



# EL-MANARA

AN INITIATIVE OF THE MEDIA COMMITTEE - DIOCESE OF SYDNEY & AFFILIATED REGIONS

SUNDAY

1<sup>st</sup> Baramhat 1729

10<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Volume 1, Issue 156

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32 Pages

## COPTS' NEWS

"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." - Luke 2:52

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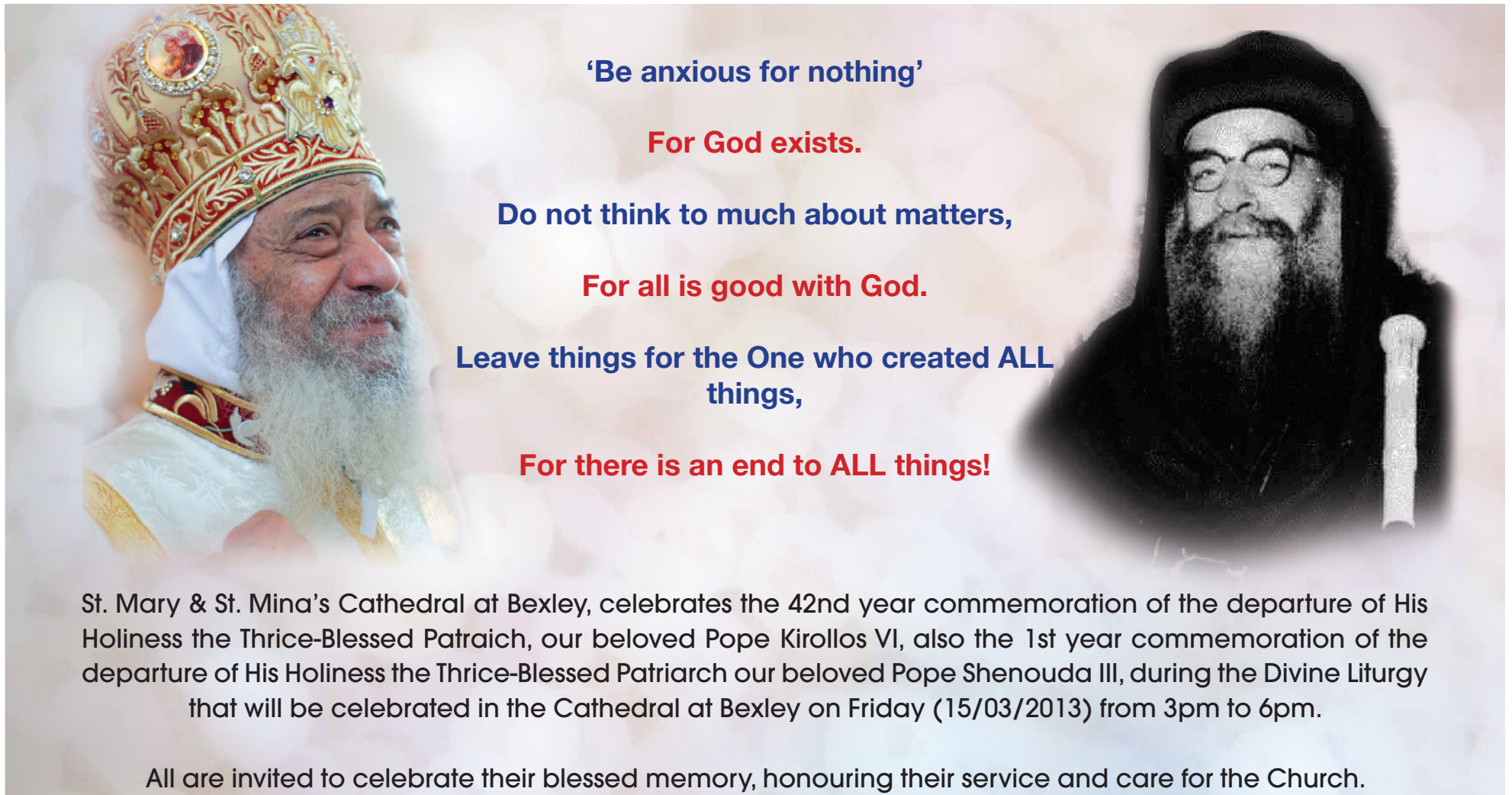
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NEXT ISSUE:  
7<sup>th</sup> April 2013

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2013



**'Be anxious for nothing'**  
**For God exists.**  
**Do not think to much about matters,**  
**For all is good with God.**  
**Leave things for the One who created ALL things,**  
**For there is an end to ALL things!**

St. Mary & St. Mina's Cathedral at Bexley, celebrates the 42nd year commemoration of the departure of His Holiness the Thrice-Blessed Patraich, our beloved Pope Kirolos VI, also the 1st year commemoration of the departure of His Holiness the Thrice-Blessed Patriarch our beloved Pope Shenouda III, during the Divine Liturgy that will be celebrated in the Cathedral at Bexley on Friday (15/03/2013) from 3pm to 6pm.

All are invited to celebrate their blessed memory, honouring their service and care for the Church.

## 1<sup>st</sup> English Family Spiritual Conference by Fr Dawood Lamie

On Saturday the 2 March 2013 Father Dawood Lamie held his first English conference for the youth of Sydney. For three amazing days, the youth of Sydney were able to interact with each other and further their spirituality growth. The conference was located in a beautiful spot in Wollongong filled with tranquility and the ocean breeze. The theme of the conference was centered around a verse from the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians where he commands the church to "be filled with the Holy Spirit", and by all accounts the conference and its attendees were filled with the Spirit.

