Australia Rallies for Egypt’s Coptic Christians

By THE AUSTRALIAN COPTIC MOVEMENT (www.auscma.com)

On 23 October 2011, thousands of Sydney’s Coptic community gathered in a show of solidarity following the callous massacre of 25 Coptic Christian protesters by the Egyptian Military and armed “thugs” in Maspero, Egypt.

His Grace Bishop Suriel addressed the crowd challenging the leaders of the Egyptian caretaker government to “be men” and put an end to the ongoing persecution and discrimination of Christians.

A raft of politicians from both sides of politics were in attendance to show their support, along with other clergy and Church leaders from various denominations.

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen extended the government’s condolences to the Coptic community. “We stand with you … we share your grief, we share your upset, we share your concerns,” Mr Bowen said. He then added, “the routing of tyranny and dictatorships in the Middle East had all too often been followed by violence and despair. Today we say: Let Egypt be different. Let Egypt shine the way forward for other countries in the Middle East. Let Egypt be a nation which gives all members of its community the right to live in freedom, regardless of their religion, regardless of their beliefs.”

Minister for Immigration Visit to St Mark Church

The Hon. Minister of Immigration and Citizenship, Mr Chris Bowen, visited St Mark’s Church at Arncliffe on 10 October 2011. He was welcomed by Fr. Jonathan Ishak, Fr. Augustinos Nada and Mr. John Nour.

Mr. Bowen expressed his condolences for the overnight killing of 26 Coptic people in Egypt. He said “I was disturbed to hear the news about the trouble that took place in Cairo overnight. It was an alarming incident.” Mr. Bowen met with the congregation and the priests for almost 90 minutes. Also present at the meeting were Fr. Samuel Guirguis and Fr. Abdel Messigh Girgis. Mr. Amir Hanna described to Mr. Bowen the history of the Coptic Church in Australia and in Sydney. A DVD about the events and the attacks on the Coptic people and the Coptic Church in Egypt from January 2011 till now was shown. Mr. Bowen was also updated on the situation in Cairo in the last few hours prior to his visit. The Minister’s visit was very well timed in view of the events that took place only a few hours before his visit.

The Minister was very sympathetic to the crisis in (continued on page 10...)
Thanksgiving

By HG POPE SHENOUA III

When we give thanks to the Lord, we are glorifying God, acknowledging His loving-kindness to us. Come, taste and live the life of Thanksgiving to God for His glorious works and love to us!

He who lives the life of thanksgiving is a noble person, acknowledges and does not forget a favor. He neither forgets any good offered to him, and expresses his thanks. Thanksgiving is in his heart on his tongue for God. Thank you in every occasion, in every condition and for all things. So, it is not only giving thanks always except good, and the person who believes in God’s quality, gladly accepts everything which gives thanks to God. Joseph thanks his brothers for making him a slave; their action was itself evil, treachery, and lack of love, cruelty and ignorance. But God transforms evil and good and Joseph “Was made a father to Pharaoh, and Lord of his people”. ... He told his brothers, “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good ... to save many people alive” (Gen. 50-20).

The children of God are always joyful, they thank Him for all things. They thank Him for the good and the bad, for the words, but also by offering a sacrifice of praise, peace offerings or vows. As the prophet Isaiah says, “I will multiply my sacrifice and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all people” (Ps. 116:17).

This miracle shows the power of our beloved Lord: “began to speak”. This is because whenever Christ gives us spiritual life, he immediately arises and sat up. This symbolises that he rose up out of life of sins, towards a life of holiness and victory. When our beloved Lord rose up, he “began to speak”. This is because whenever Christ gives us spiritual life, he opens our lips in prayer and praise. And so, when dead souls are risen up to spiritual life, we must not only look upon it as; “God has visited His people.”

Thanksgiving

The highest level of thanksgiving is to give thanks to God over tribulations. We thank God over the tribulations from which He saved us.... But, what is greater than this is also thank Him over the prevailing tribulations which we bear and live in. By faith we believe it for our good. To endure and bear tribulations, is a very excellent work of love and accept it is a greater virtue. And what is more important is to give thanks overcoming tribulation and accept surrender and joy. If we thank God for the gifts only, then our love is for the gifts, not God. He does not do except good, and the person who believes in God's quality, gladly accepts everything which gives thanks to God. Here the Lord Jesus Christ: who intercede to the Lord to help the widow’s son. This man who was dead, demonstrates to the people of the world that God can give you a holy life, so our Lord is saying to all the youth: “Arise from the dead of your sins, so your future will be blessed and successful” – and as King Solomon says: “And so find favour and high esteem in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:4).

Jesus raises the Son of the Widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)

By HG BISHOP DANIEL

The gospel reading of today, not only tells us about the great miracle of how our beloved Lord raised a person from the dead, but also highlights the power of gratitude and thanksgiving. It also symbolises how the Lord raises us from the dead - spiritually.

We see in this beautiful story, the involvement of 3 people, who correspond to 3 interactions of Jesus in resurrection from the life of sin and death:

1. The young man: who symbolises us (the people of the world).
2. The weeping mother: who symbolises St Mary & also the church who weep for the spiritual death of her children, and who intercede to the Lord to help.
3. The beloved Lord Jesus Christ: who is the resurrection and the life.

This miracle also reveals to us many important points:

The Compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ:

• He saw the widow weeping, and He feels her pain and gives her comfort.
• Our beloved Lord gives great concern, and care for the pain and the neglected people of society.
• Our beloved Lord is the father of the widow and the weeping mother, and the comforter of all widows (Psalm 68:5).
• “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart” (Psalm 34).

Concerning this story, St Cyril of Alexandria said: “The one who died, was the only son of the woman who is a widow, and to Jesus who is the only Son of a Virgin, meets with the widow’s son. This man who was dead, meets Jesus who is the life and resurrection” (Cyril of Alexandria - Commentary on Luke, Homily 36).

