

# Annual Report 2025



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*A mission of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Committee of Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission is pleased to present its inaugural Annual Report to mission members, the Diocesan authorities, and the wider church community.

This Annual Report gives an account of mission life over the year from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2025. For the sake of completeness, an overview of mission activity from 2019-2024 is also given. Mission needs and challenges in the immediate future and in the years ahead are also considered.

## **THE MISSION COMMITTEE**

Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR) have a standard constitution, the Normal Parish By-Laws ('the By-Laws'). With Archbishop's George's blessing, our mission for the time being uses a simple set of 'Association Rules' ('the Rules') that have been modified in key areas to reflect the By-Laws.

The Rules provide for a committee that consists of the rector, any other assigned members of the higher clergy, and at least three non-clergy ('lay') members chosen by parish members at the parish Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The role of the Committee encompasses financial management and planning; asset management; compliance with civil law and church statutes and policies; governance; and the decoration of the church. Committee members are also the parish's 'responsible persons' for the purposes of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and 'officers' under Work Health and Safety legislation. In New South Wales, they have responsibility for the safety of children in mission life. These are important roles that carry with them responsibilities under civil law.

During the period under review the rector of our mission was Archpriest James Carles. No other clergyman was assigned to the mission.

Father James was ordained deacon on 29 November 1998. He was ordained priest on 23 September 2001. He has had responsibility for Saint Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church, Gosford, since his ordination; for Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Wallsend (Newcastle), since December 2002; and for our mission since his first visit to the area in June 2019.

The lay members of the Committee, appointed by Bishop George in December 2022, are Ekaterina Cotton (Secretary), Tatiana Tobin (Treasurer) and Evgenia Biryukova.

The Committee made decisions informally during the period under review.

## **MISSION ACTIVITIES**

The purpose of the Mission is to make available Orthodox Christian prayers, sacraments, and teaching on the Mid North Coast; to acquire the material resources and local experience to effectively support this activity; and, in time, to establish a parish in the region. The territory of the mission encompasses the coastal area of New South Wales from Forster-Tuncurry to Woolgoolga.

### **Making available Orthodox Christian prayers, sacraments and teaching**

Our practice is to have Divine Liturgy on the fifth Sunday of the month when this occurs, generally four times per year. Usually, two services are held in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area, and two services are held in the Coffs Harbour-Bellingen area.

As our mission rector also looks after parishes in Gosford and Newcastle, he is unable to visit more frequently than this.

When Divine Liturgy is served, we use both Church Slavonic and English. Sermons are delivered in English.

Our choir conductor is Matushka Marie Carles. Matushka Marie also bakes the prosphora for each Divine Liturgy.

We usually have approximately 30 people present when Divine Liturgy is served. As services are so infrequent, most people take the opportunity to confess and receive Holy Communion.

At these services we have offered prayers for the unity of the Orthodox Church, peace in Ukraine, and peace in the Holy Land.

During the year under review the lay members of the Mission began to gather regularly for reader services. This has been helpful for our isolated community.

### **Acquiring material resources and local experience**

Our Mission has acquired many things necessary for the divine services. A chalice set was donated by Alexander Alechna in the early years of the Mission. The Gosford parish gave us candlestands. In 2021 friends in the Russian city of Ekaterinburg – the city in which the relics of Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye were kept during the Soviet years – gave us two Slavonic Gospel books, an altar cross, chalice covers, and other items. We have also acquired icon stands, covers, and several icons. In 2024 we obtained a portable altar table and table of preparation and sets of covers for them in red, white, blue, and gold. We are now able to create a church-like space for worship whenever we have services.

**Mission life 2019-2025****• 2019**

Divine Liturgy was served three times in 2019 – in June, September, and December. All three services were held at the Barraganyatti home of Evan and Katya Cotten. In June a child was baptised, and in September there was a blessing of water.