The three days spent with Father Dawood Lamie, were three days devoted to prayer and spiritual guidance. The conference consisted of talks conducted by Father Dawood, workshops organised by the youth and debates about topics that the youth face and combat on a daily basis. The conference was filled with youth from all ages from School to working youth, and amazingly Father Dawood catered for all age groups. Father Dawood also focused on the area of Evangelism and Missionary work.

The youth were captivated by the stories of both Father Dawood and Dr. Nabil who had travelled to Ethiopia, Sudan and different parts of Asia. The main purpose of this mission is to preach to those that don't have the means to get to know God. This mission is also about providing medical help to those that need it. A large group of doctors, dentists, nurses and paramedics visit countries as often as they can and provide as much medical care as they can.

All in all, the youth of Sydney spent three days concentrating on their spiritual growth, getting to know each other and getting to know Father Dawood Lamie and I believe the conference was a great success.





Christ showed the example of the Good Samaritan when a lawyer asked Him, what shall I do to enter into the kingdom of heaven and the answer of our Lord Jesus Christ was about love and at the end He said 'Thou shall love thy

neighbour as thyself' and 'this do and thou shall live', and then He gave the example of The Good Samaritan. To understand this example we should remember the history.

There was hostility among Jews and Samaritans. When Judaism was a united Kingdom and the 12 tribes of Israel were united, it was in King Saul's days, and it lasted 40 years. Then the days of David and it also lasted 40 years, and the third time was in days of Solomon and also it lasted to a similar period. Then the kingdom split, to a northern and a southern kingdom. The northern kingdom included 10 tribes and Samaria was its capital, and they sanctified idols. Meanwhile the southern kingdom included the other 2 tribes and Jerusalem became its capital. It's a scene from history, and since that time it became hostility between Jews and Samaritans. However, our Lord Jesus

## LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR

Christ came to unify all- heaven with earth, Jews and the rest of the nations.

This example shows the love of the Good Samaritan to the Jewish man who was assaulted. The magnitude of their enmity was very severe, to the extent that they didn't even talk due to the hostility among them. The Priest and Levite both walked passed unconcerned by him (Luke 10:32). But what would you do?

A great wonder was the title that Christ gave to the Samaritan; 'The Good'. The Samaritan cared about this man whom he knew nothing about; moreover it wasn't only occasional care rather a continual care. When Christ asked who the acceptable one was, He replied "he that showed mercy on him" Luke 10:37.

Another important question comes up that confounded the Church Fathers in

their lives in Scripture. Which is more important, love of neighbour or love of prayer? St John Climacus teaches us a lot when he was asked this question. He said that love is greater than prayer as prayer is one of the virtues but love is the mother of all virtues. Also prayer takes a lot of forms, as when we read the Old and New Testaments, all our hymns and liturgical services- these are all forms of prayer. But love of the neighbour exceeds prayer. St. John Chrysostom has a powerful saying, "Do not wait until the other loves you, but go to him yourself and show him your love!" St. Athanasius summed it up when he said that "our lives and destruction is in our neighbour's hand, so if we gain our neighbour we gain God.

H.H. Pope Tawadrous II

## The Crowns for all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Revelation Chapter 3:11, the Lord said to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia: "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God."

In our discussion today, we will briefly look at 5 crowns which the Lord will reward to those who are righteous:

1. the crown of righteousness
2. the crown of life
3. the crown of glory
4. the crown of splendour
5. other crowns

1. the Crown of Righteousness

In 2 Timothy 4:8, St Paul says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

To have the crown of righteousness means that we will live in everlasting righteousness and we will not sin again. Our human nature will be crowned by righteousness, and our nature's relationship with sin will end completely. In this way, we will become like the angels who passed the test, and now their nature has been crowned by righteousness.

Another characteristic of this crown is that, in eternity the righteous people will only know good, and the knowledge of sin will be removed from their memories. This is because the righteous people will return to their first simplicity and purity that humans had when they were first created in the image and likeness of God, before the fall. These people will be in a state of purity much greater than Adam and Eve – who were created pure, but with freedom that subjected them to fall.

But as for the freewill of the righteous in eternity, it is a freedom that is not subject to fall. It is the freedom of: "the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21), because creation itself, "will be delivered

from the bondage of corruption" and will be crowned with righteousness.

We will be delivered from the corruption of the heart, the thoughts and the will, and with righteousness, we shall live in eternal joy with God.

And this brings us to the 2nd crown, which is:

2. The Crown of LIFE

This is the crown which the Lord promised to the angel of the church of Smyrna, when he said, "be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2; 10).

The crown of life means that humankind will live forever, and they will live in the Lord. This is because in eternity, sin comes to an end, and also death comes to an end.

The crown of life means having life with God and in God. This is because, "in Him was life" (John 1:4), and He is the one who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25). And how beautiful are the words of St Paul who said, "for to me to live is Christ" (Phil 1:21), and "Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

But this glorious crown is only reserved for those who have laboured on the earth and travelled on the narrow way. Concerning these people, St James says, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12).

So we see here, that the Lord will reward this crown of life to those who love Him, and the way that we prove our love to the Lord is to live a holy, righteous life.

3. The Crown of Glory

In psalm 8:5-6, we read: "You have crowned him with glory and honour. You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet." In fact, when God created man, he created him for glory and so created him

in his image and gave him dominion over all creation. But man lost his respect when he fell, but in eternity, God will restore him back to his original rank, and give him back the divine image and the crown with glory.

