

# NEWS FROM SAINT NICHOLAS'

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

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### PARISH LIFE: PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP

On Thursday **4 January 2018** we will have a church clean-up beginning at **8.00am**. This will be the major clean-up that we customarily have before Christmas and Pascha each year. All the furnishings will be removed from the church for washing and polishing and all the icons and service items will be cleaned. We will have lunch at around midday. Please join us and help! There is a great deal to be done, and it will be nice to have the church looking bright and clean for Christmas!

### PARISH LIFE: AUGUST-DECEMBER 2017

On the weekend of 26-27 August we had services for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, the Forefeast of the Dormition, and in honour of the Prophet Micah. In anticipation of the Great Feast of the Dormition and in accordance with a resolution of the Holy Synod, on this day our parish observed the centenary of the 1917-18 Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church. 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 in Moscow on the day of the feast in 1917. A moleben to the canonised participants in the Council was served following the Prayer before the Amvon and an Epistle of Patriarch Kyrill on the occasion of the centenary of the Council was read aloud in Russian in place of a sermon. Copies of the Patriarch's Epistle can be accessed in Russian and English on our parish website at [https://stnicholaswallsend.org.au/news\\_170909\\_2.html](https://stnicholaswallsend.org.au/news_170909_2.html). Following the service a memorial litia was served for the other participants in the Council.

On Saturday 9 September Father James baptised Sara Corbett, the youngest daughter of Brett and Vera Corbett and a sister to Mia and Ava. Sara was baptised in honour of Righteous Sarah, the wife of Abraham. Her godparents were Anthony Kloczko and Jeanne Clarke. We warmly congratulate Brett, Vera, Anthony and Jeanne, and wish the newly-baptised handmaiden of God Sara many years!

On the weekend of 9- 10 September we had services for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of Venerable Job, the abbot and wonderworker of Pochaev (+1651 AD). In his sermon at Divine Liturgy on Sunday Father James spoke about the life and missionary work of Saint Job and of his particular influence on the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. At the end of the service a collection was taken up to assist the Synodal Liturgical Music Commission of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, raising \$305.00.

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop George of Canberra, from 10 September until 5 November, the term of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, we offered special prayers for God's mercy and forgiveness, for the defeat of all impiety, and for the strengthening of lawful and blessed marriage. The prayers of Saints Peter and Febronia of Murom, heavenly protectors of love, faithfulness and honourable marriage, were particularly invoked during this time. Despite our prayers, the result of the Survey was overwhelmingly in favour in a change to Australian marriage law. Unfortunately the law, when changed, included only minimal protections for those who adhere to the traditional understanding of marriage, and there are undoubtedly many challenges ahead. May God help us!

On Saturday 16 September Father James baptised Zivah Moorhead, the infant daughter of Alexander Limareff and Tahlia Moorhead. Zivah was baptised in honour of Martyr Zevina. Her godparents were Brenden Moorhead, Maria Limareff and Maureen Moorhead. We warmly congratulate Alexander, Tahlia, Brenden, Maria, and Maureen, and wish the newly-baptised handmaiden of God Zivah many years!

On Saturday 23 September Father James baptised Ella Martinov, the infant daughter of Andrew and Holly Martinov. Ella was baptised in honour of Saint Helen, Equal-to-the-Apostles. Her godparents were Julianne Strelkoff and Kane Hermann. We warmly congratulate Andrew, Holly, Julianne and Kane, and wish the newly-baptised handmaiden of God Ella many years!

On the weekend of 23-24 September we had services for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, and in honour of Venerable Theodora of Alexandria (+c.480 AD). As it was also the day of commemoration of Saints Sergius and Herman of Valaam, Venerable Euphrosynus the Cook of Alexandria (+9th Century), and Venerable Silouan of Mount Athos (+1938 AD), icons of all these saints – including one of saints Sergius and Herman blessed on their relics – were placed in the middle of the church for veneration. Receiving Holy Communion for the first time was the newly-baptised infant Ella Martinov.

