



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

SUNDAY
25 MARCH 2018
Volume 7—Issue 6
25/03—31/03/2018

PARISH INFORMATION BULLETIN

PROGRAM FOR 25—31 MARCH 2018



SUNDAY 25 MARCH <i>The Annunciation of the Theotokos</i>	5th Sunday of Lent, St Mary of Egypt, Luke 1 24-38 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30– 11.00am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
***** 2018 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES HAVE BEGUN ***** (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 the joy and peace of His Love.	
MONDAY 26 MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.00am Service of Holy Unction• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall.• 6.00pm Service of Great Compline
TUESDAY 27 MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.00pm Service of Great Compline• 7.00pm Parishes of St Vasilios and the Presentation of our Lord, Coburg Youth Group will meet in Coburg Church Hall. The meeting will begin with the Compline Service in English.
WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.00– 9.30am Service of Pre-sanctified Liturgy• 6.00pm Service of Great Compline
THURSDAY 29 MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.00pm Service of Great Compline
FRIDAY 30 MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.00pm Service of Small Compline and Canon of Lazarus
SATURDAY 31 MARCH <i>Saturday of Lazarus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.00 –9.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 3.45pm Service of Vespers for Palm Sunday
SUNDAY 1 APRIL <i>Palm Sunday</i>	GOSPEL READING: John 12: 1-18 EPISTLE READING: Philip. 4: 4-9

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Fr. Athanasios
and
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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.

PLEASE NOTE:

GOOD FRIDAY CHOIR PRACTISE FOR ΕΓΚΩΜΙΑ (LAMENTATIONS) WILL BE TAKING PLACE EVERY SUNDAY STRAIGHT AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY (EXCEPT ON 25 MARCH) IN THE BUILDING BEHIND THE CHURCH. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN OUR CHOIR.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on March 25 each year.

The Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate and enter into this world through her womb.

On God's almighty word.

'For with God nothing (that He says) shall be impossible' (Luke 1:37)

And God said: 'Let there be light', and there was light; until God spoke the word there was no light. Neither could anyone conceive of the nature of light until God spoke and light came to be. In the same way, when God spoke, the water and the dry land came into being, and the starry vault, the plants and the animals, and finally man. Until God spoke, there was nothing of all this, neither could anyone except God know what might exist. By the power of His word, God created all that was created in heaven and on earth. Whatever God wished to be and called into being, that had to be, and it was impossible for it not to be, because the word of God is irresistible and creative. The creation of the world is a great miracle wrought by the divine word.

Having created all things, God also established by His word the order and manner of existence of all things and their behaviour and relationship one with another. And this order and manner of existence which God has established is a great miracle of the divine word.

But, as well as this order and manner of existence among created things, visible and comprehensible to us, there is an order and manner of existence unseen and incomprehensible. From this invisible and incomprehensible order and manner of existence, which is a mystery hidden in the Holy Trinity, there have occurred, and continue to occur, phenomena which people call miracles. One such phenomenon was the conception of our Lord Jesus Christ in the womb of the most holy Virgin Mary, who had not known a man. This seems to be an interruption of the visible and comprehensible order and manner of existence, but it is not at all a strange event for the invisible and incomprehensible world. This birth is indeed a great wonder; perhaps no greater wonder has ever been revealed to us mortals. But the entire created world is itself a miracle, and the entire visible and comprehensible order of things is a miracle, and just as this miracle came to be by the word of God, so in the same fashion the Lord took human form in a virgin's womb. Both the one and the other took place by the power of the word of God. Therefore the wondrous Gabriel replied to the Virgin's question (a question asked by all generations: 'How can this be?'): 'With God nothing that He says shall be impossible.'

O Lord God, our Creator, eternal and ever-existent Worker of wonders, give light to our minds that we may no longer doubt but rather believe, and direct our tongues no longer to question Thee but to praise Thee. To Thee be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

St Nikolai Velimirović

5th Sunday of Lent, St Mary of Egypt, Luke 1 24-38

Blessed Mary of Egypt

"Let us say something about the thorns. Blessed Mary of Egypt was twelve years old when she fell into the hands of the devil. She lived in sin day and night. But the merciful God enlightened her and she abandoned the world and went into the desert. There she led a hermit's life for forty years. She was cleansed and became like an angel.

God wished to give her rest, so He sent the holy ascetic Zosimas to hear her confession and to give her holy communion. Then He received her holy soul into paradise, where she rejoices with the angels. If there is anyone here like Blessed Mary, let him immediately weep and repent, now that he has time, and let him be assured that he will be saved as was Blessed Mary."

St. Kosmos Aitolos, *The Life of St. Kosmas Aitolos*