So you may say, 'how can we have crowns of glory?' isn't glory only for God? Yes it is, but God's glory is an unlimited glory, and in his love, he also granted us glory, and that's why it's mentioned in Romans 8:30, "whom he predestined, these he also called; whom he called, these he also justified, and whom he justified, these he also glorified." Also, how wonderful are the words of the Lord Jesus to his father: "The glory which you gave me, I have given them" (John 17:22).

St Paul says "If indeed we suffer with him, we may also be glorified with him" (Romans 8:17).

St Peter also says: "When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away" (1 Peter 5:4). And in the book of Daniel we read: "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" (Dan 12:3). the righteous in heaven are compared with the stars, and that's why St Paul says, "one star differs from another in glory" (1 Corth 15:41).

One of the glories granted by God to those who love him is that they will be seated with him on thrones in his glory!

The Lord said to his apostles: "when the son of man sits on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel" (Matt19:28).

St John in his revelation saw the throne of God, "Around the throne were 24 thrones, and on the thrones were 24 elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads" (Rev 4:4). What a glorious image this is! And if you think that these crowns are only for the apostles, the Lord says to you: "To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my father on his throne." (Rev 3;21).

4. The Crown of Splendour (or beauty)

In eternity, everything is beautiful – the beauty of the body that becomes spiritual and illuminated and heavenly, and the beauty of the spirit – which is not only in eternity, but is also on earth. We read in Ezekiel the beautiful words of the Lord: "I put a beautiful crown on your head...you succeeded to royalty. Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendour which I had bestowed on you, says the Lord God." (Ezekiel 16, 12,13).

It is so great that God bestows his splendour on man. This reminds us of a very beautiful saying by Isaiah the prophet: "In that day the LORD Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people." (Isaiah 28:5).

And finally we take a look at some of the other crowns...

The apostle Paul considered his service as a crown, and that's why he said to the Christians in Philippi: "My joy and crown." (Phil 4:1).

But all of these beautiful crowns are only possible because of the most beautiful crown of all, which is the crown of thrones. It is through this crown of suffering and sacrifice that the Lord grants us all these glorious crowns.

So in the spiritual journey in our life, we need to study the Lords words and get spiritual wisdom, accept the narrow gate as the only way to bring us happiness and eternal life, then our life on this earth will be a continuous spiritual feast and we will receive the crowns which the Lord will reward those who love Him.

Glory be to God.



# Ethiopia elects new leader for Orthodox church



Ethiopia's orthodox church has elected a new patriarch and leader of the influential body in the predominantly Christian nation.



Abune Matthias, 71, was on Thursday (28/02/2013) named the 6th Patriarch of the church officially known as the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. "Abune Matthias... Archbishop of Jerusalem (for the Ethiopian church) was elected with a majority," said Daniel Sefermikael, a church official.

Abune Matthias got about 500 out of 806 votes cast by members of the church living in Ethiopia and elsewhere. Abune Matthias, 71, has lived abroad for over 30 years and he has since travelled throughout Europe and North America, and will now settle in Ethiopia to serve as patriarch.

About 63 percent of Ethiopia's 83 million people are Christian, with the majority following the Orthodox faith (approximately 40 million adherents), according to official figures.

Matthias will be sworn in at an official ceremony in Addis Ababa on Sunday, which tens of thousands of people are expected to attend.

The office of the patriarch has been vacant since August after H.H. Abune Paulos died of an undisclosed illness. He had served as head of the Orthodox Church in Ethiopia since 1992.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church was also united with the Coptic Patriarchate in Alexandria, Egypt. In 1959, Coptic pope, Cyril VI recognised it as an autocephalous Church, crowning Archbishop Basilios as its first patriarch



Ethiopian patriarchs are referred to as Abune, which means "our father" in Ethiopia's local language.

Ethiopia is home to some of Africa's oldest Orthodox churches, including a cluster of 11 ancient rock-hewn churches in Lalibela which are designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

# Criticizing Priests

By St. John Chrysostom

On one occasion David had Saul within his grasp within a double wall and was in a position to kill him but he spared his life, and this despite the fact those present were urging him to use his sword. But neither the ease of the opportunity, nor the prompting of the others, nor his suffering many injustices, nor the likelihood of suffering worse ones allowed him to draw his sword, even though guilt for this murder would not be likely to be betrayed to the army; it was a cave, you see, and there was no one besides himself present. He did



not say, as someone committing adultery said, "Darkness and walls surround me: what should I worry about?" Instead, he had the unsleeping eye before him, and he knew that the eyes of the Lord are infinitely brighter than the sun. Hence he did and said everything just as if he were present and making a judgement on his words; so he said, "I shall not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed." I do not see his wickedness: I see his position instead. Let no one tell me that he is a man of violence and blood: I am afraid of the Lord's verdict, even if he seems undeserving; his seeming unworthy of his office is not a charge for me to make.

Let all those listen who despise priests, let them learn the degree of respect he showed for a king. The priest, in fact, deserves far greater honor and regard than a king to the extent of the greater responsibility to which he is called.

Let them learn not to judge him or call him to account, but be subject and give place to him. After all, you do not know the life of the priest, be he lowly and insignificant, whereas this man had a precise knowledge of all that Saul had done; yet even in this way he respected the responsibility given by God.

Now, for proof that, even if you have a precise knowledge, you have no reason or excuse for despising those set over you or giving no heed to what they say, listen to how Christ also removed from us this pretext by what he says in the Gospels: "The scribes and the pharisees sit on the seat of Moses; so do everything they tell you to do, but as to their deeds, do not do them." Do you see how he did not scorn the advice of those



whose life was so corrupt as to be deserving of criticism by their disciples, nor did he reject their teaching?