This miracle shows the power of our Lord has over death:

• And as Cyril of Alexandria said: “This miracle of raising the young man from the dead, demonstrates that there is no death in the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophetic hope” (Commentary on Luke, Homily 36).
• “On the other hand, the one who is the life and resurrection, meets the young man at the tomb – and there, the Lord conquers death and corruption. Our beloved Lord touched the coffin and then said “Young man, I say to you, arise.”
• He touched the coffin with His own hand, so we can learn that the holy body of Christ is given for the souls they are life” (John 6:63).
• He touched the coffin as a sign that the flesh of Christ has the power to give life and destroy death - because it is the Body of the Word, who gives life to all.
• He spoke words to show that His words are spirit and life, as the Lord mentions in the gospel of John: “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and life” (John 6:63).
• In this gospel reading, the Lord is calling all people to “Arise”.
• Arise from the dead of your sins, so that God can give you life.
• Arise from the burden of your lusts, so that you can give your love to God.
• Arise from the burden of your sins, so that you can give your love to God.
• Arise from the burden of your sins, so that you can give your love to God.

It symbolises the great role of St Mary and the church in the life of a repentant person:

• When the beloved Lord Jesus is weeping, our beloved Lord is moved to compassion, and so takes action, in the same way that our Lord is compassionate when the holy mother of the church St Mary, weeps for us and intercedes for us.

Lord always and do not lose our peace with God and man. It is written that the fruits of the Spirit are “Love, peace, joy…” (Gal. 5:22-23), and our peace, comfort and joy will affect others and by our good example we lead others to God. Also, tribulation needs thanksgiving because it strengthens the spiritual life. It gives us depth in prayer and depth in our relationship with God...a severe tribulation leads man to repentance. More than a hundred sermons or reading many spiritual books. In tribulations, we see the hand of the Lord working... and His care and protection. In the tribulation, we see the hand of the Lord, His wonders and His power. It gives us experience we could not attain without it. Also, it sifts the Church and separates the tares; from the wheat. For all these reasons, we give thanks to God over tribulation and consider it a blessing. Of course the person who thanks over tribulation shall give thanks for all other things. He lives the constant life of thanksgiving and never murmurs or complains.
40 Day Commemoration for our Martyrs, Victims of the Atrocity in Maspero, Cairo

Saturday 19th of November 2011 at St Mary & St Mina Cathedral – Bexley from 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Holy Mass & 40 Days Memorial Prayer in all the Churches of the Diocese Sunday 20th of November 2011 in remembrance of our Martyrs, victims of the Sad events in Maspero-Cairo

Dear Reverend Fathers and Our Beloved the congregation of the Diocese of Sydney

Grace & Peace to all of you,
Our grief is great for the loss of our beloved Martyrs in the recent horrific massacre of Maspero-Cairo
Commemoration prayer for the Martyrs of Maspero will be held on Saturday 19th of November 2011 at St Mary & St Mina Cathedral from 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Dear Reverend Fathers, the entire Congregation of the Diocese of Sydney, please join with us in the prayers.

Also, on Sunday 20th November 2011, all the Churches of the Diocese of Sydney will hold Holy Mass and 40 Days Memorial prayers in remembrance of our Martyrs of Maspero.

Let us all raise our hearts praying to our Lord Jesus Christ for the protection of our Church the One, Holy, Universal and Apostolic Church.

Thank you for your love and support

Very Reverend Fr Tadros Simon, Vicar General, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions

“Out of Egypt I called My Son” Hosea 11:1

Please come and show your support for our fellow Coptic brothers & sisters in Egypt by helping us raise money for the victims & their families of the Maspero incident.

We will be holding a fundraising Walk-a-thon followed by a picnic at Parramatta Park (off O’Connell St) on Saturday November 19th, 2011 from 11am - 5pm

Please see your Church Servants for Walk-a-thon forms

Bring your family and tell your friends to come along for a fun day out for a good cause

www.coyasydney.org
Australia Rallies for Egypt's Coptic Christians

(...continued from cover)

Leader of the Opposition, Mr Abbott described the attack as an “outrage” – “It is an outrage what has happened to your community, it is an outrage which should cry out to heaven for rectification.” He continued, “May the people of Egypt come to see the tragedy the other week not just as a crime against Christians but as a crime against Islam too – no true religion can contemplate this kind of horror.” Referring to the open immigration policy of the Australian Government for Coptic Christians fleeing Egypt under the Howard Government and Mr Ruddock’s ministerial leadership, Mr Abbott said, “we did it then, we’ll do it again”.

Federal Member Craig Kelly, read out to the crowd an excerpt of his speech to the House of Representatives following the unanimous passing of his private member’s bill regarding the persecuted Copts of Egypt. A motion mirroring the same terms as Mr Kelly’s motion to the House of Representatives was also passed unanimously in the NSW State Parliament after being introduced into the NSW Legislative Council by the Rev. Hon. Fred Nile.

Referring to that motion, Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, challenged the Labour Government to act on the motion they had passed, despite having voted it down when she had earlier tried to pass a similar motion in June.

Among the dignitaries included former Minister Philip Ruddock, Shadow Immigration Minister Scott Morrison, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, David Clarke – representing the Premier Barry O’Farrell, Labour MP Ed Husic and Labour Member of the Legislative Council, Amanda Fazi. The Rev. Fred Nile, national leader of the Christian Democratic Party, was also in attendance, despite his difficult personal circumstances.

The ACM will monitor the Australian Government to ensure it implements the actions set out in the motions passed. The ACM will also continue to lobby both Australian and international bodies for the change that Egypt’s indigenous Coptic Christians desperately have been waiting (and dying) for.

