

NEWS FROM SAINT NICHOLAS'

~ A Newsletter For Parishioners and Friends of Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Wallsend ~

Number 13 ~ July 2017

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PARISH LIFE: JUNE AND JULY 2017

On Saturday 10 June and Sunday 11 June we had services for the First Sunday after Pentecost, the Sunday of All Saints. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday a collection was taken up at the request of the Diocesan authorities to assist the construction of a memorial church in Sremski-Karlovci, a town on the banks of the Danube River in central Serbia. Sremski-Karlovci was for a number of years home to the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia under Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky) and headquarters of the Russian emigres under General PN Wrangel. This year, the centenary of the beginning of the revolutionary turmoil that forced so many Russians abroad, is also the centenary of the beginning of the presence and influence of Russian emigres in Serbia. The church is to be dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalene, Equal-to-the-Apostles, and will be built in Russian architectural style. It will stand as a monument to Metropolitan Anthony and all the Russian emigres laid to rest in the Serbian land. Our collection raised \$359.00.

The Parish Council met on the evening of Monday 19 June. After considering the usual pastoral and administrative reports, attention was given to a range of initiatives to improve safety in parish life. The status of decorative projects – details of which were summarised in our June newsletter – was reviewed and applications for parish membership were approved. The Parish Council is due to meet next on Monday 14 August.

On Saturday 24 June and Sunday 25 June we had services for the Third Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of Saint Onuphrius the Great (+4th C. AD) and Venerable Peter of Mount Athos (+734 AD). As many of our parish founders came from Belarus, in addition to the icon of Saints Onuphrius and Peter and the other saints commemorated on this date, our parish icon of All Saints of Belarus was placed in the centre of the church for veneration. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday Matushka Marie helped the parish children to make candles for home use by recycling the stumps from our church candles. Photographs of this activity can be viewed on our website, www.stnicholaswallsend.org.au.

On Saturday 8 July and Sunday 9 July we had services for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, one of the great spiritual treasures of the Russian Orthodox Church. Traditionally understood to be the work of the Apostle Luke, the Tikhvin Icon was kept in Constantinople for many centuries before coming to Russia in the 1300s. Taken to the United States in 1949, it was triumphantly returned to the Tikhvin Monastery in Russia's north in 2004. After serving a brief moleben before a copy of the icon at the end of Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Father James spoke about its history and the experience of Christian people receiving answer to prayers offered before it. At the end of

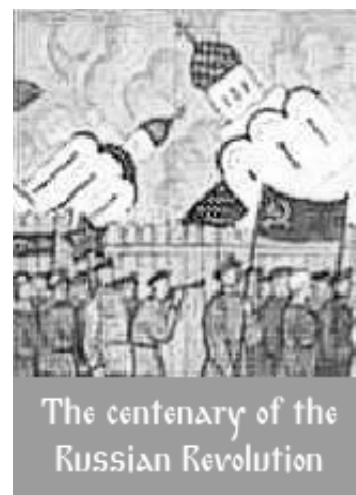
the service prayers of blessing were read over new church incense received from the Saint Elizabeth Skete, a women's monastery in Mohawk, New York.

AN ARTICLE ABOUT ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IS PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 2017 EDITION OF 'AURORA'

An article about Orthodox Christianity entitled 'Feasts and fasts: the Eastern Orthodox Church', appeared in the July 2017 edition of *Aurora*, the magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Written by Father James at the invitation of *Aurora's* editor, the article briefly summarised the history, beliefs and spiritual life of the Orthodox Church. The July edition of *Aurora* was distributed with *The Newcastle Herald*, *The Maitland Mercury* and other regional newspapers on Wednesday 5 July. The article can be accessed online at <https://mnnews.today/aurora-magazine/july-2017/20624-of-feasts-and-fasts-the-eastern-orthodox-church/>.

A RELIQUARY WITH RELICS OF THE NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA WILL VISIT OUR PARISH ON 18-19 AUGUST 2017

On 6 June 2017 His Grace Bishop George announced that a reliquary containing relics of a number of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia will, in this year of the centenary of the Russian Revolution and the beginning of persecution by the godless authorities, visit parishes, monasteries and missions of our Diocese. It has now been arranged for the reliquary to be present during our services for the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord on Friday 18 August and Saturday 19 August. Enshrined in this reliquary are the relics of twenty-four saints including Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow; Hieromartyr Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev; Saint Luke of Simferopol; Royal Passion-Bearers Grand Duchesses Elizabeth and Anastasia; and others. Information about each of the saints will be made available beforehand. It is expected that a service of intercession before the reliquary will be held after Divine Liturgy on Saturday 19 August.



PARISH LIFE: THE REPOSE AND FUNERAL OF PETER LATUNIN

On Wednesday 28 June we learned with sadness of the repose that day of one of the oldest members of our parish, Peter Latunin (b.1920). Peter's wife Antonina (+2008) was the daughter of Mitred Archpriest Mychajlo Mursa (+1966), a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. His funeral was held in our church on the afternoon of Friday 30 June, following which he was laid to rest beside his wife in Sandgate Cemetery. Speaking at the funeral, Father James noted that Peter was one of a remarkable generation of men and women who, having endured revolution, famine and war, made a new life in Australia whilst preserving their Orthodox Christian faith. We offer our sincere condolences to Peter's daughters Larissa and Anna and their families, and ask our parishioners and friends to remember the newly-reposed servant of God Peter in their prayers. May God grant him rest!