At the end of the Sunday service Father James welcomed Ms Sonia Hornery MP, State Member of Parliament for Wallsend, presenting her with a Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging her support for the parish and the wider Russian-speaking community. Remarking on her ten years of parliamentary service, he wished for her God's help in her work, strength, wisdom, and consolation in difficult times. Ms Hornery was also given flowers by the parish children and a copy of the parish icon of the Mother of God, "Protectress of Newcastle". She afterwards joined parishioners in the hall for refreshments and a presentation of Russian-language songs and poems by students from our playgroup and Russian school.

On the weekend of 7-8 October we had services for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of one of the most beloved of Russian saints, Venerable Sergius the Abbot and Wonderworker of Radonezh (+1392). In his sermon at Divine Liturgy on Sunday Father James referred to the words of Saint Sergius: "If you want to serve God, prepare your heart not for food, not for drink, not for rest, not for ease, but for suffering, so that you may endure all temptations, trouble and sorrow. Prepare for severities, fasts, spiritual struggles and many afflictions, for "by many afflictions is it appointed to us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Acts 14:22)".

On Sunday 8 October our parish held its 2017 Annual General Meeting. The 2017 Annual Report was presented and accepted and a draft 2017-18 budget was considered. Nikolai Goura was elected Warden for a further three-year term. Anna Morhun, Irene Lupish, Anu Kinnunen, Lucea Szabunia, Olga Bogacheva and Dean Crawford were again elected to the Parish Council, and Matushka Marie Carles and Olga Bogacheva were reappointed to the role of Child Safety Contact Persons.

On Friday 13 October and Saturday 14 October we had services for the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. This feast-day is of particular importance to our parish, the first Russian Orthodox church in the Hunter Valley – the small barracks chapel at the Greta Migrant Camp – having been dedicated in honour of it in 1949. Because of this we have come to observe it as a second patronal feast-day, with All-night vigil served on the eve and the Lesser Blessing of Water, Divine Liturgy and a moleben to the Mother of God served on the day of the feast itself. Following the moleben Father James, congratulating the faithful on the feast, spoke briefly about the origin of the commemoration and of the many examples of the protection of nations, cities and individuals through the prayers of the Mother of God. Set in the middle of the church for veneration was the parish icon of the Mother of God, "Protectress of Newcastle".

On the weekend of 21-22 October we had services for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of the Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus (+1st Century AD) and the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. To the great joy of our parish, Bishop George of Canberra presided at Divine Liturgy on Sunday. At the end of Divine Liturgy special prayers were again offered, in the context of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, for God's mercy and forgiveness, for the defeat of all impiety, and for the strengthening of lawful and blessed marriage. In his sermon Bishop George spoke about the raising of the widow's son (Luke 7:11-16), the power of prayer to change the course of our lives, and of the particular need for prayer given the contemporary attacks in Australia and throughout the Western world on Christian culture and tradition. Following the service a number of parish and Diocesan awards were presented, after which all gathered in the church hall for a festive lunch. Joining us for lunch was Father Dalibor Pavlovic, the rector of Saint Naum of Ohrid Serbian Orthodox Church in Broadmeadow, a number of his parishioners, guests from Sydney, and visitors from abroad. During the meal Father James welcomed Bishop George, thanking him for his pastoral attention and for his words of instruction and encouragement. He also welcomed the visitors and congratulated the recipients of the awards, praising their example of service to the parish.

As noted above, following Divine Liturgy on Sunday 22 October Bishop George of Canberra presented awards to five of our parishioners. Nikolai Goura and Eugenia Millard were presented with parish Certificates of Appreciation and Subdeacon Vitaly Lupish, Irene Lupish and Anna Morhun were presented with the prestigious Diocesan Cross. Nikolai Goura received his award for his significant contribution over many years to the life of the Russian Orthodox Church in Newcastle and his twelve years of faithful service as the Warden of our parish, and Eugenia Millard was recognised for her work in our parish and in the Russian Orthodox Church of the Theophany in Mayfield, NSW. It was particularly noted on Eugenia's certificate that she has been exemplary in her devotion to both parishes; her fundraising; her care for the beauty and cleanliness of the church; and her faithful service as a reader and chorister. The Diocesan Crosses - the first awarded in our parish - were bestowed on the recipients in recognition of their distinguished service to the parish and the wider Russian Orthodox Church for over fifty years. We warmly congratulate Nikolai, Eugenia, Subdeacon Vitaly, Irene and Anna, and wish them every blessing in this life and in the age to come.