The Victims “Wanted to Contribute to the Country’s Democratic Process”

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, OCT. 14, 2011 ( <http://www.zenit.org/> Zenit.org).- A message from Cardinal Antonios Naguib, patriarch of Alexandria of the Coptic Catholics, regarding the Sunday attack on a group of mostly Christian protesters. More than two dozen people were killed.

Call of the Catholic Church in Egypt “Be joyful in hope, persevere in hardship, keep praying regularly. … Never pay back evil with evil, but bear in mind the ideals that all regard with respect. As much as possible, and to the utmost of your ability, be in peace with everyone. … Do not be mastered by evil, but master evil with good” (Romans 12:12-21, New Jerusalem Bible). In the light of these recommendations of St. Paul, we are seeking our way, at this time in which it is difficult to have a clear vision for the present and the future.

With wounded hearts, we join all the sincere forces of our nation, responsible for the present and the future of our beloved country, to express our deep sorrow for the bloody events, suffered by honest and sincere children of the Nation. They wanted to contribute to the country’s democratic process, with peaceful demonstrations, like hundreds of other citizen groups. Unfortunately, it ended with the violent death of around 25 people, the majority of whom were Copts, and 329 injured. We raise our prayers for the eternal rest of the victims, the healing of the injured, and the comfort for the grieving families. We ask that all Masses and prayers, on Sunday 16th of October, be dedicated to these intentions. We also join all Christians, in fasting, and praying, following the call of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, so that God may give His Peace to our dear Country.

While condemning again all acts of violence and all those who commit such acts, we call on officials to take the necessary steps and firm measures to provide security and safety, establish clear and stable solutions to the problems that cause tension and conflict, uphold the law’s supremacy in dealing with conflicts and crimes, and ensure the objectivity of the Media. We have full confidence that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, the Government and the Judiciary, are able to lead the country to stability and security, ensuring the well-being and dignity of all citizens.

We call on all members of our Churches to dedicate their whole strength, to live in a sincere spirit of citizenship, of caring fraternity with all their brothers and sisters in the Country, and to work diligently in all the fields in which they are engaged, and positions they occupy. We call on them also to participate, in Egypt and abroad, in the current political and electoral process – this is a sacred duty, which it is not allowed to abdicate -- aiming at establishing a modern democratic State, based on the law, full citizenship, equality, justice, and the guarantee of freedoms. This is in order to ensure a better future for Egypt, a shining future based on hope and work, to which we continue to contribute generously through our institutions for education, charity and development, at the service and for the good of all the citizens of our beloved Egypt, trusting in the Divine Providence that sustains us.

May the Almighty and Loving God help us, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, come to our aid, for His glory and the good of the whole Country.

Kobri-El-Kobbeh, Cairo
October 13, 2011

+ Antonios Naguib
Patriarch Cardinal of Alexandria of the Coptic Catholics
President of the Assembly of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Egypt

editor@elmanara.org.au
UK Copts Use Talents to Express Solidarity with Egypt’s Most Vulnerable

On October 1, nearly a hundred and thirty Copts gathered with His Grace Bishop Angaelos at the Coptic Centre in Stevenage for a different kind of talent show: a talent show not focused on self-expression, but a collective expression of support by the Coptic community abroad for those in Egypt.

The Copts Got Talent event, organized by Coptic Orphans, was meant to ignite the imaginations of participants to realize that their talents and skills could enhance the lives of the fatherless and widow in Egypt. Pride about being able to get connected to God’s work in Egypt prevailed in the event’s overall mood. “Yes, God has given us talents,” one participant said, “but we want to use those to help children in Egypt.”

Simple glass awards recognized the participation of all who came to perform. In fact, it seemed that the cause was the main reward of the evening. Participants cheered one another’s performances enthusiastically. Over 34 orphaned children received sponsors through the event.

Children took a leading role in the event. The Leads-based choir of St. Mary and St. Abanoub, a Sunday school-led children’s choir involved children as young as three. They worked together to choose their own hymns and develop their own choreography. The choir performed alongside talented young English musicians, poets, and artists from other area churches.

“We are very proud of our youth. We are doing a lot to help the children of Egypt] and God is blessing this ministry abundantly,” Bishop Angaelos said.

Bishop Angaelos says he plans on presenting the awards at similar talent shows in 2012. “Copts Got Talent will be coming wherever there is a strong Coptic Diaspora, where there are talents waiting to be shared for the sake of Egypt,” Coptic Orphans executive director Nermien Riad said.

The next Copts Got Talent events will occur in Sydney and Chicago during the summer of 2012, and in Toronto in October.

COYA MONTHLY MEETING
Sunday 6th Nov @ 8pm - ABU SEFEIN CHURCH

INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER:
BISHOP AGHATHON FROM BRAZIL

Join Coptic Orphans for our ‘Giving Back For Christmas’ fundraising dinner. The dinner will allow us to reflect over this years blessings while helping our children in Egypt. We will be serving a vegan meal in honor of the fast.

When: Saturday, December 3, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.
Where: Torwood Lounge, 247 Rocky Point Road
Sans Souci, NSW, 2219

Tickets: $60 for adults | $45 for children 12 and under
To purchase your tickets call 02-9787-9777 or 02-9787-9788, or visit www.CopticOrphans.org

COYA MONTHLY MEETING
Sunday 6th Nov @ 8pm - ABU SEFEIN CHURCH

INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER:
BISHOP AGHATHON FROM BRAZIL

4TH ANNUAL SPIRITUAL FAMILY RETREAT
with Fr. Dawood Lamey

المؤتمر السنوي الرابع للفصص داد لمعي

How lovely it is to get Together in Love our Lord teaches Us

19-22 April 2012
The Tops Conference Centre
Brenda Garden Rd, Stanwell Tops

Bookings close 12 March 2012
Cost $290 per person over 4yrs. Early bird rates $250 available until 21 Nov 2011

For Further Details email: coptic.conference@gmail.com
NSW Parliament Motion on Coptic Christians

On Friday the 14th October 2011, broad political support from all political parties in NSW saw the passing of a bill in the NSW Parliament Legislative Council in support of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

At 9.41 AM, the private members’ bill was introduced to the house by the Hon. Fred Nile, calling on the NSW Government to recognise the ongoing and increasing persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt, to condemn the attacks and express sympathy for the Coptic Christian victims of the attacks. Furthermore, the motion called on the NSW Government to issue a public statement in condemnation of the attacks in Egypt, to make immediate representations to the UN, and to urge the Egyptian Government to provide equal rights and protections to all its citizens.

