



## Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 24—30 September 2023

### Telephone Contact Numbers

St Vasilios Church  
9387 7693

Fr Athanasios  
9383 4151

Fr Ephraim  
0490 378 215

Website:  
[stvasiliosbrunswick.com](http://stvasiliosbrunswick.com)

Fr Athanasios and  
Fr Ephraim are available  
at the Church every  
Monday to Friday  
between 4.00 and 6.00pm  
for Holy Confession and  
any spiritual need.

<b>SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER</b> <i>Our Lady of Myrtles</i>	<b>1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 5: 1-11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>7.30am</b> Orthros and Divine Liturgy</li></ul>
<b>2023 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES - 2023</b> (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) <b>Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at 10.30am until Church dismissal.</b> 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.	
<b>MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9.00am</b> Service of Holy Unction</li><li>• <b>10.00am</b> Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall</li></ul>
<b>WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>5.00pm</b> Paraklesis to the Theotokos</li></ul>
<b>THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>8.00—9.00pm</b> ➡ <b>TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP 2023</b> <b>ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME</b> Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. <b>* In Church Hall, upstairs behind the Church</b></li></ul>
<b>SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER</b>	<b>GOSPEL READING: Luke 6: 31-36</b> <b>EPISTLE READING: Acts 9: 10-19</b>

**We make known to all that a Greek Language School operates in our Parish.**

**Primary school classes: every Saturday, from 9.00am to 12.30pm**

**High School classes: every Monday, from 5.00 to 8.30pm.**

**For inquiries and enrolments : 0401 051773**

### The Translation of Apostle St John The Theologian, 26 September

The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist John (also John the Theologian or John the Divine) was one of the original twelve Apostles, and wrote the Gospel bearing his name; three canonical letters: I John, II John, and III John; and the Book of Revelation. His primary feast day is celebrated on May 8, that of the twelve apostles on June 30, and his repose on September 26. His symbol is the eagle.

St. John was the son of Salome the myrrh-bearer and Zebedee, a fisherman. His brother was St. James, another apostle.

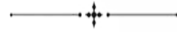
In his own Gospel account, he refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" rather than use his name. He was the youngest of the twelve apostles, and especially close to the Lord. This closeness is often portrayed in icons of the mystical supper, where St. John leans on Jesus.

He was present for the Transfiguration of Christ with Peter and his brother James.

St. John was exiled to the island of Patmos by Emperor Domitian around 90-95 A.D., and it was ...../

there that he received and wrote the Book of Revelation.

"Account of the miracle that occurred at his grave: When over 100 years old, St. John took seven disciples outside of Ephesus and had them dig a grave in the shape of a cross. St. John then went into the grave, and the disciples buried him there, alive. Later on, when his grave was opened, St. John's body was not there. 'On May 8 of each year, dust rises up from his grave, by which the sick are healed of various diseases.' "



## 1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE, Luke 5: 1-11

### Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch

*1 While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. 2 And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, 7 they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb'edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

*Reflection:* Have you ever struggled because your life wasn't going the way you wanted? Do you feel that way right now? Too many bills? Not enough money? Or maybe you are stressed because of your constant striving for more and more of the things of this world, or you are in debt up to your eyeballs trying to pay for and maintain those things you have already acquired. Do you spend most of your time focusing on how you will achieve a bigger home, a new car, stretching yourself out for that new flat screen or surround sound system your friend just purchased?

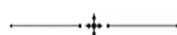
The Bible teaches us that actually we are not defined by our possessions or how much money we make, but rather by our hearts. The desires of the world will pass away, God reminds us not to put our faith in these things.

In today's Gospel we learn that Apostle Peter struggle to catch a fish - daily survival food of fisherman. But in his struggle Peter was also willing to listen and even trust our Lord Jesus Christ, who said: "*Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.*" Peter in first reaction reply: "*Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!*" but then Peter added: "*But at your word I will let down the nets. And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking*" (Luke 5:4-6).

Apostle Peter trusted Jesus Christ and for that he was rewarded with a *great shoal of fish*. Even more, Lord spoke to him; "*Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.*" Are you too, willing to listen and trust our Lord Jesus Christ?

God chooses ordinary people, like you and me, as his servants, ambassadors and he uses the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives and work situations to draw others into his kingdom. Jesus speaks the same message to us today: we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the gospel. Paul the Apostles says, "*But thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing*" (2 Cor. 2:15). Do you witness to those around you the joy of the gospel and do you pray for your neighbours, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love?

Fr. Peter Siwko



If you do not feel like praying, you have to force yourself. The Holy Fathers say that prayer with force is higher than prayer unforced. You do not want to, but force yourself.

The Kingdom of Heaven is taken by force (Matt. 11:12).