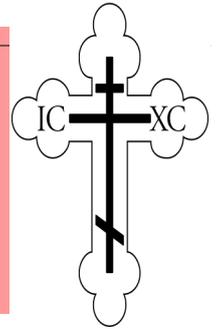


June Edition

May Review

The Spirit

St Nicholas Monthly Newsletter



Upcoming Events

- Sunday 10th June after 6pm liturgy – Mario Baghos short talk on 'Look up to the heavens'
- Sunday 17th June after 6pm liturgy – Jason Israel short talk on 'The Bridge of Diamond'
- 4th July - Jump Around Youth Night
- Every Thursday night, St Nicholas' bible studies 7.15pm at church house
- Every Wednesday night Youth Night 7-8pm
- July 7th-8th, ACOY Young Adult Retreat
- St Mary's Mount Pritchard Mount Keira Hike 16th June
- Every Monday night St Raphael's Mission—Feeding the homeless
- October 27th ACOY Annual Ball

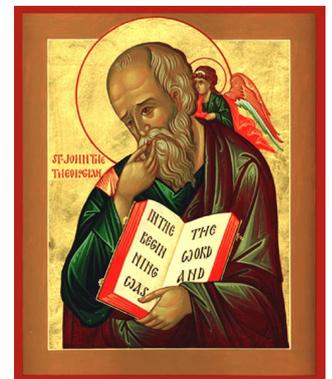
Primary Sports Day

On Saturday the 5th of May, 45 Sunday school students from a range of NSW Antiochian Orthodox parishes participated in the Primary-aged Sports day. The students gathered for a morning liturgy followed by morning tea. They were so excited as they were placed into colour age groups and made their way to punchbowl Boys oval for a day of fun sport games! Tug of war, three-legged race, relays and cots kept the students challenged. Hamburgers were on the menu for lunch and then another session of fun activities followed! Walking back to St Nicholas, tired but happy the students had a memorable day getting fit and making friends! Thank you to all our amazing church school teachers and youth volunteers who assisted on the day. We hope to see more students at the next Church school event!

Marie-Claire Hawwa (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Church school director)

Saint of the Month—St John The Theologian

- St John's father was Zebedee and his mother was Salome. Both St John and his brother James were called to be Apostles of Jesus Christ. They both left their father Zebedee and followed Christ. St John was very close to Jesus and he followed Jesus all the way to foot of the Cross with the Mother of God.
- As Jesus was dying on the Cross, he said to the Most Holy Virgin Mary about St John: "Woman, behold your son." Then Jesus said to St John: "Behold your Mother." From that time, the Apostle John served the Most Holy Virgin Mary as his mother until her Dormition.
- St John and his disciple St Prochorus went to a city called Ephesus where he performed many miracles and told people about Jesus Christ and people started to believe in Jesus. Later on, the emperors and kings of the time persecuted Christians and so they arrested St John but he always remained faithful to Jesus Christ. They sent him to an island called Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelations which are predictions of Jesus Christ's Second Coming.
- After this, St John was allowed to return to Ephesus where he continued to teach the people the commandments of Christ: *To love the Lord and one another!*
- St John teaches as that *without love, we cannot come near to God.*



Deacon Philip

On the Sunday of Pentecost, 27 of May 2018, and by the laying on of hands of His Eminence Metropolitan Basilios, Mr. Phillip Saba was ordained to the Rank of Diaconate at St. Nicholas Church - Punchbowl.

Phillip Saba was born in Australia in 1983. He grew up in the Church, attending Sunday School regularly at St. Nicholas Punchbowl, where he became a Sunday School teacher in 1998.

On entering University in 2001, he became more involved in his parish, serving both as an altar assistant and member of the choir. Phillip graduated with Distinction from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) in 2003 with a Bachelor Degree in Business.

In 2006, the late Metropolitan Paul Saliba of thrice-blessed memory sent Phillip to Lebanon to study Theology at the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, Balamand.