On the weekend of 11-12 November we had services for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of the Hieromartyr Zenobius, bishop of Aegae in Cilicia, and his sister Martyr Zenobia (+285 AD). In his sermon at Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Father James explained that the persecuting judge had offered Zenobius two choices: "Life and death – life if you bow down before the gods, and death if you do not". Zenobius' reply, he said, had been that "Life without Christ is not life, but death; and death for Christ's sake is not death, but life", and so the courageous brother and sister had been tortured and put to death. Referring to the current debate in Australia around religious freedom Father James commended to the faithful the example of the martyrs and confessors, noting that a lack of religious freedom in earlier times had not prevented them from confessing Christ. Following the service parish Warden Nikolai Goura and Head Sister Anna Morhun congratulated Father James on his recent name-day – the day of commemoration of the Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, on 5 November – presenting him with a gift on behalf of the parish and wishing him continued good health.

Following Divine Liturgy on that day Father James baptised the infant Sofiya, the second daughter of Adam and Evgeniya Hockley and a younger sister to Anastasia. Sofiya was baptised in honour of the Martyr Sofiya of Rome and had as her sponsor Anastasia Rotsey. We warmly congratulate Adam, Evgeniya and Anastasia and wish the newly-illuminated handmaiden of God Sofiya many years!

On Tuesday 21 November and Wednesday 22 November we had services in prayerful remembrance of the fortieth anniversary of the repose of the ever-memorable founder of our parish, Archpriest John Lupish. A Great Pannikhida or "Parastas" was served on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday morning, the anniversary of Father John's repose in 1977, Divine Liturgy for the departed was served. Following a memorial litia and the blessing of koliva at the end of Divine Liturgy, Father James spoke briefly about

Father John's simple and steadfast service over twenty-five years in the parish and of the importance of remembering our leaders, those who have spoken the word of God to us (Hebrews 13:7). Gathered in church were family members including Father John's two sons Subdeacon Vitaly Lupish and John Lupish and his youngest grand-daughter Elizabeth; former parishioners of Father John's; and a small number of our current parishioners. Over lunch in the church hall Vitaly and John Lupish spoke movingly about their father's courage, humility, kindness, and willingness to endure difficulty for the sake of others. After lunch a graveside pannikhida was served at Sandgate Cemetery. May Father John's memory be eternal!

On the weekend of 25-26 November we had services for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (+407 AD). In his sermon at Divine Liturgy on Sunday Father James spoke about the immense influence of Saint John on the life of the Holy Orthodox Church and about his personal example to each Orthodox Christian: ascetic struggle, a love for the Holy Scriptures, care for the poor, a willingness to stand up to the elites of this world, and an unshakeable commitment to the purity of the Orthodox faith. Following Divine Liturgy a memorial litia was served for the ever-memorable servants of God Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesenky), third First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (+21 November 1985); Archpriest John Lupish, the founder of our parish (+22 November 1977); and the Russian heroes of the White Movement who, fleeing the Bolshevik yoke, arrived in Gallipoli on 22 November 1920. A collection was then taken up to aid the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, raising \$190.00.

On Sunday 3 December and Monday 4 December we had services for the Great Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. All-night vigil with the blessing of wheat, wine, oil and five loaves was served on Sunday evening and Divine Liturgy was served on Monday morning. In his sermon at Divine Liturgy Father James explained the history and significance of the feast and spoke of the importance of each Orthodox Christian being filled and formed by the life of the Church in order to worthily receive Christ.

### **PARISH LIFE: OUR SUMMER 2017-18 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Our Summer 2017-18 Schedule of Services was published on the weekend of 25-26 November. It covers December, January and February and includes services for Christmas, Theophany, and the first week of Great Lent. Copies are available in church and on our parish website.

### **PARISH LIFE: THE MONTH AHEAD**

On the weekend of 9-10 December we will have services for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost and in honour of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God "Of the Sign", the Directress of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. Divine Liturgy on Sunday will be preceded by an akathist to the icon at 8.15am. On Sunday afternoon Father James will visit the Russian Orthodox Kids' Camp being held in Toukley on the Central Coast from Sunday 10 December until Saturday 16 December and serve a moleben for the beginning of the camp.

