



EL-MANANARA

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

COPTS' NEWS

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



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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
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PRESIDENT TO VISIT ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL



Egypt's Interim President Adly Mansour has become the first Egyptian President to visit St. Mark's Cathedral - the headquarters of Coptic Christians - to send his holiday greetings.

President Mansour met with Pope Tawadros II at the

Cathedral in a visit described as "an expression of the appreciation of the Egyptian state of its Christian citizens who have offered a great deal while standing side by side with their Muslim brethren for the nation's glory."

POPE TAWADROS ARRIVES TO GERMANY



Pope Tawadros arrives to Germany in pastoral visit with Mor Philoxenos Mattias Nayis

During his eight-day visit to Europe, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark has opened churches in Germany and Austria. Pope Tawadros left Cairo on the 6th of December heading for Switzerland at the start of a two-week European tour.

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REFERENDUM VOTING



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GOOD NEWS.



NEW NOVICE BROTHERS

Continued on page 6



Happy Australia Day



Feast of the Nativity 2014

H.H. Pope Tawadros II

toward man. In fact, in the story of the Nativity, we have plenty of contemplations. We read about the heavenly star, and we read about the earthly manger.

We read about people who came from far countries, and we read about people who were close to the place of the event. We read about young people such as the shepherds and our mother the Virgin Mary. We also read about elder people such as St. Joseph the carpenter, St. Simon the elder and St. Anna the prophetess. We read about all kinds of people.

But the world at the time of our Lord Jesus Christ was classified into two main groups, Jews and gentiles. And there was a separation between heaven and earth. Heaven is full of angels and heavenly creatures, and the earth is full of people who were divided into Jews and gentiles. In the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, those three groups came together.

First, the shepherds who were awake arrived. Those shepherds were very simple people, and were from the simplest sector of the Jewish society. Their work and efforts were in the wilderness with the flock that they used to shepherd, and out of those sheep, the sacrifices were selected to be offered.

The shepherds were always traveling and did not have a place to dwell. Even their witness were invalid in courts. But the Lord had chosen them for their honesty and simplicity. God wanted to honor them, so He revealed to them His birth by the angel who appeared to them saying: "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

The awakening shepherds were Jews. As if God had chosen the shepherds to represent the Jews. The rest of the world were considered pagan gentiles. As such, God had chosen the worshipping magi on behalf of

the gentiles. They came from far countries in the east. They endured the long travel. The roads were not like what we have now. They were scientists in astronomy, and in predicting events that may happen.

They traveled for long periods, coming from far countries to search and worship the birth of the King of the Jews. We all know the story, but the most important points were that they reached their goal and they were considered high class in their society. They arrived to Jerusalem, to the place of the manger where the Baby Jesus Christ was, and offered their gifts.

By their gifts, they expressed their eagerness to witness the born, King of the Jews. Therefore, the earthly world came to the manger to the Lord Jesus in two groups, in addition to the third group which was from the heavenly world represented by the multitude of singing angels.

The angels were singing the famous song: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Everyone was presented in the manger and around the Lord Jesus Christ. The earthly world was presented by the two groups of the Jews and the magi, and the heavenly world presented by the angels.

What we are most interested in and what I would like to put before your eyes is the fact that the magi who came from the far countries presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Most of us know that gold is a symbol of being a King; frankincense is a symbol of His priesthood; and the myrrh is a symbol for His suffering and crucifixion.

These gifts signify those characteristics of our Lord Jesus Christ. The question here, why did they choose those gifts specifically? We all know that the gift is offered according to the taste of the giver and according to the condition and

position of the receiver. So why did they choose those gifts? I would like to tell you that those gifts which were offered by the magi symbolize the life of man.

The life of man throughout its entirety is characterized by gold, frankincense, and myrrh. I mean every one of us through life has days of gold, days of frankincense and days of myrrh. The days of gold are the days of success, good health, victory, wealth, and days of comfort, as well as all days of joy either at work, business, various successes, or study. Each are considered the gift of gold.