The Coptic cause was blessed with a multitude of ministers who subsequently stood up and spoke in support of the motion and in solidarity with the Church, Clergy and faithful. Unlike the motion passed in the Federal Parliament, the motion in the NSW parliament lasted a lot longer beginning at 9.41AM and finishing at 11.20am. A total of 13 MPs spoke in complete support of the bill, expressing strong solidarity with Copts both here and in Egypt.

The following contains a chronological summary of each of the speakers and the main points they raised in their contributions to the debate on the motion.

1. The Hon. Reverend Fred Nile
   Christian Democratic Party
   Introduced the motion to the parliament, noting that the recent attacks by the military against Copts was a climax in a series of ongoing attacks in Egypt. He recognised the history of Copts as the traditional inhabitants of Egypt from ancient times, and noted that discrimination has become an ongoing experience since the Arab Muslim invasion.

He noted that, while Copts account for 10 to 20 per cent of the population, they have been instrumental in the development of the nation’s wealth. Since recent times, deteriorating circumstances led Copts to immigrate to countries such as the US, Canada and Australia.

He provided context to the recent situation, mentioning the 1 January 2011 bomb attack on the Two Saints Coptic Church in Alexandria, where 23 were killed and 97 injured. He made reference to a US Federal Government Commission report in 2011, which documented attacks against Coptic Christians in Egypt.

He then spoke on the incident of 9 October 2011, where the military turned on Christians with military vehicles and ammunition causing the deaths of over 40 and the injury of hundreds more. Importantly, he called on parliament to support the motion and called on the Egyptian Government to prosecute the individuals who drove the orders and gave approval to such action.

He made reference to the statement issued by The Hon. Kevin Rudd & PM Julia Gillard, where they expressed deep concern at the violence, sent condolences to the friends and families of those killed, and called for calm and respect of religious freedom.

Supported the motion.

2. The Hon. David Clarke
   Liberal Party
   Congratulated the Reverend Hon. Fred Nile for introducing the motion and expressed condemnation and outrage at what was occurring in Egypt.

He noted much of the background context that the Rev. Hon. Fred Nile raised, and made the point that today the Christians in Egypt are being hounded and harassed because of their strong held faith. He made reference to the attacks in February 2011 against St Bishoy monastery, and notably the sham process in Egypt where people are forced to attend reconciliation conferences where the ultimate result is that criminals are never brought to trial.

He also said that Human Rights organisations and leaders of all religious faiths across the world are speaking out against the persecution of Coptic Christians.

Supported the Motion.

3. The Hon. Walt Secord
   Labor Party
   Thanked the Rev. Hon. Fred Nile for introducing the motion and for giving Parliament the opportunity to show support for, and solidarity with, the local Coptic Christian Community. He gave his full support to the motion.

He noted that there are over 70,000 Coptic Christians in NSW alone, and that it has become a well-established community contributing to society. He noted the 19 January protest in Sydney where the Hon. Greg Donnelly spoke about the failure of the Egyptian authorities in continually allowing for repeated attacks against Christians without punishment of the law.

Importantly, he stated that the Arab upheavals that have swept the Middle East have not resulted in a democratic Arab Spring, but rather an extremist Islamic awakening that has ultimately resulted in an organised effort to drive out the Christian minority.

Alongside condemning the attacks, he stated that Egypt must commit to a transition to democracy and that the Egyptian regime must assure Christians that all communities are protected from violence.

Supported the Motion.

4. The Hon. Lynda Volz
   Labor Party
   Supported the motion, and gave her condolences to members of the Coptic Community for their losses. She noted (continued on page 7...)

By JOHN MARCUS

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14

St Shenouda’s Monastery
Special Event
H.E. Mar Malatus Malki Malki

PAPAL VICAR OF THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX ARCHBISHOP OF AUSTRIA AND NEW ZEALAND

ORTHODOX MONASTERY

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MONASTERY

Saturday 10th December 2011

H.E. Mar Malatus Malki Malki

H.E. will be speaking about Contemplation on the Book of Psalms

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

9.00 AM Holy Liturgy
10.00 AM Holy Liturgy
12.00 PM Holy Liturgy

COME AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

Weekly Bible Fellowship (WBF) in Sydney CBD

Please Join us for a weekly Bible Fellowship in Sydney CBD.

When: Every Wednesday starting Wed 29 June 2011.
Where: Pitt St Uniting Church 264 Pitt St Sydney
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Contact: Abraham yezuref: 0400607044

Come and invite your friends.
that the persecution of Copts has been well documented.

Interestingly, she commented that while violence against Copts has been particularly prevalent since the 1970s, one is able to look at history and trace the persecution of Copts back to the Roman Empire. Diocletian's persecution of Christians in 248 AD, a date she said marked the beginning of the Coptic Calendar.

She spoke about how she lives in Bardwell Park (near Arncliffe), where a Coptic Church and a mosque exist in harmony, and said that this was seen as a Lesson to the Egyptian Government that harmony can be achieved and that the right to worship is a basic right.

Supported the Motion.