PARISH LIFE: THE MONTH AHEAD

Following the services on Saturday 22 July and Sunday 23 July, we will have a three-week break from services. During this break, the Gosford parish of Saint Panteleimon will celebrate its patronal feast-day. Bishop George will visit the Gosford church and preside at Divine Liturgy on Sunday 6 August, after which there will be a festive lunch at the Narara Community Centre. On Tuesday 8 August and Wednesday 9 August, the actual day of commemoration of Saint Panteleimon, there will be additional services: All-night Vigil at 6.00pm on Tuesday and Divine Liturgy at 9.00am on Wednesday. All are welcome!

Just four days after his arrival in Australia on 19 August 1949, Father John Lupish served the funeral of one year-old Irene Solomko. The child Irene died in an epidemic of measles and broncho-pneumonia that swept through the Greta Migrant Camp that year. She was laid to rest in the Greta Cemetery. Father John later presided at five more burials at Greta: that of another child, Vsevelod Shinilov (+1949), Larisa Klebakin (+1950), Lydia Elagin (+1956), Alexander Melnikov (+1970) and Ivan Elagin (+1977). In 2015 Father James resolved that a memorial service would be held at Greta Cemetery each year on the closest convenient Saturday to the anniversary of Irene Solomko's burial. This year, the memorial service will be held on Saturday 12 August at 11.00am. As in 2015 and 2016, serving together with Father James will be Archpriest Michael Solomko, the brother of Irene and a priest of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Australia and New Zealand. At the service prayers will be offered for the repose of the ever-memorable Father John (+1977), his matushka Maria (+1979), and all those Orthodox Christians buried in the Greta Cemetery. Kutuya will be blessed, and there will be light refreshments afterwards for those who have travelled to Greta for the service.

The first services in our church in the coming month will be on Saturday 12 August and Sunday 13 August, for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, the day of commemoration of Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia (9th C.), and the Forefeast of the Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday there will be a brief memorial service for the ever-memorable Archbishop Theodosy (Putilin) (+1980), Ruling Bishop of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese from 1970-1980, it being the anniversary of his repose. It was Vladyka Theodosy who presided at the funeral of Father John Lupish, forty years ago this year. As Sunday 13 August is the day of the Wallsend Winter Fair our parishioners and friends are encouraged to arrive at church early to ensure a parking spot close by.

On Friday 18 August and Saturday 19 August we will have services for the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. As is noted elsewhere in this newsletter, a reliquary with relics of some of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia will be present during these services. Following Divine Liturgy on Saturday 19 August there will be the usual blessing of grapes, apples and other fruit.

On Saturday 26 August and Sunday 27 August we will have services for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, the day of commemoration of the Prophet Micah, and the Forefeast of the Dormition. In accordance with a resolution of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy will be followed by a moleben to the canonised participants in the 1917-18 Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church and a memorial litia for the other participants. The Council, a momentous event in the life of the Russian Orthodox Church

that culminated in the restoration of the Patriarchate and the enthronement of Patriarch Tikhon (Belavin), opened in the Dormition Cathedral on the day of the feast in 1917. Following these services an Epistle of Patriarch Kyrill on the occasion of the centenary of the Council will be read aloud.

During the month ahead we also hope to welcome the State Member for Wallsend, Sonia Hornery MP, to our church. Ms Hornery helped us obtain the NSW Government grant that enabled us to install air-conditioning in the church and hall, and her visit will give us an opportunity to express our gratitude.

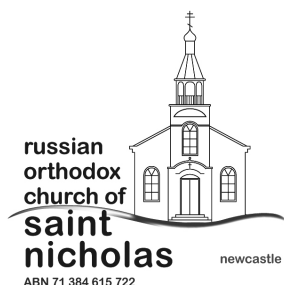
DIOCESAN LIFE: A RUSSIAN ORTHODOX SACRED MUSIC CONFERENCE



From Wednesday 27 September until Monday 2 October this year, a Russian Orthodox Sacred Music Conference will be held in Brisbane. Organised by the Diocesan Liturgical Music Committee, the conference programme will include lectures from eminent guest speakers including Archpriest Andre Papkov from Chicago, USA, intensive choral workshops and rehearsals at Saint Seraphim's church and Saint Nicholas Cathedral, common meals, and a hierarchical All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy at the church of Our Lady of Vladimir. The cost – not including accommodation – will be \$200.00 per person and \$150.00 for students, with discounts available for early registration. The organisers are still working on accommodation packages. See also: <https://www.facebook.com/ROCSingersANZ/>

RUSSIAN AND OTHER ORTHODOX KIDS' CAMP, 10-16 DECEMBER 2017

A group of young families from the Intercession of the Holy Virgin parish in Cabramatta, NSW, is again organising a camp for Russian and other Orthodox children and young people aged 8-17 to be held in Toukley, NSW - not far from us, on the Central Coast - from 10 December - 16 December 2017. The cost will be \$399.00 per person, with a discount available if full payment is made by **4 August 2017**. The organisers are also looking for helpers and supervisors. For those interested in the camp, more information is available at: <https://cabrapokrov.org/camp-rok/>.



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Beginning in June 2017, we hope to publish our parish newsletter every month. If you wish to receive a copy by post or by email, please talk to Father James. Alternatively, send an email to info@stnicholaswallsend.org.au.