The gift of frankincense presents the days of work, study, labor, hard effort and services, and other days that take large space in the life of man. The days of myrrh, as the life of man should have time of myrrh according to this philosophy of the gifts, presented by the days of grief tribulations, need, suffering, illness, and all the days in which man aches from negative emotions and anxiety.

All those are represented by the gift of myrrh. But all those gifts represent the mix of man's life. Each of our lives fall into the gold, frankincense and myrrh. That is why if there are days of myrrh, there will be days of frankincense and gold. In the life of man, as the Bible says, all things work together for good to those who love God. All the days with all their kinds work together for good to those who love God.

The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ gives us hope, courage and new life in a new vision for our daily life. I congratulate all of you, all clergy, congregations, and families. I would like to especially congratulate our youth and children. I congratulate every church with her board, servants and deacons. I ask the Lord to give you grace and to fill your life with the joy of Nativity every day. May our life be for the glory of His name, and glory be to God, forever, and ever. Amen.

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.

I congratulate all of you for this glorious Feast of the Nativity and the new year of 2014. I wish upon all of you the blessings that come with the birth of the One Who was born in the manger; blessings of goodness, joy, peace and love for everyone in Egypt, and in all our churches throughout the world, all who celebrate the New Year by the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The incarnation of God is an event that combined the earth with heaven. God, through His love for mankind, was incarnated and came to mankind. As we learn from the verse that is often referred to as "the little gospel", (John 3:16) states: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

This meeting of heaven and earth was a meeting from God, Who gave us His love, by coming down from above to mankind. This was also a meeting from man who showed his eagerness of going up to God. This meeting happened in the fullness of time, as stated in the Holy Bible, and, in the womb of our mother the Holy Virgin St. Mary where He was incarnate by His love.

In the creation of man, God showed His love to everyone. In His incarnation, He confirmed this love. In His crucifixion and resurrection, the Lord concluded this great love

Testimony of John the Baptist

With all the love, I would like to congratulate all the Reverend Fathers and all the beloved congregation of the Diocese on the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ wishing that the blessings of the Feast of Epiphany come upon you and your families praying our Lord Jesus Christ to grant you peace and happiness

Our Lord in John 5:32 -35, tells us about the testimony of John the Baptist.

"There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved."

And here we will highlight a few points of John the Baptist's testimony

1- Jesus Christ our Lord is mightier than John the Baptist in the following areas:

1-1: St. John the Baptist said very powerful statement, in Mark 1:7, Luke 3: 16, John 1: 27: 'And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose."'

1-2: The Baptism of Jesus Christ our Lord is not like that of John the Baptist which was with water for repentance, the Baptism of our Lord Jesus with the Holy Spirit and fire, as we

read also in Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16,: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"

1-3: The winnowing fan of our Lord Jesus Christ is in His hands as we read Matthew 3: 12, Luke 3: 17: "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

1-4: our Lord Jesus Christ came from Galilee to John the Baptist to baptise him, as we read Matthew 3:13-14: "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

2- John the Baptist witnessed that our Lord Jesus Christ is the saviour of the human race, He said in Luke 3:6: "And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.", however, if someone asked: what is the salvation of God? And how it will be done? we find the answer by John the Baptist who witnessed that the salvation of the Human race will be done by the Sacrifice of our Lord on the Cross to take away our sins, as we read John 1:29: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'"

John the Baptist also added that he who does not believe in the salvation of Son of God shall not see life and he who believes in this salvation will have the everlasting life as we read in John 3:35-36: "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the

Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

3- John the Baptist witnessed that our Lord Jesus Christ was before him, we read John 1:15,30: "John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

4- John the Baptist testified that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God, as we read John 1:32-34: "And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.". John the Baptist also proved his witness as our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God by saying that our Lord is from above , let us read John 3:31: "He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all".