On Saturday 15 December it will be the fifteenth anniversary of Father James' appointment as rector of our parish. Ordained to the priesthood on 23 September 2001 and appointed to serve the Cabramatta parish as assistant priest and the Gosford community as rector, Father James served in Wallsend occasionally prior to his formal appointment at the end of 2002.

On Monday 18 December and Tuesday 19 December we will have services in honour of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra and Lycia, the heavenly patron of our parish. All-night vigil with the blessing of wheat, wine oil and five loaves will be served at 6.00pm on Monday and Divine Liturgy will be served at 9.00am on Tuesday. Divine Liturgy will be followed by a brief moleben to Saint Nicholas.

On the weekend of 23-24 December we will have services for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost and the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. This will be our final service for 2017 and the last service until Monday 8 January 2018, the Second Day of the Nativity of Christ.

On Monday 25 December, the Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ on the New Calendar, the Romanian Orthodox community will have Divine Liturgy beginning at 9.00am. All who wish to join them are welcome.

Our first service in 2018 will be Divine Liturgy on Monday 8 January, the second day of the Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Following Divine Liturgy at 9.00am and a brief moleben of thanksgiving commemorating the Russian Victory over Napoleon on Christmas Day 1812, there will be a festive meal with a visit from Father Christmas. All are welcome to join us – please bring a plate of festive food to share!

### **EPISTLE OF THE HOLY COUNCIL OF BISHOPS TO THE CLERGY, MONKS AND NUNS AND ALL FAITHFUL CHILDREN OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

*Beloved in the Lord All-Venerable Fathers, God-Loving Monks and Nuns,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters:*

The Holy Council of Bishops, which took place in Moscow from 29 November until 2 December 2017 in the city of Moscow in the Cathedral Church of Christ the Savior, greets all of you with the words of the apostolic salutation: “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:5-6).

In giving praise to the Creator, Provider and Giver of all good things, we prayerfully recollect the most important of events in the history of our Church, the hundredth anniversary of which is being marked this year, the opening of the Holy Council of the Russian Orthodox Church in 1917-1918 and the restoration of the Patriarchate.

One of the main acts of that Council, the election of the holy hierarch Tikhon to the Patriarchal Throne of Moscow, coincided with the beginning of the cruel persecution of God’s Church. Our land was soaked red with the innocent blood of the first martyrs of modern history. Soon iniquity and mistreatment of the Church became commonplace. In these persecutions and sufferings for Christ a great multitude of the faithful children of the Church made manifest the greatest heroic deed of faith and courage, accepted death and the “crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:4). It was a time of dreadful tribulation for all of the peoples of our Fatherland. As a result, the country stood on the brink of destruction. But by the prayers of St Tikhon and the host of New Martyrs and Confessors of the Church of Russia, the Lord bestowed His mercy upon the people and did not allow evil to triumph definitely. Today we exclaim with thanksgiving together with the Psalmist: “The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death” (Psalms 117:8).

In remembering the tragic events of the twentieth century and pondering their cause, we must with deep humility and sincere conviction bear witness before those close to us and those afar to the main lesson of the past century: without God no state or social building can ever lead to prosperity. History has shown that revolutionary attitudes, generated by political provocations, including those that appeal to social justice, are ruinous for the state and destructive for people. Representatives of all layers of society must exert all their efforts in avoiding the repetition of errors which led in the last century to the suffering and deaths of many people and to the destruction of our statehood.

We testify to the unchanging nature of the Church's mission, which the Savior has purchased with His Own precious Blood (Acts 20:28) in order to bring people into oneness with God. All laborers in Christ's vineyard must remember that the foundation stone of the Church's preaching from the Holy Apostles to the end of the world is the joyful news of salvation granted through the Cross and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The most important thing to which a pastor is called is the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, since the offering of the Bloodless Sacrifice of thanksgiving "for all and behalf of all" is the greatest and most significant of all possible deeds on earth.

In glorifying "with one mouth and one heart" the heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ we, the members of the Holy Council of Bishops, bear witness to the fact that through the prayerful intercession before the Throne of the Almighty of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Church of Russia, through the labors of a multitude of bishops, clerics, monks and nuns and laity, the cause of building up the Church continues to develop. Holy sites are being restored, new churches are being built, numerous residents of Orthodox monasteries take upon themselves the great feat of the monastic life, the number of Church charity projects is growing, and the Church's work in supporting the family, mothers and children is getting stronger. Special joy is evoked by the success in the field of working with youth, including the development of volunteer service in the dioceses and parishes, as well as in bringing children to the faith through Sunday schools and other Church educational projects.