Now, I say this, not out of a wish to criticize the priests - perish the thought: you are witnesses of their life and utter piety; rather, my wish is that we give them great respect and honor in abundance. After all, the benefit we bring is not so much for them as for ourselves: "The one who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet, then, will receive the reward of a prophet." I mean, if we are commanded not to pass judgement on the lives of one another, much more on the lives of the fathers.

Glory to God for all things!



# Bring Forth Fruit With Patience

By: Fr. Thomas Hopko

The Lenten season is the time for bearing fruits worthy of repentance, the fruits of the Spirit. In a sense, this is what Lent, like life itself, is all about. To produce these holy fruits is not an easy task. It does not just happen. It is neither magical nor mechanical. It is a long, hard labor. It requires much work. And most of all, it takes patience. Jesus made this point in His explanation of His parable of the sower when He said that the good earth that receives the seed of God's Word and brings forth much fruit does so only with patience: "And as



for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Lk. 8:15).

In the Lenten prayer of St. Ephraim there is a special petition for patience. It is a necessity for the person who expects to produce spiritual fruits. A garden grows by being tended. God gives the growth, yet His workers must plow and water and fertilize and cultivate. This must be done slowly, painfully, with tireless effort and endless patience. Otherwise, nothing useful will grow. "In your patience," says the Lord Jesus, "possess ye your souls." Or, in a more modern translation, "By your endurance you will gain your lives" (Lk. 21:19).

The word "patience" means "to endure." It means to

bear and put up with people and things. It means to carry the burdens of others, and of "the heat of the day." It means to watch and to wait, not to hurry and to rush. It means literally to suffer with and to suffer through, in quiet expectation of the hoped-for result. For only those, says Jesus, who endure to the end will be saved (Mt. 24:13).



## Egyptian Consulate General organized a special event at the Australian Museum on the occasion of Alexander the Great Exhibition



James and Joseph Tawadros at a musical Performance



Coptic Artist Samih Louka Exhibiting his Artworks and Iconography



### Graduation Ceremony





"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth."  
— Ecclesiastes 12:1

**Date:** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Time:** 5pm

**Venue:** St Mary & St Mina's Church [Bexley]

Register Online at  
[www.COYASydney.org](http://www.COYASydney.org)

Under the guidance of HG Bishop Daniel the Bishop of Sydney and Affiliate Region  
St Mark festival present

## The first spiritual **skype™** conference for all Sydney servants-English speaking

Saturday the 30/03/2013 at 6:00 pm at St Anthony & St Paul - Guilford

- 6:00 pm Vespers
- 7:00 pm HG Bishop Moussa will talk about (Come to me... Abide in me... Rejoice in me)
- 7:45 - 8:15 Mr Shady Hakim will talk about (skills for effective service)
- 8:15 - 9:00 HG Bishop Raphael will talk about (the churchy Servant)



Come and invite others





His Grace attended with other church leaders the ecumenical service for the new bishop for the Armenian Orthodox Church of Australia



His Grace attended the opening ceremony of St Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in Sydney (Indian Orthodox Church)



His Grace attended NCCA heads of churches meeting



His Grace at St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church

**EXODUS YOUTH WORX (EYW)**

Whats happening at EYW

An easy way to donate to Exodus Youth Worx  
Check out the GiveEasy app in the App Store today, it's free to download and easy to use!



<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/giveeasy/id531017714?mt=8>

Visit our website at [www.exodusyouthworx.org.au](http://www.exodusyouthworx.org.au)  
or view a few EYW videos on YouTube.  
Just search for exodus youth worx.



Office: 9529 3929 Director: Debbie Armanious 0402 304 762

Article issued from Sydney to contribute to increased risk of poor  
University Feb 2013 physical and mental health outcomes.

**NEW LIGHT SHED ON CANNABIS, CIGARETTE AND ALCOHOL USE OF YOUNG MENTALLY ILL**

Dr Hermens points out that people with mental health issues are significantly more likely to develop serious health problems and to die early.

5 February 2013

"Traditionally there have been mental health services, and substance abuse services, but both have been quite separate. Our study shows that we need to integrate mental health interventions with substance use interventions in order to help at-risk young people," said Dr Hermens.

Around one in 10 young teens with mental health issues also drinks alcohol, smokes cigarettes, and uses cannabis on a weekly basis, said Dr Daniel Hermens from the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Research Institute.

"There is a lot of evidence for the co-morbidity of mental health problems and substance misuse. More people have both mental health

This pattern of substance use becomes more common as teenagers grow into young adults, and is likely

and substance use problems than either alone - in other words, it's the rule rather than the exception."

In a study published in BMJ Open, Dr Hermens and a team of researchers collected information from more than 2000 young people aged 12 to 30, who attended University-led headspace youth mental health clinics in Camperdown and Campbelltown.

Young people seeking help for a wide range of mental health problems provided information on their weekly consumption of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis, with 500 giving more detailed information on their pattern of alcohol consumption.

One in eight (12 percent) of young teens aged 12 to 17 drank alcohol at least once a week, rising to almost four out of 10 (39 percent) of 18-19 year olds, and increasing further to close to half of those aged 20 to 30.

Those in the youngest age group were twice as likely to say they drank alcohol every week as their peers in the general population.

And a significant proportion of those who provided more detailed information on their alcohol consumption were "risky" drinkers, with almost half of those with bipolar disorder falling into this category.