5- John the Baptist witnessed that our Lord Jesus Christ is the bridegroom of the Holy Church – the bride - he said in John 3:29: "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled". John the Baptist witnessed that Jesus Christ will grow and increase, he said in John 3:30: "He must increase, but I must decrease".

6- All that was witnessed



by John the Baptist about our Lord Jesus Christ were true, when our Lord was subjected to be killed, He went to the place where John the Baptist was baptising people, and then many came to Him saying all the witnesses of John the Baptist about Christ are true as we read John 10:39-42: "Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand. And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. Then many came to Him and said, 'John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true.' And many believed in Him there".

Let us all listen to John the Baptist's testimonies and accept, with a humble spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ as our God, our Saviour, the Lamb who carries our sins and the bridegroom of our soul whom we are not worthy to loose the strap of his sandal. Amen.

The Lord be with all of you wishing you a happy Feast of the Epiphany

God bless you all

Bishop Daniel

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions.

ARE YOU THE COMING ONE? by St. Gregory the Great *Continued on page 9*

And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" ... (Mt 11)

It seems almost as if John did not know the one he had pointed out, as if he did not know whether he was the same person he had proclaimed by prophesying, by

baptizing, by pointing him out! We can resolve this question more quickly if we reflect on the time and order of the events. For when John is standing beside the river Jordan, he declares that this is the Redeemer of the world. But when he has been thrown into jail, he asks whether they were to look for another or whether he had come. This is

not because he doubts that he is the Redeemer of the world. John now wants to know whether he who had personally come into the world would also descend personally into the courts of hell. For John had preceded Christ into the world and announced him there. He was now dying and preceding him to the nether world. This is the context in

which he asks, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" But if he had spoken more fully he might have said, "Since you thought it worthy of yourself to be born for humanity, say whether you will also think it worthy of yourself to die for humanity. In this way I, who have been the herald of your birth, will also be the herald of your death.

DIOCESE NEWS

REFERENDUM VOTING



HG Bishop Daniel visit to the Egyptian Consulate to cast his vote in the referendum about the new Egyptian Constitution on 8th Jan 2014.

KIAHK IN BRISBANE



EASTERN CHURCHES MEETING 2014



Bishops of the Eastern Churches met together to discuss issues of Australia. Thank God it was a successful meeting. May God bless our Fathers the Bishops.

PRIEST MEETING 2014



His Grace Bishop Daniel prayed the Holy Mass of the Epiphany in the Apostles & St Abanoub Church – Blacktown before he travelled to Asia on the 19th of January in a Pastoral Trip to Thailand, Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. As well an invitation is being forwarded by His Eminence Cardinal Koch (Co-Chair) President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity; and by His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy (Co-Chair) Metropolitan of Damiette, inviting His Grace Bishop Daniel, Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions as a Member to attend the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the International Joint Commission for Theological

Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches which will be held in Kerala- India during the period from 27th of January up to 1st of February 2014.

HG Bishop Daniel also received an invitation from His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Poulos II, The Catholicos of the East and the Malankara Metropolitan along with all the Episcopal Synod Members to attend the Inauguration of the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Theological Seminary in Kottayam , Kerala on the 2nd of February 2014.

Praying our Lord Jesus Christ to safeguard HG Bishop Daniel and bring him back to his Diocese safely.

GOLD COAST CAMP – 1 PETER 3:15

“By the grace of God, the Sunday School of St Mina & St Anthony Coptic Orthodox Church on the Gold Coast held their annual camp at Kindilan Outdoor

Education Centre from Jan 10-13. Thanks be to God, the kids and servants all had a fantastic time and enjoyed the workshops, talks, the Holy Liturgy and

outdoor activities. The theme of the camp was “Defending the Faith” and focused on 1 Peter 3:15, introducing the students to apologetics and the importance

of faith in their personal relationships with God.”



Continuation from page 1

A MESSAGE FROM ST SHENOUDA MONASTERY - SYDNEY AUSTRALIA.



Good News.

“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it, spring the issues of life” (Prov.4:23).