The days of the Council of Bishops have brought us the joy of communicating with the Primate and representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches who have come to Moscow to participate in the festivities on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the enthronement as Patriarch of the holy Hierarch Tikhon. This visible expression of Orthodox unity has special meaning today, when many Christians who are persecuted for their faith need our ardent prayer and active intercession. We cherish Christian solidarity because we know how important and necessary it is to those who now endure adversities and tribulations, just as the support of all people of good will was during the time of the persecution of the faith and the Church in our Russian homeland.

Indeed, by God's grace we have once more raised up magnificent cathedrals, our churches are being adorned and reflect beauty in their construction. However, we must not forget those who are driven out of their churches, who are blown up and murdered by terrorists. We are called upon to courageously and steadfastly defend the Christian values which are today being forced out of the lives of many nations. The example of the first Apostolic communities, when the affluent sent material aid to the less well off, inspires us to care for those Orthodox Christians who are experiencing hardships and suffering from war or from terrorism.

In the days of the Council of Bishops, we became acquainted with the preliminary results of research undertaken with the aim of identifying the "Ekaterinburg remains." We express hope that at the completion of this research the truth will be revealed regarding the provenance of these remains.

With thanksgiving to the good dispensation of God, the Council testifies to the showing forth of a whole host of saints for church-wide veneration.

In recalling the trials that were endured by our fathers and now being endured by many Christians, let us preserve the unity of the Church in praying at each service for the "well-being of the holy Church of God and the union of all," as Christ prayed for the united of Christians and that they may lead peaceful lives.

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all" (2 Thessalonians 3.16). Amen.

*Moscow, 3 December 2017*

## ПОСЛАНИЕ ОСВЯЩЕННОГО АРХИЕРЕЙСКОГО СОБОРА КЛИРУ, МОНАШЕСТВУЮЩИМ И ВСЕМ ВЕРНЫМ ЧАДАМ РУССКОЙ ПРАВОСЛАВНОЙ ЦЕРКВИ

*Возлюбленные о Господе всечестные отцы, боголюбивые иноки и инокини,  
дорогие братья и сестры!*

Освященный Архиерейский Собор, проходивший с 29 ноября по 2 декабря 2017 года во граде Москве, в кафедральном соборном Храме Христа Спасителя, обращается ко всем вам словами апостольского приветствия: «Бог <...> терпения и утешения да дарует вам быть в единомыслии между собою, по учению Христа Иисуса, дабы вы единомысленно, едиными устами славили Бога и Отца Господа нашего Иисуса Христа» (Рим. 15:5-6).

Воздавая хвалу Творцу, Промыслителю и Подателю всяческих благ, мы молитвенно воспоминаем важнейшие события в истории нашей Церкви, столетие которых отмечается в этом году. Это открытие Священного Собора Православной Российской Церкви 1917-1918 годов и восстановление на нем Патриаршества.

Одно из главных деяний Собора - избрание святителя Тихона на Московский Патриарший престол - совпало с началом жестоких гонений на Церковь Божию. Невинной кровью первых мучеников нового времени обогрилась наша земля. Вскоре беззаконие и произвол по отношению к Церкви стали повсеместными. В этих преследованиях и страданиях за имя Христово множество верных чад церковных явили высочайший подвиг веры и мужества, приняли смерть и неувядающие венцы славы (1 Пет. 5:4). То была эпоха грозных испытаний для всех народов Отечества. В результате страна оказалась на грани уничтожения. Но по молитвам святителя Тихона, сонма новомучеников и исповедников Церкви Русской Господь приклонил милость Свою к людям и не попустил злу восторжествовать окончательно. Ныне мы с благодарностью Богу вместе с псалмопевцем восклицаем: «Наказуя наказа мя Господь, смерти же не предаде мя» (Пс. 117:18).