Some 7 percent of young teens said

they used cannabis at least once a week. The equivalent figures for the other two age groups were 14 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

And those in the two younger age groups were more likely to smoke cannabis every day than they were to drink alcohol (3.6 percent versus 1.5 percent and 8.8 percent versus 6.0 percent respectively).

Almost one in four (23 percent) of young teens admitted to smoking cigarettes daily, as did one in three (36 percent) of older teens and four out of 10 (41 percent) of those aged 20 to 30.

The average age at which these patterns started was 15. And those who used any or all of the three substances were more likely to be male, older, and to have psychotic or bipolar disorders.

**Mission Statement**

Exodus Youth Worx (EYW), is a diverse youth community organisation, which inspires to empower young people through a holistic approach. In doing so it offers fellowship through various activities that provide youth with a supportive, positive and constructive network and environment. It offers services that support and encourage emotional, physical, mental, social and spiritual growth. EYW seeks to empower young people through a healthy holistic approach to living.

A message from St Shenouda Monastery-Sydney, Australia.

رسالة دير القديس الانبا شنودة رئيس المتوحدين- سيدنى أستراليا

We need your Support.

The Monastery will soon start constructing "The Cathedral and the Services Building" to enhance bigger groups coming from the Churches to pray with us and spend quality time with the Fathers.

We do need your Constant Donation to enable us to achieve such a big Project.

To help us to carry on this Project, you need to download the Forms of "The Direct Debit System" and fill it up ASAP and pass it or Email it to Fr Wissa: <[fr.wissa@live.com.au](mailto:fr.wissa@live.com.au)>.

Download the Forms from : <[stshenoudamonastery.org.au](http://stshenoudamonastery.org.au)>.

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نحتاج الى تعضيدكم.

سوف يبدأ أدير قريبا ببناء الكاتدرائية ومبنى الخدمات التي سوف تساعد على استيعاب الاعداد الكبيرة من الشعب المحب للدير القادمين من الكنائس للصلاة وقضاء وقت ممتع مع الاباء الرهبان.

نحتاج الى تبرعاتكم المستمرة حتى ما نستطيع ان نكمل هذا المشروع الضخم.

كى ما تساعدنا على القيام بهذا المشروع, يجب الحصول على "الفورم الخاص بالبنك" لسحب تبرعاتك مباشرة من حسابك الخاص الى حساب الدير. ارجو ملئ الفورم واعطاه الى ابونا ويصا فى اقرب وقت أو ارسله لابونا ويصا على بريده الالكتروني الموجود اعلاه. **ولكم جزيل الشكر.**

ملحوظة: للحصول وتنزيل "الفورم الخاص بالبنك" ادخل على العنوان البريدي للدير اعلاه.

والرب يعوضكم اضعاف بشفاة الانبا شنودة رئيس المتوحدين.



## ST SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE COPTIC ORTHODOX MONASTERY

### My very Dear Fathers the Clergy

Peace and grace to you All.

I wish you a very blessed and holy Great Lent Fast.

I would like to draw your attention for few things during the Great Lent Fast:-

- 1- That the Monastery will be closed during the Days of the Fast (From: Monday 25/3/2013-Till: Saturday 27/4/2013). To enable the Fathers the Monks to have their quiet time.
- 2- We welcome Groups from Churches only during the first 2 Weeks of the Fast (Monday 11/3—Sunday24/3).
- 3- Me and Abouna Wissa will be in Egypt for few weeks.
- 4- We open on Palm Sunday: Sunday 28/4/2013 at 8am—8pm.
- 5- During the Passion Week: The Monastery accepts only Youth and Deacons for Retreat. Numbers are limited and only by bookings with Abouna Anthony.

➤ Visitors in small numbers are only allowed to attend:-

1. Good Thursday 2/5/2013 at 9am-8pm.
2. Good Friday 3/5/2013 at 8am-5pm.
3. "The Night of Apocalypse" from 10pm-3am.
4. "Joyous Saturday" from 3am-5am.
5. "The Feast of Resurrection-Holy Liturgy" from 8pm-12am.
6. "Easter Monday" from 10am-5pm.

➤ Women who are attending "The Apocalypse prayers" and "The Resurrection H Liturgy" are allowed to sleep over with their families at the Monastery. Numbers are limited and only by bookings with Abouna Wissa.

➤ Thank you and God bless you and All your Congregations.

➤ Happy, blessed & Glorious Feast of Resurrection.

➤ Ekhrstos Anisty-----Alithos Anisty. Christ is Risen-----Indeed He is Risen.

*Bishop Anba Daniel.*

Thursday 21/2/2013.

The Abbot of the Monastery  
H.G. Bishop Daniel.

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[bishopanbadaniel@gmail.com](mailto:bishopanbadaniel@gmail.com)



### A Dedication To A Peaceful Soul

Fr Misael El-Antouy

10<sup>th</sup> December 1957 – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013

"...the elders who rule will be counted worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in the word and doctrine." 1 Timothy 5:17

Fr Misael El-Antouy, born as Helmy Naguib in the village of Meet Ghamr, in the province of El-Mansoura on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1957.

The Lord who is all-knowing and lover of mankind chose him at the age of 35 and precisely on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1992 to the calling of Monasticism at the great and ancient Monastery of St Anthony in the wilderness of the Red Sea in land of Egypt.

Fr Misael witnessed the growth and development of the Monastery in recent times under the leadership and fatherhood of His Grace Bishop Youstos the Bishop and Abbot of the monastery, who ordained him to the priesthood on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1998.