We, the Fathers of St Shenouda Monastery are very glad. Our gracious Lord Jesus Christ had gifted us by two new fine young men to join the Monastic Life as “Novices”. On Christmas Eve (Jan 2014) we announced the good news, that Daniel Ibrahim now called “Brother Moussa” and Daniel Ayad now called

“Brother Bishoy” are officially undertaking the first stage of training for becoming Monks according to the Coptic Orthodox Church Monastic Rites. Both were born in Australia, studied, graduated and worked for years while serving as Deacons and Sunday-School servants successfully. They have high respect by their Confession Fathers, their Parents and all Friends.

May our Almighty God bless them and support them in their striving in pursuing The Perfect Life (Matt.19:21).



PRE-SERVANTS MILESTONE

by Monica Gaid

On the 23rd of December 2013 the Archangel Michael and St Bishoy Pre-servants joined by their family, servants and friends as they faced the altar and made their vows to



faced a milestone in their lives graduating from the two year service course held at the church. The servants were

serve through God's name and "show God's image beyond the blood and pains whilst sticking steadfast to the faith", as their

Pre-Servants servant Girgis mentioned in his speech. The reason that service is such a fundamental part of Christianity has to do with the nature of God. In 1 John 4:7, it mentions that, "God is love". Following this in verses 20-21 the impact

the servants-to-be that "there is no service without the hand of God"-Mr Ibrahim; and that "service is wholly about being truth and love as God was and sharing this love with the world" -Fr. Antonios. Traditionally the night ended with the graduates



of this is further explained; "If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." This is because, to become a Christian, allowing God to dwell in our heart is essential. Since God is love, this same love is expressed through service; as Galatians 5:13 mentions "serve one another in love".

The night commenced with an angelic choir performance by the Archangel Michael and St Bishoy Heavenly Voices Choir. This was shortly followed by speeches from supervising servant Mr Girgis Rezk, Sunday School superintendant Mr Ibrahim Mikhael and Parish Priests Father Antonios and Father Bishoy. Each of the speeches carried a significant message and words of wisdom teaching

making their vows after having their feet washed by the parish priests and servants, as done in previous years to represent pure love and humility as Jesus did



for His disciples.

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10. May God bless and continually guide Mina Atalla, Nevine Dimitri, Monda Fowad, Christopher Gaid, Mary Girgis, Julia Gundi, Isaac Moussa, Silvana Moussa, Ibram Saleeb, Mina Samy, John Shenouda and David Shonoda as they embark on their spiritual journey towards Christ.



BUNNINGS BBQ

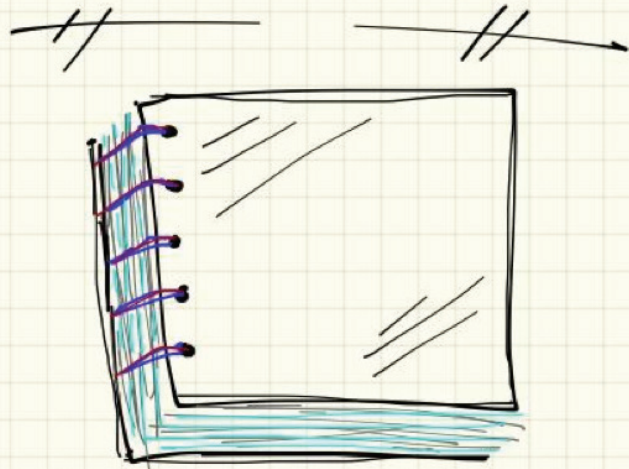
For the past 7 weeks from Monday to Friday, Exodus Youth Worx has been giving young people the opportunity to volunteer and raise money for Exodus through hosting BBQs at Bunnings Hardware store at Rockdale. These BBQs have been extremely beneficial to our youth as they give our young people work experience. These events also give the skill of working in hospitality, customer service and the pressures of a fast paced work environment. Exodus would also like to thank the congregation from St. George Coptic Church in Kensington for volunteering their time at several of these Bunnings BBQs.