Памятуя о трагических событиях XX века и размышляя об их причинах, мы должны с глубоким смирением и искренним убеждением свидетельствовать пред ближними и дальними о главном уроке минувшего столетия: без Бога никакое государственное или общественное строительство не приведет к благополучию. История показала, что пагубными для государств и губительными для людей являются революционные настроения, порожденные политическими провокациями, в том числе использующими запрос на социальную справедливость. Представители всех слоев общества должны приложить усилия, чтобы избежать повторения ошибок, приведших в прошлом веке к страданиям и смерти множества людей, к разрушению государственности.

Мы свидетельствуем о неизменности миссии Церкви, которую стяжал Спаситель честною Своею Кровию (см. Деян. 20:28) ради приведения людей к единству с Богом. Всем труженикам в Винограднике Христовом надобно помнить о том, что краеугольным камнем церковной проповеди от святых апостолов и до скончания времен является радостная весть о спасении, дарованном через Крест и Воскресение Господа нашего и Спасителя Иисуса Христа. Главное же служение, к которому призван каждый пастырь, - это совершение Божественной литургии, поскольку принесение Бескровной Жертвы благодарения о всех и за вся есть величайшее и важнейшее из всех возможных на земле дел.

Единем усты и едином сердцем славяще Небесного Отца и Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, мы, члены Освященного Собора, свидетельствуем о том, что молитвенным предстательством перед Престолом Вседержителя новомучеников и исповедников Церкви Русской, трудами множества архиереев, клириков, монашествующих и мирян дело церковного строительства продолжает развиваться. Восстанавливаются порушенные святыни, создаются новые храмы, совершаются

иноческий подвиг многочисленные насельники православных обителей, умножается количество церковных благотворительных начинаний, усиливается церковная работа по поддержке семьи, материнства и детства. Особую радость вызывают успехи в области работы с молодежью, в том числе развитие добровольчества в епархиях и на приходах, а также в приобщении детей к вере через воскресные школы и иные церковные образовательные проекты.

Дни Архиерейского Собора доставили нам радость общения с Предстоятелями и представителями Поместных Православных Церквей, прибывшими в Москву для участия в торжествах по случаю столетия Патриаршей интронизации святителя Тихона. Это зримое выражение православного единства имеет особое значение сегодня, когда многие христиане, подвергаясь гонениям за веру, нуждаются в нашей усердной молитве и действенном заступничестве. Мы дорожим христианской солидарностью, потому что знаем, насколько она важна и нужна тем, кому сейчас приходится претерпевать невзгоды и испытания, подобно тому как важна для нас была поддержка всех людей доброй воли во время притеснений веры и Церкви в нашем Отечестве. Да, по милости Божией мы вновь возвели величественные соборы, наши храмы благоукрашаются и благоустраиваются. Однако нельзя забывать о тех, кого изгоняют из храмов, кого взрывают и убивают террористы. Мы призваны мужественно и твердо отстаивать христианские ценности, вытесняемые сегодня из жизни многих народов. Пример основанных апостолами первохристианских общин, более обеспеченные из которых направляли материальную помощь менее обеспеченным, призывает нас заботиться о тех православных христианах, бедствующих и страдающих от войны или от терроризма.

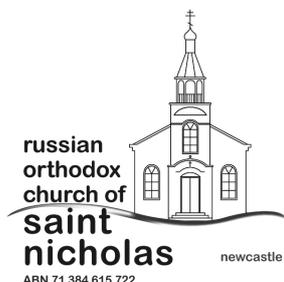
В дни работы Собора мы ознакомились с предварительными результатами исследований, проводимых с целью идентификации «екатеринбургских останков». Мы выражаем надежду, что по завершении этих исследований будет явлена истина относительно принадлежности упомянутых останков.

С благодарностью ко благому Божию смотрению Собор свидетельствует о явлении целого сонма святых для общецерковного почитания.

Памятуя о пережитых нашими отцами и о переживаемых ныне многими христианами испытаниях, будем хранить единство Церкви, молясь за каждым богослужением о благостоянии святых Божиих Церквей и соединении всех, как и Христос молился о единстве христиан и о соблюдении их в мире.

Сам же Господь мира да даст вам мир всегда во всем. Господь со всеми вами! (2 Фес. 3:16). Аминь.

*Москва: 3 декабря 2017 г.*



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*We publish our parish newsletter as often as we can – generally, every two-three months. 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](mailto:info@stnicholaswallsend.org.au).*