**• 2020**

We did not have services in March or May 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions. Our August 2020 service was in Barraganyatti at the Cotten residence, and our November 2020 service was in Boambee at the home of Ashish Sinha and Evgenia Biryukova. On the day before the November service an adult was baptised.

**• 2021**

We had only one Divine Liturgy in 2021 – in January, in Barraganyatti at the Cotten residence.

In March 2021 our parishioner Don Sleaford passed away. His funeral was served at the Memorial Gardens in Frederickton.

There were no services in May, August and October because of COVID-19 restrictions.

**• 2022**

On Sunday 30 January we had services in Boambee at the home of Ashish Sinha and Evgenia Biryukova. Following Divine Liturgy the Great Blessing of Water was served.

On Sunday 29 May 2022 we again had services in Boambee at the home of Ashish Sinha and Evgenia Biryukova.

On Sunday 20 July 2022 we had services at the home of Liubov Sleaford in Wirrimbi, near Macksville.

We did not have a service in October 2022 because of the Diocesan Assembly in Sydney.

On 8 December 2022, Bishop George gave his formal blessing to our Mission, and a Committee was appointed.

**• 2023**

On Sunday 29 January we had services at the CWA Rooms in Kempsey. Following Divine Liturgy the Great Blessing of Water was served.

On Sunday 30 April we had services at the Wauchope Community Arts Centre, a venue we have used for services in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area ever since.

In May 2023 we opened Mission bank accounts.

On Sunday 30 July we again had services in Boambee at the home of Ashish Sinha and Evgenia Biryukova. This was the last time Divine Liturgy was served in a private home. As the mission had grown and become more diverse, the use of public spaces seemed preferable.

On Saturday 29 October an infant was baptized in Barraganyatti. On Sunday 29 October we had services at the Wauchope Community Arts Centre.

On Saturday 30 December and Sunday 31 December we had services at the Boambee Memorial Hall. As it was the patronal feast-day of the Mission, All-night Vigil with the blessing of wheat, wine, oil and five loaves was served on Saturday evening. This was the first time that the Mission had had an evening service. Early on Sunday morning there was a blessing of water, after which the Hours and Divine Liturgy were served. Following a moleben to Saint Symeon and the customary singing of 'Many years', there was a festive meal. Concelebrating at the divine services together with Father James was Archpriest Dionysios Halim, the rector of the Holy Dormition parish in Wollongong, NSW.

- **2024**

On Sunday 31 March we had services at the Wauchope Community Arts Hall. At these services some new items were used for the first time: a portable altar table and table of preparation made by Sydney-based carpenter Michael Sokolsky, and several folding wooden icon stands made by a Mission member, Howard Trott. As Saturday 30 March was a day of commemoration of the departed, a memorial litia was served following Divine Liturgy.

On Saturday 29 June an infant was baptized in Brierfield, near Bellingen. On Sunday 30 June we had services at Bellingen Neighbourhood Centre.

On Sunday 29 December we had services at the Boambee Memorial Hall. In anticipation of the main feast of Saint Symeon on 31 December, a moleben to the saint was served immediately after Divine Liturgy and the faithful were given blessed icon-cards. As 2024 was the fifth anniversary of services on the Mid North Coast, Father James presented special Certificates of Appreciation to Mission founders, benefactors and hosts Tatiana Tobin, Evan and Katerina Cotten, Evgeniya Biryukova and Ashish Sinha, and Liubov Sleaford.

A significant development during 2024 was the scheduling of lay 'reader' services at private homes. At these services, which were led by Reader James Savage, the Hours and Typika were read and the faithful venerated the Holy Gospel, the Cross, and the icons belonging to the Mission. The thinking behind such services was to supplement the quarterly visits from a priest, strengthen friendships, and

develop the liturgical and other experience necessary for the growth of the Mission.