And in November 2003 Sydney Australia; by the wisdom of His Grace Bishop Daniel, Bishop of the Diocese of Sydney, and the blessing of His Grace Bishop Youstos; Fr Misael arrived to our shores and received the responsibility of the parish of St Mary & St Sidhom Bishay, Dural.

With a seamless, wonderful and simple spirit Fr Misael won the love and respect of the whole of the congregation, he dedicated his life to serve the people and had a very determined will to make the children love the church and feel that the church was their second home...under his leadership the service flourished and many found in him the friend, the brother, the father and the Priest.

As an endorsement of his service and pure monastic life he was promoted to the rank of Hegemon on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 at the Monastery of St Anthony in the Red Sea.

After a short yet a long journey emotionally for everyone Fr Misael El-Antouy reposed in the Lord on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (4<sup>th</sup> Amshir 1729 AM) after establishing in the hearts of many the love for the Lord God in the simplest yet most wise manner.

Fr Misael will be remembered for his love for children, his sincere care for his congregation and wise advice to many who sought it.

May he remember us in front of the throne of God.

The Funeral prayers will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at his parish St Sidhom Bishay, Dural; beginning with the Midnight Praises at 6:00am followed by the Liturgy at 8:00am and the Funeral Service at 11:00am. His Grace Bishop Daniel with the fathers the monks and priests will travel to Cairo Egypt on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013 to deliver his body to the Monastery of St Anthony the great.

### Mission & Preaching Course

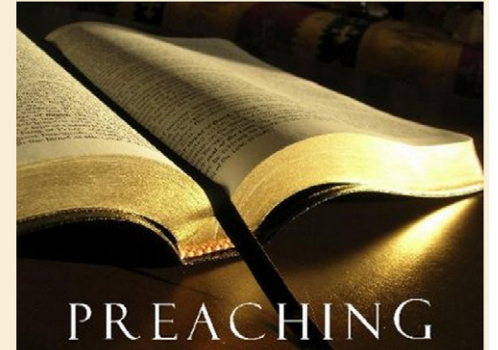
**When:** Every Sunday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

**Location:** St Mary & St Merkorious Church  
2 Cavell Avenue, Rhodes, NSW  
[View Map](#)

**Cost:** \$20

**Details:**

Contact Shaheer Gobran for an application form.



### Pope Shenouda III - 1 Year Commemoration Function

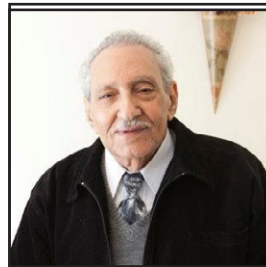
**When:** Sun 17th Mar 6:30pm to 10:00pm

**Location:** Sydney, Australia  
[View Map](#)

**Details:**

With the help of God we will hold a commemoration event for the first year anniversary on Sunday 17th March 2013. We ask the parish congregation to receive the blessing of such work by contributing to it as follows:

1. Poetry Recitation.
2. New songs about HH Pope Shenouda III covering on aspects of his life.
3. Musical composers.



Wife:Aida Awad

Sons & Daughters:Dr Magdi & Mary Butrous, Magda & Kamal Basta, Mervat & Sami Salama & Maha & Maher Fanous  
Grandchildren: Christina & Girgis Basta, Mina , Marina & Monda Salama, Mary & Kirolos Fanous & Michael , Marianne & Marina Butrous

Brothers: Dr Samir, Helmi & Mariam Moaawad in Egypt.

Jiddo we miss you so much pray for us.

# Tragedies and Suffering of Egypts Copts

## Part One

By Dr Makram Girgis, M.D.,Ph.D

It is particularly telling that the organization and the VOICE of the Copts is coming from outside the country. We hear it again and again that the Copts who live in Egypt do not have the freedom to speak and, more than that, do not have a history of speaking out. It takes coming to the West and understanding that there are means and goals that can be achieved if one speaks up, that there are friends who are ready to assist and, there are principles that can be applied. That is exactly what can be done and transferred back to Egypt. The issue that stands behind much of the Coptic problem today is the issue of Islamism or militant Islam. Since they gained power, their first action has been to target Christians.

Copts, more so since the Brotherhood domination, have been radically denied the dignity of the citizen. They have been excluded from the position of decision making at all levels. They are denied in occupying positions of senior ('sovereign') ministries or prime minister, top judiciary positions, membership in parliament or even high administrative positions. The stage was set by a bad man following the death of the great President Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1971. Earlier, in 1956, Sadat, at an Islamic Summit said: "There are only two million Copts in Egypt. We will send

one million to Ethiopia and the other million will be transferred to be beggars and shoe-shiners or convert to Islam within ten years." Sadat will be restless in his grave if he hears that there are actually 15 million beautiful Copts in Egypt and 3 million eminent Copts throughout the world. In 1980, he said: "I am a Muslim president of a Muslim country," and during his time attacks on Copts and their Churches began. When he put our great Pope in house arrest he was assassinated a month later.

As for religious freedom, respect of human rights and full citizenship rights for all Copts, the record of Mubarak's regime fell short of internationally accepted standards. Despite all efforts, he kept our great Pope under house arrest for a further four years and Copts paid a heavy price. Some of the atrocities that befell them (such as El-Kosheh – 2/1/2000 in Upper Egypt) were actually perpetuated by 'normal' people, sometimes neighbours, who acted despicably because of incitement and reasons linked to a prevailing culture of HATE. During his time the barbaric bombing of the Alexandrian Quiddisin Church took place (1/1/2011). What bitterly contributes to this sick behaviour is the corrupt police force that openly encourages such actions.