All donations to Exodus Youth Worx are tax deductible.

St George Bank
 Exodus Youth Worx
 Acc: 465 556041
 BSB: 112-879



Coptic Book Binding Workshop



On Saturday 1st February EYW Ramsgate will host another Coptic Book Binding Workshop. The last workshop was highly successful
 Cost is \$10 which covers all supplied materials PLUS snacks you will enjoy this ancient art and take home your very own hand made book

familiesmatter

Couples Day Workshops

Saturday 1st March 2013

Cost: \$20 per couple
 Time: 11:30am
 Workshops include:

- Marriage Today
- Love is a choice
- Effective Communication & Conflict Resolution
- Family Backgrounds

Guest Speaker: Rob Stephenson, Principal of St Mary Coptic Orthodox College Rockdale.
 Where: St Mary's and St. Mina's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, 339 Forest Rd Bexley
 RSVP: Friday 14th February via email: familiesmatter3@gmail.com or call Sarah Elghitany on 0415881515

Child Minding available however very limited places, to avoid disappointment please book early. lunch will be provided.

Like us!
www.facebook.com/FamiliesMatter1

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions

THE CHURCH OF THE SAINT, POPE CYRIL THE SIXTH
 AND SAINT HABIB GERGIS THE ARCHDEACON

FUNDRAISING DINNER

Venue : Torwood Lounge Function Centre
 Address : 247 Rocky Point Rd, Sans Souci NSW 2219
 Date : Sunday, 16/2/2014
 Time : 5:30 - 9:00 PM
 Price : \$50 (Child ticket)

This ticket is for the Fundraising dinner which comprises of a three course meal with unlimited beverages.

Coptic Orphans
 Transforming Generations with Egypt's Fatherless

Thanks for your support Australia!

Over the last few months, you have donned your sports gear and got moving in a 10km fun run; shared your amazing talents at the Copts Got Talent Dinner and spread some Christmas cheer with a fabulous Christmas light and sound show – all for the sake of the most vulnerable in Egypt – the orphans.

To our donors, sponsors & supporters: your prayers and generosity has made a real difference to the children's lives.

Join us in 2014 as we celebrate our
25th year anniversary!

www.copticorphans.org
 (02) 9787 9777

HEADACHE

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

“As common as headache is, you should know when to worry.”



The headache has become part of the Aussie vernacular: “Be quiet, you’re giving me a headache.” “The boss has been a real headache lately.” “What a tackle. The player will wake up with a headache tomorrow.” “I have a headache, please give me an aspirin tablet.” “I can’t go to school because I’ve got a headache.” But anyone who experiences severe headaches, let alone chronic migraine, will tell you they are not to be flippant about it.

Headaches are one of the most common symptoms that affect us and the worst can be incredibly debilitating – or a signal of a life threatening condition. However, often a lie down and a good rub on the back of the neck can work wonders. Yet most people respond by opening up the medicine cabinet or reaching into the handbag for another pill. Moreover, the counter pain medication is sold today more than ever before – the analgesics market is worth \$1 billion annually, and prescribing rates for stronger medications have risen.

1. Tension-Type Headaches: Affects about 36% of men and 42% of women

The headache is usually mild to moderate, affecting both sides of the head, lasting from 30 minutes to days or rarely weeks. There is no aura symptom (this is a perceptual disturbance). Nausea and vomiting are uncommon.

2. Migraines: Affects about

18% of women and 6% of men

About 23% of households have a migraine sufferer. It is paroxysmal with recurrent attack, with or without visual aura, photophobia and sometimes nausea and vomiting, but unlike tension headache, it is usually very severe. It affects one or both sides of the head. Short durations could only be 20 minutes or so. But, commonly it could last hours and could be debilitating. Aura symptoms are often present, for example, flickering lights or pallor.