- **2025**

On Sunday 30 March we had services at the Wauchope Community Arts Hall. As Saturday 29 March was a day of commemoration of the departed, Divine Liturgy was followed by a litia for the departed and the blessing of kutiya.

On Sunday 29 June we had services at the Bellingen Neighbourhood Centre. Protodeacon German Polorotoff of the Tweed Heads parish served together with Father James, the first time that a deacon had served in our Mission. We were also joined by others from Tweed Heads, by friends from Newcastle, and by newcomers interested in the Orthodox faith.

In June 2025 we published a website, [www.stsymeonorthodox.org.au](http://www.stsymeonorthodox.org.au). The website remains under construction.

We had Divine Liturgy in Wauchope on 31 August 2025. In September 2025 we received a generous donation of \$20,000. We also had reader services in the Coffs Harbour area in August, September, and October.

In October 2025 Reader James Savage represented our Mission at the Twenty-First Diocesan Assembly of the Australian-New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

### **Summary**

Our Mission is now six years old. In that time, it has grown and changed. We have welcomed many new members. We have acquired items needed for the divine services, together with a great deal of experience. Through donations, fundraising, and candle sales we have managed to accumulate over \$26,000 that will help us with future initiatives.

### **Our plans for 2025-2026**

Our final Divine Liturgy for 2025 will be in Coffs Harbour in November. Following the service, we will have our first Annual General Meeting. We will also have reader services in November and December.

In 2026 we hope to have Divine Liturgy in Wauchope on 29 March and 30 August and in Coffs Harbour on 7 June and 29 November. We will have a service in June rather than May as the fifth Sunday in May will be the Great Feast of Pentecost.

During the year ahead we hope to strengthen our community through additional services and activities. We also plan for our Mission Committee to begin to meet regularly and formally.

*31 October 2025*

# Not-For-Profit - Association Report

Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission  
ABN 69 429 037 722  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

Prepared by Brock James Smith Savage

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# Certificate by Members of the Committee

## Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission

For the year ended 30 June 2025

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Balance Sheet, Accumulated Funds Statement, Income and Expenditure Statement, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

*Rev. James Coles*

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Dated:        /        / 31 October 2025

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Dated:        /        /

# Balance Sheet

## Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission

As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUN 25	30 JUN 24
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Bank Accounts</b>			
WBC 6816 Trading Account		5,309.14	1,716.85
WBC 6824 Debit Card		500.00	500.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>		<b>5,809.14</b>	<b>2,216.85</b>
<b>Other Cash Assets</b>			
Cash Float		200.00	200.00
Undeposited Funds		0.00	476.00
<b>Total Other Cash Assets</b>		<b>200.00</b>	<b>676.00</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Equipment		1,080.52	1,080.52
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(1,080.52)	(1,080.52)
<b>Total Equipment</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>6,009.14</b>	<b>2,892.85</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Retained Earnings		6,009.14	2,892.85
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>6,009.14</b>	<b>2,892.85</b>

# Accumulated Funds

## Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	30 JUN 25	30 JUN 24
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Opening Balance	2,892.85	2,850.90
Current Year Profit / (Loss)	3,116.29	41.95
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>6,009.14</b>	<b>2,892.85</b>

# Income and Expenditure Statement

**Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission**

**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

	NOTES	30 JUN 25	30 JUN 24
<b>Income</b>			
Donations		3,282.35	2,712.00
Raffle Tickets		994.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>4,276.35</b>	<b>2,712.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Candles		0.00	472.95
Depreciation		0.00	1,080.52
Hall Hire		357.25	595.00
Journals & Periodicals		87.00	0.00
PO Box Rental		181.00	174.00
Postage		0.00	12.39
Printing & Stationery		159.50	0.00
Professional Library		71.31	70.39
Wall Calendars		304.00	264.80
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1,160.06</b>	<b>2,670.05</b>
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>		<b>3,116.29</b>	<b>41.95</b>

# Notes to the Association Report

## **Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission**

**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

### **1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The Association Report includes special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW.