Coptic Women in the 21st Century are suppressed,

oppressed, and persecuted; they live in the shadow. Muslim Brotherhood, Salafi, Ghoneim and Abu Islam are introducing ways of treatment according to the desert Islamic rules. The fear and terror generated by the present Islamic attitude is both physical and mental terrorism. A Coptic girl in Egypt would find it scary to wear the sign of her faith out in the open. If she did, there is a 90% chance that she will be mugged, attacked, raped or have acid thrown on her face so as to be disfigured. Coptic women no longer have an identity. They wear long, dull dresses or cover their hair with a scarf. They do that because nowadays some Muslim women carry a pair of scissors in their bag so as to cut the hair of Coptic girls and women and push them out of the metro as it is stopping. The society is being encouraged to treat women in this way because the government does nothing about the rape, the attacks and the abduction of Coptic girls and ransom demands of well off families.

Next month ("Tragedies and Suffering of Egypt's Copts: Part Two") I will express my views, and those of many brave Copts throughout the world on restoration of full citizenship rights to Copts in Egypt.



### Church Dinner Cruise



**When:** Sun 10th Mar 6:00pm to 10:30pm

**Location:**



St Anthony & St Paul Church  
29 Bolton St, Guildford, NSW

[View Map](#)

### Deacons spiritual day



**When:** Sun 10th Mar 1:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** 55 Broughton Road, Strathfield, NSW

[View Map](#)

**Host:**



St Mary & St Merkorious

**Details:**

The next spiritual day for deacons will be on 10/3/2013 before the great lent . The place for this spiritual day will be at

Sister disciples of the divine master

55 Broughton Road Strathfield NSW

# Epistle to the Philadelphians

By: St. Iganitius of Antioch

Wherefore, as children of light and truth, flee from division and wicked doctrines; but where the shepherd is, there follow as sheep. For there are many wolves that appear worthy of credit, who, by means of a pernicious pleasure, carry captive (cf. 2 Timothy 3:6) those that are running towards God; but in your unity they shall have no place.

Keep yourselves from those evil plants which Jesus Christ does not tend, because they are not the planting of the Father. Not that I have found any division among you, but exceeding purity. For as many as are of God and of Jesus Christ are also with the bishop. And as many as shall, in the exercise of repentance, return into the unity of the Church, these, too, shall belong to God, that they may live according to Jesus Christ. Do not err, my brethren. If any man follows him that makes a schism in the Church, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If any one walks according to a strange opinion, he

agrees not with the passion [of Christ].

Take heed, then, to have but one Eucharist. For there is one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup to [show forth] the unity of His blood; one altar; as there is one bishop, along with the presbytery and deacons, my fellow-servants: that so, whatsoever you do, you may do it according to [the will of] God.

For though some would have deceived me according to the flesh, yet the Spirit, as being from God, is not deceived. For it knows both whence it comes and whither it goes, (John 3:8) and detects the secrets [of the heart]. For, when I was among you, I cried, I spoke with a loud voice: Give heed to the bishop, and to the presbytery and deacons. Now, some suspected me of having spoken thus, as knowing beforehand the division caused by some among you. But He is my witness, for whose sake I am in bonds, that I got no intelligence from any man. But the Spirit proclaimed these words: Do nothing without the bishop; keep your bodies

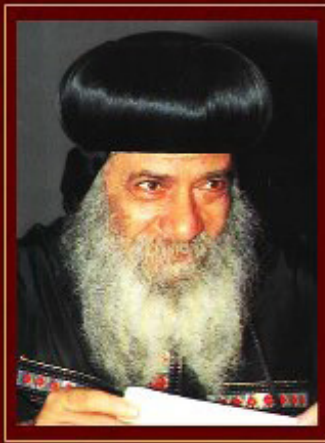
as the temples of God; love unity; avoid divisions; be the followers of Jesus Christ, even as He is of His Father.

I therefore did what belonged to me, as a man devoted to unity. For where there is division and wrath, God does not dwell. To all them that repent, the Lord grants forgiveness, if they turn in repentance to the unity of God, and to communion with the bishop. I trust [as to you] in the grace of Jesus Christ, who shall free you from every bond. And I exhort you to do nothing out of strife, but according to the doctrine of Christ. When I heard some saying, If I do not find it in the ancient Scriptures, I will not believe the Gospel; on my saying to them, It is written, they answered me, That remains to be proved. But to me Jesus Christ is in the place of all that is ancient: His cross, and death, and resurrection, and the faith which is by Him, are undefiled monuments of antiquity; by which I desire, through your prayers, to be justified.

The priests indeed are good, but the



High Priest is better; to whom the holy of holies has been committed, and who alone has been trusted with the secrets of God. He is the door of the Father, by which enter in Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the prophets, and the apostles, and the Church. All these have for their object the attaining to the unity of God. But the Gospel possesses something transcendent [above the former dispensation], the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, His passion and resurrection. For the beloved prophets announced Him, but the Gospel is the perfection of immortality. All these things are good together, if you believe in Love.



'A Whisper of Love' is the title of one of the poems which His Holiness Pope Shenouda III (1923 - 2012), the 117<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark, wrote in his cell during his solitary life as a monk in the Monastery of the Virgin Saint Mary in Egypt, in 1961.

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III loved poetry since his youth, and besides being a prolific author, was also an accomplished poet. In this booklet you will find a collection of his poems, prayers and words of wisdom, for those who desire a glimpse into the heart and mind of this dearly beloved father and shepherd, who was loved by millions, Christians and non-Christians alike.



