Holy Gospel with prostrations. Sadly, as our church will be closed on the evenings of the Second, Third and Fourth Sundays of Great Lent, this was the only time that Sunday evening Vespers and the Passia will be served in 2014.

On Saturday 15 March 'Russian Embers: A Journey in Search of Home', a book written by one of our parishioners, Anya Nielsen, was launched at Book Bazaar, a bookshop in West Street, Umina Beach. The guest speaker at the launch was Chis Holstein MP, the Member for Gosford in the NSW Legislative Assembly. Anya later signed copies of her book for family, friends and a small number of our parishioners.

PARISH LIFE: PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council has met on three occasions since the last newsletter was published. The first meeting for 2014 was held on Tuesday 14 January. As it was the feast of the Circumcision of the Lord, the meeting began with the singing of the troparion "O Jesus, Who in the highest" («Ha престоле огнезрачнем»). The usual reports on parish life and finances were presented and considered, and Father James and Rick Golovin reported on their participation in the Seventeenth Diocesan Conference in December 2013. A number of other issues were then discussed, including the operation of the parish bookstore of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, parish communications, and ongoing parish initiatives relating to risk management and child safety. Applications for renewal of parish membership were tabled and accepted and a plan for celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the opening of our parish centre at West Gosford was agreed upon.

Our Parish Council held its February meeting on Tuesday 11 February. As it was the eve of the fortieth day of John Gordeyeff's repose, "Eternal Memory" was sung after the opening prayer. Father James gave his customary report on the life of the parish and the Diocese, and the usual reports concerning parish finances and communications were considered. Arrangements were made to pay Haiti Orthodox Family Relief our parish's usual annual donation of US\$1570.00, being US\$1200.00 family sponsorship, US\$120.00 towards debt reduction for our priests there, and US\$250.00 towards a teacher's salary. The Parish Council will next meet on Tuesday 11 March 2014.

The March meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 11 March. The usual reports were considered, with particular attention given to financial control systems and renovation plans during March and April, details of which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. It was agreed

that the parish collection for Great Lent this year would again be for the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, the same collection last year having been a great success.

REMINDER: 2014 PARISH MEMBERSHIP

It being well into 2014, parish members are asked to renew their membership, and regular worshippers are invited to consider becoming members. Detailed information about parish membership is available on our website, or upon request from Father James. In brief, the annual membership fee is \$30.00. Membership is granted for a calendar year; that is, from January to December. New members gain the right to vote only after 6 months of membership. Those new members who transfer membership from another ROCOR parish may vote immediately. Paragraph 12 of the Normal Parish By-Laws requires any person wishing to become a member of a parish to make a written application to the Parish Council. To make this easier for everyone, our parish has developed an 'Application for Parish Membership' form. Copies of this form are available in church or from our website. For those receiving our newsletter by post, a copy is enclosed.

PARISH LIFE: 2014 CALENDARS

For those who do not yet have one, copies are still available of our 2014 commemorative parish wall calendar and the 2014 magnetic calendar showing the weekends on which we will have services. Please collect one if you are in church, or ask Father James to send or bring you one.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In February 2014 Father James and his family moved from their home in Woy Woy to a larger one in Empire Bay Drive, Bensville. His postal address is still PO Box 123, Woy Woy 2256, but the best way to contact him is either by email (rev.james.carles@rocor.org.au) or telephone (0428-639156). His home number for most of the past ten years, (02) 4342-0015, is no longer current.

PARISH LIFE: OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

God willing, our next newsletter will be published in late March or early April 2014. It will provide a report of progress on our renovations and details of the services for Pascha and Holy Week.

REMINDER: GENERAL ANOINTING SERVICE

Readers are reminded that we will have the Service of General Anointing (or Соборование) on the evening of Monday 7 April 2014 – the Great Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God, or Благовещение – beginning at 6.00pm. All those able to do so are encouraged to confess and receive Holy Communion on the weekend of 5-6 April, during what we hope will be the first services in our newly-renovated church, and to receive anointing on 7 April.



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