



# Talks in English

## Sunday, 13 July 2008

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Hilarion of Sydney,  
Australia and New Zealand, Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia,  
You are invited to a talk by Priestmonk Kosmas entitled:

### Whom to Marry & Whom Not to Marry

If one decides to marry, then whom to marry and whom not to marry should be the most important decision that needs to be made. It can even be said that this decision will determine the outcome of the marriage. The correct decision of whom to marry is essential for the success of a marriage. A wrong decision can have disastrous consequences as can be seen from the increased rate of divorce, marital problems, domestic violence, adultery, etc.

Social dating, Internet dating and chat rooms, pre-marital sex, de facto relationships, Internet match-making, etc, are some of the ways people use to find their future spouse. Many Orthodox Christians also use such methods and therefore the following questions arise: Are any of these methods appropriate for an Orthodox Christian and if not, how else would one meet someone for the purpose of marriage?

In this talk, the above issues will be discussed in the light of the teachings of the Orthodox Church. Because of the influence of secular society on Orthodox Christians with regard to finding a spouse and the preparation for marriage, it will be necessary to analyse the similarities and differences of this influence with that of the Church. Should looks, faults, money, education, career, be taken into consideration when choosing a spouse? How should parental influence and the advice of a spiritual father affect the decision?

This talk is important not only for those who will be having to undertake the difficult task of choosing a spouse, but it will also be beneficial for parents whose children may one day be in this position. As for those who are already married, this talk can alter their view on marriage, which can lead to an improvement in their marriage.

**Venue:** Saint George Russian Orthodox Church  
15 Garfield St, Carlton, Sydney.

**At 6:00 pm** there will be a Holy Water service in the Church and the reading of prayers for the sick in English. The faithful will have an opportunity to submit names for commemoration.

**At 7:00 pm** the talk will be given in the hall at the rear of the church.

**A book** called *Marriage: A Spiritual Arena* and pamphlets will be distributed at no cost to those present.

**After every talk** there will be beverages, savouries and sweets for those who wish to stay. People are welcome to come to the service, the talk, or both. A bookstall with Orthodox books and CDs in English will also be available.

**Future talks:** Sunday, 10th August, 2008  
Sunday, 7th September, 2008  
Sunday, 5th October, 2008

**For more information call:** (02) 9558 2207