5. The Hon. Paul Green – Christian Democratic Party

Supported the motion and called on the government to condemn the persecution of Christians and made the immediate representations to the UN. He reminded parliament that sporadic attacks and petty discrimination have been imposed on Christian communities in Egypt for centuries.

He reiterated the point that the Coptic protestors were killed by the military because of their faith, and that the reason they were there was to protest a prior burning of a Church by Muslim extremists.

He reminded parliament that it is a burden to the right for individuals to manifest religion or belief into teaching, practice, worship and observance – and that this should occur without persecution. He stated that above Human Rights comes Human responsibility, and that it is the parliament’s responsibility to act when these basic rights are denied.

Supported the Motion.

6. The Hon. Marie Ficarra – Liberal party

Welcomed the representatives of the Coptic Community who were present in the gallery, and thanked the Rev. Hon. Fred Nile.

She stated that a minority of troublemakers are taking advantage of the current political climate in Egypt for their own gain. She said that while she has been to Egypt on two occasions, her last visit in January allowed her to appreciate the undercurrents of sectarian violence and made her question whether she would ever return.

She stated that the current military control is ineffective, and has given rise to ongoing violence. She spoke about the inhumanity of some Egyptian soldiers who disposed of bodies in the Nile, and that Military soldiers and commanders who took part in the violent acts should be brought to justice. She congratulated the Federal Parliament for passing the motion, and said she was proud that they stood in NSW parliament together to show bi-partisan support against the recent violence.

She made analogies to the gypsies and Jewish people in Nazi Germany, the bloody division between India and Pakistan in 1947, the division between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland and the wars in the former Yugoslavian states.

Interestingly, she noted that just because non-Christian Egyptians shared some of the religious beliefs of violent jihadists, it did not mean that they supported the violence. She referred to Islam as a powerful moral force and valued religion, with many similarities to Christianity.

She concluded that the provocation of non-violent street demonstrations is never justification for any murderous violent response.

Supported the motion.

7. The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane – Labor Party

(Nota that he is the only Muslim MP in NSW)

Supported the motion and thanked the Reverend Hon. Fred Nile. He condemned the senseless violence that killed and injured innocent protesters.

He stated that he condemned the act and all acts of violence committed against the Coptic People of Egypt over the past 60 years and longer. He said that his conscience and the level of brutality and violence executed against peaceful protestors dismayed him and made the point that the arms of any State should never be stained by the blood of its own citizens.

He expressed his hopes that the new constitution to be drafted in Egypt respect the rights of minorities and make the country more secular. He called on the Egyptian government to stop any acts as this, as this is sliding into the hands of fundamentalist extremists, and that he fears for Christians and Muslims who want to live in peace and security.

He said that he wished for the Coptic people of Egypt to heed to words and follow the practices of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, for whom he said he had great love and respect. He referred to him as a beacon of hope, and of all sides of Parliament to willingly support the motion.

He concluded by saying that Muslims around the world condemn the brutality and gratitude for the Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile for bringing forward the motion.

Supported the motion.

8. Mr David Shoebridge – Greens

Thanked Rev. Fred Nile for introducing the motion, and other speakers for raising their concerns. He stated that all these acts must be looked on as an attack not only in NSW and Australia, but most particularly by the new leadership in Egypt.

He noted that it is a great pity that the great level of condemnation in the NSW Parliament has not been seen in the Federal Parliament as it made reference to the attacks by the military, as well as the unfair Church building laws and called for justice to be the core of any solution sought in Egypt.

He called on Egypt to become more tolerant and not just establishes a constitution but also show willingness to act on laws and ensure respect for minorities.

Supported the motion.

9. The Hon. Trevor Khan – Nationals

Supported the motion and thanked the Reverend Hon. Fred Nile for bringing forward the motion before Parliament. He interestingly took a different approach to other speakers and looked at different Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He referred to this as a great document which people in Egypt and Australia should aspire to and work towards putting into practice.

He said that as the Arab spring takes root, he hopes that it may be helping in ensuring all Arab nations adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and see its terms moved into action.

Supported the motion.

10. The Hon. Amanda Fazio – Labor Party

Supported the motion by Hon. Fred Nile, and pointed out that in Australia we take for granted our right to freedom of religion. She said she knew that prior to the fall of Mubarak there had been ongoing persecution of Copts and attacks on their Churches, and that this was very disappointing for those who support democracy.

She called on all members of the House who support freedom of religion and freedom of speech to support the motion, because it is an important issue that has serious impacts on Coptic Christians here in Australia. She notably said that they need to show the Coptic community support and affirm that they stand in solidarity with them.

Supported the Motion.


Stated that he wished to strongly associate himself with and strongly support the motion moved by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile. He noted that Fred Nile has been a constant flag bearer for the Coptic Christian Community in Australia and congratulated him on that.

He spoke about the 19 January rally in Martin Place which he attended, and read out correspondence from letters he had sent out to the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs minister in support of Coptic Christians.

He interestingly called on the Australian Government to provide specific refugee immigration accommodation for those member of Coptic Christians wishing to come to Australia.

He also noted Article 2 of the Egyptian Constitution, and how it prohibits the recognition of other religions and should thus be removed in any new constitution.

He asked the Coptic representatives in the gallery to pass on to the Federal Government his appreciation for the wonderful care they provide to their flock.

Supported the Motion.

12. The Hon. Sophie Cotsis – Labor Party

Supported the motion and stated that she was saddened and distressed by the scenes which were coming out of Egypt. She expressed outrage at the unnecessary attacks against Coptic Christians in Egypt.

She expressed deep sorrow and condolences to the families whose sons and daughters were butchered by the senseless acts. She noted that the protestors were protesting against the earlier burning of a Church. She said that it is in support of the right of choice that there is an important special place where people find comfort and the freedom to practice their religion in safety.