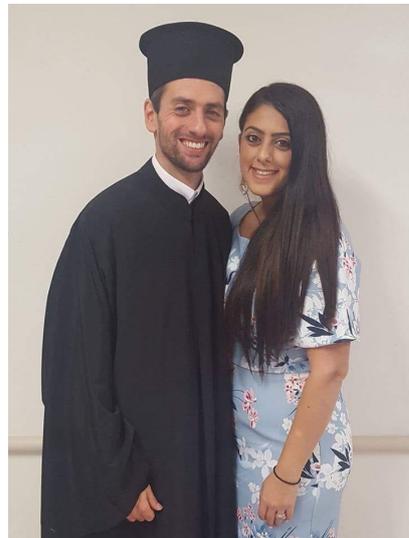
In his five-year tenure at the Institute he learned Arabic and excelled in many areas – most notably Byzantine Ecclesiastical Music. He graduated from the Institute with Distinction in 2011.

Since his return to Australia, he has worked with numerous parish choirs, including St. Nicholas Punchbowl, Sts. Michael and Gabriel Ryde and the Cathedral of St. George in Redfern.

He married his wife Mandy Saba, an active member and past-president of the St. Elias Wollongong Youth Committee, in November 2014 and the two were blessed with their first child Jonah Saba in December 2016.

In January 2018, Phillip was appointed as the Director of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Choir by His Eminence Metropolitan Basilios Kodseie.

He is worthy, Axios.



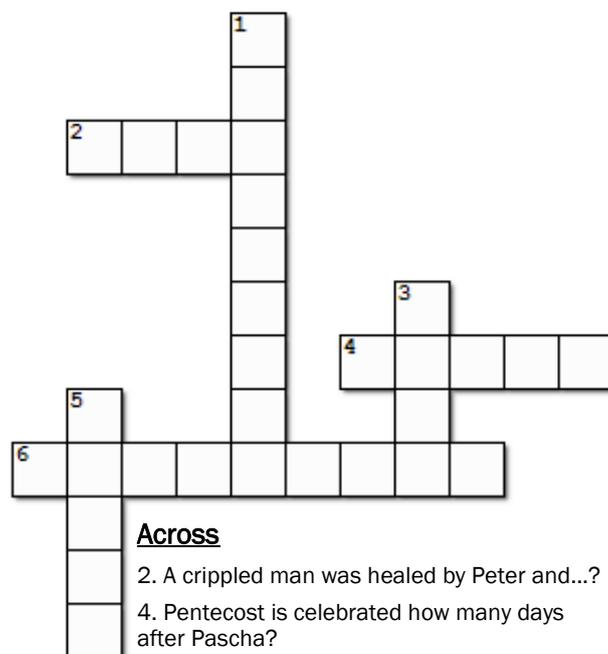
St Nicholas Punchbowl Parish is my second home and it is such a blessing to be able to serve our beautiful community. My mother taught me from a very young age to love God before all things and I thank her for nurturing my faith and spiritual life. My second mother, Mary Jamhour (Director of St. Nicholas Sunday School, Punchbowl) helped me fall in love with my parish and I thank her also for nurturing my faith from a young age and being a shining example of sacrificial service to the community. I am truly blessed to have had many wonderful mentors who have helped me transition from Sunday School student to teacher, to altar server, to choir member, to theology student, to choir director and now to the sacred order of the Diaconate.

It is so surreal to go from watching our clergy serve in the Holy Sanctuary my whole life, to actually participating with them in the Divine Liturgy services. I am humbled beyond words and cannot express the feeling of awe I have experienced since being ordained a Deacon.

Deacon Philip

Pentecost Crossword

Complete the crossword below



Across

2. A crippled man was healed by Peter and...?
4. Pentecost is celebrated how many days after Pascha?
6. Where was Pentecost celebrated?

Down

1. People in the house started speaking different...?
3. The Holy Spirit appeared in tongues of...?
5. Who preached in the temple about Jesus?