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

### **2. Income Tax**

The organisation is exempt from Income Tax.

### **3. Fixed Assets**

Plant, equipment, and fittings are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated using the simplified depreciation rules, and specifically the instant asset write-off for eligible businesses, allowing the organisation to immediately write off the business portion of the cost of an asset that costs less than the relevant limit amount for the year the asset is first used or installed ready for use.

### **4. Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated gross of the amount of goods and services tax.

### **5. Goods and Services Tax**

The organisation is not required to be registered for GST.

*These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.*

# Depreciation Schedule

## Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission

For the year ended 30 June 2025

NAME	PURCHASED	DISPOSED	COST	OPENING VALUE	PURCHASES	DISPOSALS	DEPRECIATION	CLOSING VALUE
<b>Equipment</b>								
PORTABLE ALTAR & TABLE OF OBLATION	2/03/2024		1,080.52	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Equipment</b>								
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,080.52</b>	-	-	-	-	-

# Compilation Report

## Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission

### For the year ended 30 June 2025

Compilation report to Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission, which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2025, accumulated funds statement, income and expenditure statement, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

#### The Responsibility of the Committee Members

The committee of Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that these financial statements were prepared.

#### Our Responsibility


On the basis of information provided by the committee we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

#### Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

These special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the committee who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.



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Brock James Smith Savage  
[REDACTED]  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Dated: 30 / 10 / 2025

# Balance Sheet – Multi-year Comparatives

## Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission

	30 JUN 19	30 JUN 20	30 JUN 21	30 JUN 22	30 JUN 23	30 JUN 24	30 JUN 25
<b>Assets</b>							
<b>Current Assets</b>							
<b>Bank Accounts</b>							
WBC 6816 Trading Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,150.90	1,716.85	5,309.14
WBC 6824 Debit Card	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,650.90</b>	<b>2,216.85</b>	<b>5,809.14</b>
<b>Other Cash Assets</b>							
Cash Float	263.50	437.50	959.90	1,330.90	200.00	200.00	200.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	476.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Cash Assets</b>				<b>1,330.90</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>676.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>							
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,080.52	1,080.52
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,080.52)	(1,080.52)
<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>263.50</b>	<b>437.50</b>	<b>959.90</b>	<b>1,330.90</b>	<b>2,850.90</b>	<b>2,892.85</b>	<b>6,009.14</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>							
Retained Earnings	263.50	437.50	959.90	1,330.90	2,850.90	2,892.85	6,009.14
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>263.50</b>	<b>437.50</b>	<b>959.90</b>	<b>1,330.90</b>	<b>2,850.90</b>	<b>2,892.85</b>	<b>6,009.14</b>

# Profit and Loss – Multi-year Comparatives

## Saint Symeon of Verkhoturye Orthodox Mission

	30 JUN 19	30 JUN 20	30 JUN 21	30 JUN 22	30 JUN 23	30 JUN 24	30 JUN 25
<b>Income</b>							
Donations	263.50	174.00	522.40	371.00	1,592.00	2,712.00	3,282.35
Raffle Tickets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	994.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>263.50</b>	<b>174.00</b>	<b>522.40</b>	<b>371.00</b>	<b>1,592.00</b>	<b>2,712.00</b>	<b>4,276.35</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Candles	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	472.95	0.00
Depreciation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,080.52	0.00
Hall Hire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.00	595.00	357.25
Journals & Periodicals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.00
PO Box Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	174.00	181.00
Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.39	0.00
Printing & Stationery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	159.50
Professional Library	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.39	71.31
Wall Calendars	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	264.80	304.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>72.00</b>	<b>2,670.05</b>	<b>1,160.06</b>
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>	<b>263.50</b>	<b>174.00</b>	<b>522.40</b>	<b>371.00</b>	<b>1,520.00</b>	<b>41.95</b>	<b>3,116.29</b>