She congratulated the Federal Government in acting quickly and issuing a statement condemning the attacks, as well as calling for a resolution. She notably addressed members of the Coptic Community in the gallery, saying “We stand with you shoulder to shoulder at this difficult time...we do share your pain. We know you are suffering immensely at this time...it distresses me that your places of worship are being burnt, and that people are being injured for exercising that right.”

Supported the Motion.

13. Dr John Kaye – Greens

Also supported the motion and thanked other members for their contributions.

He said that religious violence is not only an assault against the victims, but also an assault against the reputation of innocent bystanders. He thanked the Coptic Christian community of Australia for keeping the issue alive. He said that Parliament weeps and bleeds with the Coptic community and understands what is going on.

He also said that this matter transcends purely partisan politics, and that this was a battle for humanity. He congratulated members of parliament who have been active on the issue and have kept parliament focused on it.

Supported the Motion.

The motion was then passed unanimously at 11.20AM, creating a historic moment for the Coptic Orthodox Community in Australia and Egypt.

Concluding thoughts

Ultimately, this long list of speakers shows us how the Coptic Community in Australia was blessed by the multitude of politicians, from all sides of politics, in their support for Coptic Christians.

Romans 13:1 provides a reassuring message that “…the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” This acts as a reminder that the source of civil government, of all authorities, is God. For he alone is sovereign. The ability of all sides of Parliament to willingly unite on this issue reminds us that the power of prayer and faith in God alone is able to achieve more then any human crafted solution to the problems we face today.
In an unprecedented show of support within the Australian Federal Parliament, we witnessed today the authentic Australian spirit of fairness, justice, courage and mateship.

The passing of the motion in a bipartisan support that:
1. Recognises that Coptic Christians in Egypt are suffering ongoing and increasing persecution;
2. Condemns the recent attacks on Coptic Christians in Egypt;
3. Expresses its sympathy for Coptic Christians who have been victims of recent attacks in Egypt; and
4. Calls on the Government to:
   a. Issue a public statement condemning the ongoing attacks against the Coptic Christian minority in Egypt;
   b. Make immediate representations to the United Nations to end the persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt; and
   c. StrONGLy urge the Egyptian Government to provide equal rights and protection for all Egyptian citizens regardless of race or religion.

Has today the 12th October 2011 at 10.00am: soothing the hearts of thousands of Copts around Australia. This is after the horrific atrocity which was orchestrated by the Egyptian Armed Forces, where more than 24 Christians were shot dead and one third of which crushed by Army Tanks, and over 300 encountering horrific injuries, while in a peaceful demonstration on Sunday the 9th October 2011, in Maspro Square, Cairo.

The Coptic Orthodox Community is grateful to the support and the initiative made by the Hon. Craig Kelly, the Liberal Federal Member of Hughes in moving the motion and putting to the Australian Parliament the pains and fears of the Australian Coptic Community.

Mr Kelly’s motion was supported unanimously by all members of the House; he was joined in notable and encouraging statements by the Hon. Anthony Albanese (Leader of the House), the Hon. Bob Katter and the Hon. Michael Danby.

The Full text of the motion passed by the Australian Parliament, which sets the tone for the full solidarity with the Coptic Orthodox Church, which is one of the founders of the Middle East Council of Churches and pray for the families of the killed and wounded, expressing its warmest condolences to His Holiness Pope Shenouda III and the Holy Synod of the Church and all the sons and daughters of the Coptic Orthodox Church praying to God Almighty that peace would prevail throughout Egypt in order that it remains a model of co-existence among the Egyptians, Muslims and Christians.

The heads and members of the executive committee of MECC express their full solidarity with the Coptic Orthodox Church, which is one of the founders of the Middle East Council of Churches and pray for the families of the killed and wounded, expressing its warmest condolences to His Holiness Pope Shenouda III and the Holy Synod of the Church and all the sons and daughters of the Coptic Orthodox Church praying to God Almighty that peace would prevail throughout Egypt in order that it remains a model of co-existence among the Egyptians, Muslims and Christians.

The Middle East Council of Churches regrets with deep sorrow the events that took place in Egypt, yesterday evening, Sunday, October 9, 2011 and the killing of more than 24 Egyptian Coptic and 270 wounded and injured who were peacefully protesting for equal citizenship rights.

Consequently, the Middle East Council of Churches declares its severe pain and firmly condemns the violence which is alien to the nature of the people of Egypt, and calls upon officials to take decisive action that will restore peace and tranquility for the people of Egypt and equality among citizens.

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Dear Bishop Daniel,

We would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for your love and care about the Shepherd & Mother of Light Service. We really appreciate the tremendous time, effort and energy you have exerted to prepare for our visit, to make all the arrangements and implement all the plans. Your hard work is what made the trip very fruitful.

No matter what we say, we can’t express enough how touched we are by your warm welcome, great generosity and overwhelming hospitality. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to care about all the details to make our visit the best it could have possibly been.

Thank you again for EVERYTHING!

Sincerely,
The Shepherd and Mother of Light Servants
Egypt

Dear Fr. Tadross and Ms. Suzanne,

It’s Marsil from the Shepherd and Mother of Light Egypt. I am sorry I did not get the chance to meet you while I was in Sydney in September (I was only there for 1.5 days then I had to travel to Melbourne to do presentations with the other group. I will plan to have the pleasure of meeting you in person the next time we are there.

We would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for your love and care about the Shepherd & Mother of Light Service. We really appreciate the tremendous time, effort and energy you have exerted to prepare for our visit, to make all the arrangements and implement all the plans. Your hard work is what made the trip very fruitful.

