



Our Parish News

St George Rose Bay community news & events

GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH OF SAINT GEORGE
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AIMS FOR 2016

- 1 Communicate more
- 2 Progress the Building Development
- 3 Grow our parishioner numbers
- 4 Maintain the Church

*"The measure of who we
are is what we do with
the talents that
God gave us."*

Welcome...

Nick Golfin (Vice President)

It has been an extremely busy few months since the last *Parish News* with Easter celebrations, festival of St George, ongoing Church maintenance, the launch of *St George Hands* and the first of a series of Q&A Seminars. Quite simply, our aim is to invest in our Church, Parish and local community. I hope you enjoy this "bumper" issue!

An Update from the Ladies Auxiliary

Maria Bekiaris (President)

The first half of the year has passed so quickly, we've had so many wonderful events that have kept us very busy. St George's Day was celebrated with Vespers on Easter night, which was followed by liturgy on the Monday morning, after which a lunch was served in the church hall to 200 parishioners from near and far. We had many visitors from other churches who came along and enjoyed a delicious lunch and fellowship, alongside our own parishioners.

St George's Day did not end there, we celebrated on the following Sunday with our annual BBQ. This coincided with Mother's Day, and it was so lovely to see that many families chose to celebrate their mother with us at St George. The Parish Board worked alongside the Ladies Auxiliary to make this year's BBQ, a real celebration for our church.

Apart from the souvlakia and salads, there were stalls, a jumping castle for the children and to round things off we also included a loukoumathes stand that proved to be very popular. The atmosphere created a real "Paniyiri" amongst all the parishioners who came along, and enjoyed a wonderful day.

As we now enter a quiet time of the year, it's a good opportunity to go rummaging through all the cookbooks or go and ask "γιαγιά" for some of her delicious recipes, in preparation for our annual "Panayias" Cake Day in August.

Now that winter is here we wave "αντίο" to many of our parishioners who are travelling to warmer holidays overseas. We wish them all a wonderful trip, a happy holiday and a safe return home. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies of the Auxiliary for their continued hard work and dedication to our church. Thank you also to the members of the Parish Board for all their help and support and to all the kind parishioners who donate to our fundraising, and to the ones who donate their time.

GROWTH UPDATE

Our Growth initiatives, aimed at reaching out to more parishioners and the community at large, continue to gather momentum:

1. Social Media - you would have noticed regular eNews in your inboxes over Lent and Easter and a flurry of pictorial updates on our Instagram page of Holy Week and our St George festivities. Look out for some new features to our website.

2. St George Hands - we have had an overwhelming response to our charity arm with over 40 people volunteering their time. On 9 May *St George Hands* participated in its first community event, assisting St Raphael's Mission in feeding over 120 homeless at Martin Place. The night went very smoothly, with much love and appreciation shown by the homeless towards us. This initiative will continue every month with a view of scaling up the frequency of our volunteering

3. Parenting Seminar - the first of many planned Q&A type seminars was held on Friday 10th June 6:30-8:00pm in the Church Hall. [Dr Toula Tsovolos \(Child and adolescent psychiatrist\)](#) discussed the basic principles of positive parenting. Future follow

Zakynthian Association Exhibition and screening of "The Song of Life/Το Τραγούδι της Ζωής" documentary

Nina Mistilis Larcombe

The Zakynthian Association in conjunction with our Parish held an Exhibition, "The History and Culture of Zakynthos" and the screening of "The Song of Life/Το Τραγούδι της Ζωής" documentary, by Tony Likouressis (2002) in our Parish Church Hall on Sunday 20th March. Both events were very successful with many people attending from our Parish community and beyond.

John Koutsis, one of our Parishioners and the Zakynthian Association Secretary was responsible for the event ably assisted by fellow Director Steve Koutoulogenis. Our sincere thanks go to them, Jim Gouskos President and all the Directors of the Zakynthian Association for this wonderful initiative.

Zakynthos is a beautiful island off the west Peloponnese coast in the Ionian group of the "Seven Islands" of Greece. The Exhibition had books written by Zakynthian writers, costumes from the village of Skoulikado and samples of Zakynthian agricultural products. The documentary tells the amazing, heart rending story of the survival of the entire Jewish community on Zakynthos during World War II due to the heroic acts of Metropolitan Bishop Chrysostomos, Mayor Karrer and all the island population.



How we helped?

During the autumn period Parish collections were undertaken to raise money for the following organisations:

1. \$4,000 to assist the poor in Greece
2. \$3,000 Anastasi night collection for the Patriarchate
3. \$1,000 to St Andrews Theological College
4. \$1,500 to the Archdiocese for the 25th March Greek National Day commemorations

And Finally

A very special acknowledgement to the parishioner that generously donated the Epitaphios flowers, a donation valued at several thousand dollars.