



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA
PARISH OF ST. VASILIOS, BRUNSWICK, VICTORIA

SUNDAY
2 JULY 2017
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PARISH INFORMATION BULLETIN

PROGRAM FOR 2—8 JULY 2017

SUNDAY 2 JULY	2nd Sunday of Matthew - Matthew 8: 5-13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30– 11.00am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
• SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at the time of Holy Communion until Church dismissal. We have classes for ages ranging from 5yrs to teenage years. Lessons are taught in a relaxed, friendly environment. Please bring your children along to learn of their rich Orthodox faith and come close to God and His Love.	
MONDAY 3 JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall.
TUESDAY 4 JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.00pm Parishes of St Vasilios and the Presentation of our Lord, Coburg Youth Group will meet in our Church Hall. The meeting will begin with the Compline Service in English.• 7.30pm Young Adults and Married Couples Bible Study Group at St. Vasilios, —in the Coffee Room of our Church.
WEDNESDAY 5 JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study
FRIDAY 7 JULY <i>St Kyriaki</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30– 9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
SATURDAY 8 JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.45pm Service of Vespers
SUNDAY 9 JULY	GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 8: 28-34, 9:1 EPISTLE READING: ROMANS 10: 1-10



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Fr. Athanasios
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are available
at the Church

every Monday to Friday
between
4.00 and 6.00pm

for Holy Confession and
any spiritual need.

WORDS FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

Everyone who loves God shows himself patient and steadfast in times of suffering. Whoever bears them bravely becomes strong and obedient to God, and whoever enters the path of following the will of God conquers his natural weakness. On the other hand, whoever does not recognize his own powerlessness is proud and not inclined to submit himself to the will of the Lord. Whoever does not submit to it and hopes only in his own power does not receive the power and help of God and, not having been strengthened in spirit, cannot become patient. But whoever does not endure misfortune and afflictions has not faith, and whoever does not have faith, does not love God.

- St. Alexis of Senaki, *Concerning Afflictions*



God values deeds according to their intentions. For it is said, "The Lord grant unto you according to your heart" (Psalm 19:5) ... Therefore, whoever wants to do something but can't is considered as having done it by God, who sees the intentions of our hearts. This applies to both good and evil deeds alike.

- St. Mark the Ascetic, *Homilies*, 1.184, 2.16

Centurion's Faith and the Healing of the Heart—Matthew 8:5-13

The Christian faith is not a conditioned, intrigued attitude. The centurion had submitted his servants' relationship to God: Lord if I'll say to one of them "Go!" and he goes, if I say (to another) "Do this!" then, he does it. (*cf. Mt. 8: 5-13*) So even more he entrusted that, when the Lord commended the (evil) spirit to: "Free" (the man)! the spirit will free him, or if Christ will say: "Do not enter this man again!" the spirit will no longer enter.

The centurion had great faith before any miracle was been fulfilled.

Quite often we are guided by facts. We hear, (for instance), that an image of the Mother of God had appeared somewhere in the sky. We go there to see it, and maybe we'll believe. And we do not know what our faith is about....

I was in Chicago (some years ago) to see a weeping icon of the Holy Mother of God. It was in 1987. We were three (Romanian) priests and served the Divine Liturgy for the Romanian nation. During the Liturgy, the Holy Mother of God shed three times tears from her icon. Her garment was soaked in tears. I saw people who came there to see that. And we also saw. Then we forgot. For the faith that rests only on miracles, is weak.

If God strikes you now, for certain you'll cry out, "Lord!"

If some earthquake or a war will occur now, you'll cry: "God, save me!" But after the earthquake passes, you'll forget (God) again.

Apart from this is the faith based on a close spiritual relationship with Christ when you know that you're nothing without Him and that everything lays in His hands; that He can lay you down or lift you up; He can heal you or else let you perish, He can free you from tragedy or let you be pounded by it.

The teaching is this: do not establish or base your faith on wonders (miracles)! Many times, our Savior appealed to His word, and the sick was healed. The centurion did not need our Lord to first commit a miracle in order that he may believe. Indeed, he only needed Christ to confirm that his servant will be healed. He came to Christ as to One Who he knew will cure his servant, to someone Whom he truly believed in, although he was not a Jew, but a novel Samaritan, a roman.

When you're longing for a miracle to happen, you might be saying: **"Lord, if You exist, perform this miracle!"** And God does not hear you. Or perhaps He will, if your soul really needs it. More so, believe in God before any miracle is to occur! **Do not expect miracles, the deepest relationship with Christ is spiritual.** Pray to the Lord and be in His presence, have Him abide in you! And God will answer you with His unseen wonders, through the strength of your spirit, rousing your greater understanding of His judgments. Not as we (tend to) understand historically and rationally, but in a deeper spiritual sense, **when you see the hand of God in everything.**

There are many Great Fathers who have lived a highly elevated spiritual life and God rewarded them with great gifts. They were performing many wonders, but when someone would come to thank them for the miracle, they answered: **"It is not me, but Christ Who made it happen. Give thanks to the Lord."**

And Christ was elevating them in His light: either by a halo around their heads, (*as Father Benedict Ghius from Cernica had - a great elder from Cernica Monastery now with the Lord – translator note*) or that they would (be able) to fly, or move with great speed from one place to another: they were in one place, and within minutes they were many kilometers away. All these were miracles that Christ performed through them and for them, because they had with Christ a (personal) relationship of deep spirituality.

It is that filial relationship when you offer your soul to Christ and He sends you the Holy Spirit, Which works within you. This is beyond any earthly reward.

Your spiritual relationship with Christ, Who deeply dwells in the Christian soul, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your heart makes you gentle, forgiving, to neither bring anger against your neighbour, but nor to hold it within you; to be a beacon of light for all.

Preserve your relationship with Christ as did the centurion and you'll receive Godly rewards. Think rightness, and do not allow the evil spirit to win over you. Do not tempt God, but as the centurion cry out **"Lord, say only with Your word and my heart will be healed."** Amen!

By Father George Calciu -(taken from "To serve Christ means suffering" , translation by EC)