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Sincerely,
The Shepherd and Mother of Light Servants
Egypt, October 7, 2011

Anba Abraam & Fr. Mikhail El-Beheiry
St. Mary & St. Joseph’s
Coptic Orthodox Church, Peakhurst

GIANT TOY SALE

Sat. 26th & Sun. 27th November 2011
9am – 5pm

Top Quality Brand New Toys
Suit ages 0 – 8 yrs

Babies Toys
Plush Toys
Educational toys
Construction toys
Remote control:
Cars, planes, helicopters and boats
Dolls
Dress-ups and playsets
And much, much more

ALL AT WHOLESALE PRICES
DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC

There will also be hot chips and cold drinks for sale.

Where:
800 Forest Road, Peakhurst
Corner of Hugh Ave, Opposite Mitre 10

Charity Event

Business Networking/Meet & Greet Charity Dinner
Exodus Youth Worx Second Chance Project

19th November 2011 at 6pm - RSVP October 21st
- $65 ticket price (includes $30 charity donation - tax deductable)
- 2 course meal set menu + soft drinks

Contact Mario for venue Details or make a donation to Exodus Youth Worx St George Bank BSB: 112 879 ACC: 465556041
- Kids / family / business acquaintances / friends welcome

On behalf of Hurricane Studios, I am organising an event to raise funds for the Exodus Youth Worx Second Chance Project here in Sydney Australia. Exodus aims to provide a community for those in the community that have no community. It aims to re-direct and guide the marginalised and less fortunate young people in the area to give them the best opportunity possible to become active, positive members of society. Hurricane Studios welcomes all friends and family to attend.

"Faith Hope and Love
The greatest of these is Love"

(1 Corinthians)

Thank You
Mario Abdel-Sayed
Dear Blessed Fathers of our Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions

After kissing your blessed hands and seeking your prayers.

Following the blessings and the advice of HH Pope Shenouda III to the members of the Citizenship Central Committee, during the Meetings of the Committees of the Holy Synod which started on the 3rd of October 2011, it was recommended that all the dioceses in Egypt and in countries of Immigration, to encourage their congregation to vote in the upcoming elections, as it is essential for the future of our homeland Egypt.

Therefore, according to HH Pope Shenouda’s advice, HG Bishop Daniel formed a Citizenship Committee for the Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions to inform and encourage our congregation to be engaged in the elections.

Voting is not compulsory, but essential.

Voters must have Egyptian National ID Number current or expired.

Therefore, through the guidance of HG Bishop Daniel, the Citizenship Committee in Sydney will prepare a list of names and phone numbers of our congregation in all the churches who are liable to vote in the coming elections specifying their Egyptian National ID. Those who do not have a National ID Number or it has expired, the Committee will try to assist them with voting.

The Citizenship Committee will use this information to contact the Egyptian Embassy to organize all processes for the voting of our congregation in the Diocese. (As per attached sheets)

We will keep your reverence updated of the latest progress of the elections; In addition it will be published regularly in the Spring of Love and El Manara Magazine.

Please use every opportunity to announce to the congregation the progress of the voting process and its importance for the future of our homeland Egypt.

Rev Fr Arsanious Barsoum
Coordinator of the Citizenship Committee in Sydney
7 October 2011

Motion on Coptic Christians in Egypt

By THE HONOURABLE ANTHONY ALBANESE MP
Minister for Infrastructure & Transport, Leader of the House, Member for Grayndler

13 October 2011

Mr ALBANESE (Grayndler—Leader of the House and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport) (10:11): by leave—I very much want, on behalf of the Australian government, to express our outrage at the attacks that have occurred on Coptic Christians in Egypt.

The resolution that was just carried unanimously by the House had an action component to it. The government has already acted on each and every one of those action components. The Prime Minister and the foreign minister issued a strong statement. The foreign minister, I know, raised these issues in discussions at the highest levels at the United Nations when he was in New York. The immigration minister, I know, has had a number of discussions with the bishop and leaders of the Coptic community to ensure that there are appropriate understandings with regard to the circumstances in which Coptic Christians have found themselves.

The Australian government will continue to make the strongest representations that the Egyptian government provide equal rights and protection for all Egyptian citizens, regardless of their race or religion. This is a fundamental human right. As the federal member for Grayndler I can say that I have received strong representations, including from my local mayor, Morris Hanna—the Mayor of Marrickville—and from others in the community who have very strong ties.

Historically the first Coptic church in Australia was at Sydney in my electorate. Indeed, my association with the bishop goes back many years, to the Marrickville District Hardcourt Tennis Club, when we were both very much younger. It is an association that goes back 35 years—that gives away our ages—in terms of our friendship and our dialogue.

I can say this on behalf of the government: we will not be shy about putting forward these principles in terms of human rights, which we regard as universal. We have not been shy up to now; we will continue with this course. I am very pleased that this is a position which unites everyone in this House of Representatives.

I congratulate the member for Hughes on his initiative in putting forward this motion that was unanimously agreed to and I assure the members of the community that this is an issue which continues to be discussed and acted upon at the highest level of the Australian government.

Minister for Immigration Visit to St Mark Church

(...continued from cover)

Egypt and was happy to offer any help and assistance that he and his department could offer to the Coptic community. He mentioned that he has many Egyptian friends whom he has known for 20 years and that he always has great respect and regard for the Coptic community. He said, “I like the Coptic people because they are very peaceful and well educated.”

After the presentation that took place inside the Arabic church, the Minister had refreshments in the church hall with the priests and people. He was approached by many people who spoke to him about personal matters and cases needing his Ministerial intervention. He was given some letters and he promised to look carefully at each case. He was helpful, friendly and understanding of our needs.

At the end of the visit Mr. Bowen toured the church grounds and visited the English church, the kids church, the Arabic church and Sunday school and was most impressed with the size of the church and the hard work of the priests and the congregation at St. Mark’s Coptic Church.