Coptic Orthodox Publishers Association  
ISBN 987-1-871-64607-8

Profits will be donated to charities for the needy in Egypt

HIS HOLINESS POPE SHENOUDA III

*A Whisper of Love*

## *A Whisper of Love*



POEMS, PRAYERS AND SAYINGS OF  
**HIS HOLINESS POPE SHENOUDA III**

The book is being released to mark the passing of one year of the departure of our blessed father, and God willing, can be with you by the 17th March if you are able to make an order by this Thursday, as it is being shipped from the United Kingdom.

The book is 64 pages with many black and white photographs inside. The cover is glossy laminate and it is perfectly bound, ie, with a spine. It contains 40 pages of poems and the remaining two chapters on prayers and sayings.

The cost is \$1.50 per book plus postage. The larger the order the cheaper the postage per book.

If you would like to place an order please send us an email with  
- the name of the person to address the package  
- the address to be shipped to  
- the contact email  
- the contact's telephone number

We also have a Facebook page called 'Pope Shenouda's Words in English' where we are advertising the book to the members of the page who are almost 3,000.

The profits made will be sent to charities for the needy in Egypt.



Tell me what you see when you look at me?  
 Cleopatra eyes lined by sun dust of the Giza Pyramids  
 A feeble representation of my people  
 Tell me, tell me what you see when you look at me?  
 A smile that has lost its shape  
 Like the chipped nose of the Sphinx  
 Each chip symbolic to years of history  
 I can resonate with each chip  
 Like an etch in my own heart  
 Each Richter of pain, a lesson gained  
 Maybe you see  
 Long brown hair that might glitter like the Nile by night  
 From Luxor to Aswan  
 To Blessed Belkas and Alexandria  
 In all its sanctions  
 These are my people  
 And I, a feeble representation of my people  
 The Square  
 The junction to revolutionary change  
 A people suppressed for so long  
 My cousins tell me  
 'We love our nation's song, but we really couldn't tell you what's going on'  
  
 Am I a succinct representation?  
 Who am I to stand up and say?  
  
 'I feel your pain and you should fight on to see brighter days'  
 Foolish to watch the media hype and make my decision  
 Im not living in it

It looks like prison  
 What should I do?  
  
 Speak from the heart  
 Speak to start  
 Join a protest  
 Sign a petition  
 Those on the ground  
 They in it with passion  
 In a zealous fashion  
 Nations racing, numbers decreasing  
 Martyred for their kingdom  
 Bloodshed to receive a crown  
 And while they up above  
 We still can't get enough love  
 Death doesn't discriminate  
 Yes love will fight the hate  
 Muslim or Christian  
 We all the same flesh  
 Peace should prevail  
 In or out of the veil  
 Aren't you tired of this tale?  
 Im tired just watching it  
 My eyes have never known colour  
 Just shades that measure how big your heart really is  
 Tell me what you see when you look at me?  
 Cleopatra eyes, a smile that has lost its shape, long brown hair  
 With my hand on my chest  
 I apologise, because me, in all my sanctions I AM  
 . . . A feeble representation of my people  
 Egypt in transition and all I can do is watch the revolutionary mission

*St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College*



*Position Vacant*

***Finance Officer***

**Duties will include:**

- Collate and match purchase order forms and corresponding invoices
- Payment of creditors
- Process computerised cheque payments in a correct and timely manner
- Maintain appropriate filing of all accounts payable documentation
- Record, issue and maintain all debtor accounts with the College for areas such as School Fees, Levies, Event Involvement, etc.
- Paying, recording and reconciling the Petty Cash System
- Provide general support to College retail/trading areas
- Assist the Financial Manager with fee enquiries from parents and with the required periodical reconciliation

**Skills and Knowledge Required**

- Experience in using MYOB, Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel
- The ability to readily acquire knowledge and understanding of College specific functions, policies and procedures
- Excellent interpersonal skills, being able to positively interact with all members of the College Community and those external individuals / agents who work with the College
- Well-developed communication skills, particularly in respect to interviews, telephone discussions, report and letter writing.
- An ability to gain co-operation and assistance from the College's teaching and non - teaching staff in order to achieve well-defined objectives for the financial management of the College.

*Please provide a full resumé including 3 referees, one of which must be from a Reverend Father. Applications close on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013.*

*Applications to: Financial Manager  
 financialmanager@stmarks.nsw.edu.au  
 St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College  
 P O Box 747, Moorebank 1875*

In Memory of our beloved father Arch Deacon Fakhory Khalil who was born on 12th May 1933 and passes away on 28th February 2013. He was a former member of parliament and a director of the office of fair-trading in Aswan. One of the most wonderful men I have ever known, he devoted his life to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and initiated the building of student accommodation for needy interstate students. He was a true example of Christianity and will be truly missed.

May the Lord repose our dearly loved father's soul.  
 "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"  
 Revelation 2:10 From his loving sons Deacon Michael, living in Athens, Deacon Samuel living in Sydney and Deacon Wissa living in Aswan.

**Please send donations to:**

**Acc Name: St Mary & St Anthony's Monastery**

**BSB: 064 000 | Acc Number: 12900826**

**CBA | Swift Code: CTBAAU2S**

**Please note: This is tax deductible.**

**For receipts and other enquiries,**

**please email [admin@copticmonasteryqld.org](mailto:admin@copticmonasteryqld.org)**

**Visit <http://www.copticmonasteryqld.org/> for more info**