He promised both to visit St. Mark’s again and to continue dialogue and communication with the church and its representative. F. Augustinos Nada concluded the visit with a prayer for the Minister and his government, wishing them peace, success and God’s guidance in their work. The Minister was touched by the warmth shown by the people of St. Mark’s.

Next day on 11 Oct. 2011, Mr. Bowen granted an extension of time to visas for the Egyptian people who are in Australia due to the crisis in Egypt. This decision was published in the Sydney Morning Herald and on the Immigration Department website.

The Minister’s visit was a very successful event for the Coptic Church in Sydney and in Australia.

Program of the Visit of HG Bishop Aghathon

Bishop of the Diocese of Sao Paulo, Brazil

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Evening</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24/10/2011</td>
<td>7:55 PM</td>
<td>Arrival by Singapore Airlines 21@ 7:55pm</td>
<td>Vespers - St Mary &amp; St Mercurius Church, Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25/10/2011</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Holy Mass - The Apostles &amp; St Amin Church, Blacktown</td>
<td>Vespers - St Mary &amp; St Mercurius Church, Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26/10/2011</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Holy Mass - St Anthony &amp; St Paul Church, Guildford</td>
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<td>Friday 28/10/2011</td>
<td>6:30am</td>
<td>Holy Mass - St George Church, Kensington</td>
<td>Vespers - St George &amp; Prince Tadros Church, Liverpool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 29/10/2011</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
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<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Combined Youth Meeting - St Mary &amp; St Mercurius Church, Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 30/10/2011</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<td>Monday 31/10/2011</td>
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<td>3:00pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 1/11/2011</td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
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<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>Vespers - St Demian &amp; St Anthanasius Church, Punchbowl</td>
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<td>Thursday 3/11/2011</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Holy Mass - St Michael &amp; St Mini Cathedral, Bankstown</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Combined Youth Meeting - St Mary &amp; St Mercurius Church, Rhodes</td>
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<td>Friday 4/11/2011</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Holy Mass - St Mark Church, Armidale</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Combined Youth Meeting - St Mary &amp; St Mercurius Church, Rhodes</td>
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<td>Sunday 6/11/2011</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Combined Youth Meeting - St Mary &amp; St Mercurius Church, Rhodes</td>
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<td>Monday 7/11/2011</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9/11/2011</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Holy Mass - St George Church, Sydney</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Combined Youth Meeting - St Mary &amp; St Mercurius Church, Rhodes</td>
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By MINA KADDIS

By the grace of God, the 20th of August, 2011, marked a very special day in what has been years in the making with the first Holy Liturgy prayed at the land of the blessed St Mary and St Anthony Monastery in Queensland.

An hour and a half drive into the western bushland of our awesome state, the massive 440 acres of dedicated monastery land awaited us at Kooralbyn. This may be news to many of you, but by God’s grace, we have been blessed with a future monastery in Queensland, part of the Diocese of Sydney and its affiliated regions!

The dearly reposed Dr Zacharias Boules donated the site, and plans for the monastery were blessed on 17 April 2005 by the hand of H.H. Pope Shenouda III. The local council issued subsequent approval in November 2008. The establishment of this monastery, on the name of our holy mother, St. Mary - the mother of chastity, and the great St Anthony - father of all monks, is and will continue to be a huge blessing for all those involved. One of these blessings came on Saturday, 20 August.

Servants had prepared an altar, iconostasis, sound system, seating, food, and drinks, in preparation for this historic day – the first Holy Liturgy on the monastery land!

When we arrived at the site, the congregation were amazed at the sheer size and beauty of the land. Those who had been there before pointed out landmarks, barely visible in the distance, and said “that’s the border of our land”.

It was a liturgy blessed by the attendance of all of the Queensland priests: Father Moussa El Antony, Father David Mahrous and Father James Scully. It was a great day, and there was no better way to ‘break-in’ the land than through the sharing of the Holy Eucharist together. On a personal note, I was very proud that day of the showcase of the blossoming service and zealous youth in Queensland. I encourage those of you with Facebook accounts to locate the “Coptic Monastery QLD” page, on which you will find photos of the land and of the liturgy, as well as a link to www.CopticMonasteryQLD.org which is coming soon.

By God’s hand to work in each step of the way in building this monastery, and that the services it provides be fruitful and prosperous for many generations to come. May the blessings and intercessions of St Mary and St Anthony be with us all, Amen.

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We moved on to lunch and a few hours reign there. discussed as a group that our hearts continuation of FR. Raphael’s talk. We The first workshop for the camp was a mind and your strength” Luke 10:27. Lord your God with all your heart, your own hearts as it is said, “Love the kingdom fi rst and foremost was our which focused on the notion that the You. It was an extremely powerful talk consequently, we awoke at exactly 8:30 pm, and were given the opportunity to unpack and settle. We were placed into three large groups and the night commenced with various ice-breakers including the hilarious Minute to Win It contest. However, the night was getting late and most people settled, in order to be rejuvenated for tomorrow’s fun-filled day.

We arrived at the conference centre around 8:30 pm, and were given the opportunity to unpack and settle. We were placed into three large groups and the night commenced with various ice-breakers including the hilarious Minute to Win It contest. However, the night was getting late and most people settled, in order to be rejuvenated for tomorrow’s fun-filled day.

The theme this year was centred around: “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matt 25:34. We focused on the Kingdom of God and where it should reside.

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Goodbye Sarah

Published by the Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

St Mary & St Merkorious "Abu Sfein" Church Annual Fete 2011

"The Church invites you to its annual Fete.
Come and join us after the Mass,
large variety of crafts, books, toys, jewellery, kitchenware,
Christmas presents and much more"

Date: 4 December 2011
Time: Soon after the Holy Mass
Where: St Mary & St Merkorious "Abu Sfein" Church
2 Cavell Avenue, Rhodes