Rarely, migraine could result in brain symptoms, referred to as transient ischemia attack (T.I.A), similar to stroke. This however, is very rare indeed and your doctor soon assures you that this is really transient due to a sudden spasm of a small vessel. “Post traumatic stress” could also result in migraine. Some believe certain foods containing high amounts of MSG (commonly used in Chinese food to make it taste good), gives them migraine.

Rarely migraine runs in the family but remission is high, as they know how to cope with it and do not worry, as they know how to avoid precipitating factors. However, all migraine suffers and 60% of those with tension type headache find their work and social life affected.

In conclusion, review your life style, identify and avoid precipitating factors and, most importantly, consult your doctor when you have any doubt about the cause. Don’t think that your doctor will always order a CT brain scan as the doctor has the experience to identify the cause and proper treatment.

About the Author: Dr Girgis is an honours graduate of Cambridge University and St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School, London University. Previously, visiting Assistant Professor University of Missouri, St. Louis and Associate Professor University of Sydney.

ON THE DAY OF THEOPHANY



by John Maximovitch (Russian Saint)

Today the nature of the waters is sanctified. Today the Son of God is baptized in the waters of the Jordan, having no need Himself of cleansing, but in order to cleanse the sinful human race from defilement.

Now the heavens open and the voice of God the Father is heard: This is My beloved Son. The Holy Spirit descends upon the Savior of the world, Who stands in the Jordan, thereby confirming that this indeed is He Who is the incarnate Son of God. The Holy Trinity is clearly made manifest and is revealed to mankind.

The waters of the Jordan are sanctified, and together with them all the waters of creation, the very nature of water. Water is given power to cleanse not only the body, but also man’s whole soul, and to regenerate the whole man unto a new life through Baptism.

Through water all of nature is cleansed, for out of water the world was made, and moisture penetrates everywhere, giving life to everything else in nature. Without moisture neither animals nor plants can live; moisture penetrates into rocks, into every place in the world.

The waters are sanctified and through them the whole world, in preparation for renewal and regeneration for God’s eternal Kingdom which is to come.

Every year on this day the glory of God is revealed, renewing and confirming what was accomplished at Christ’s Baptism. Again the heavens are

opened; again the Holy Spirit descends. We do not see this with our bodily eyes, but we sense its power. At the rite of blessing, the waters which are thereby sanctified are transformed; they become incorruptible and retain their freshness for many years.

Everyone can see this- both believers and unbelievers, both the wise and the ignorant.

Whence do the water acquire this property?

It is the action of the Holy Spirit.

Those who with faith drink these waters and anoint themselves with them receive relief and healing from spiritual and bodily infirmities. Homes are sanctified by these waters, the power of demons is expelled, God’s blessing is brought down upon all that is sprinkled with these waters. Through the sanctifying of the waters God’s blessing is again imparted to the whole world, cleansing it from the sins we have committed and guarding it from the machinations of the devil.

Today the Holy Spirit, descending up on the waters when the Cross of Christ is immersed into them, descends up on all of nature. Only in man He cannot enter without his will.

Let us open our hearts and souls to receive Him and with faith cry from the depths of our souls:

“Great art Thou, O Lord, and marvelous are Thy works, and there is no word which sufficeth to hymn Thy wonders.”

THE HEAD THINKS, THE HANDS LABOR, BUT IT'S THE HEART THAT LAUGHS!!!!!!

PARENTS NATURALLY WANT TO BRING ABOUT IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN THEIR KIDS LIVES; BUT GOD DID'NT COMMAND US TO CHANGE THEM, HE ONLY COMMAND US TO LOVE THEM. IT IS GOD WHO MAKES THE CHANGES IN ANY OF US!!!!!! SOME PEOPLE ARE TOO TIRED TO GIVE YOU A SMILE. GIVE THEM ONE OF YOURS AS NO ONE NEEDS A SMILE SO MUCH AS HE WHO HAS NO MORE TO GIVE!!!!!!

WHENEVER YOU 'R DOWN AND OUT...LIFT UP YOUR HEAD ...SMILE!!!!!!

THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH FOLKS IS TO OVERLOOK THEIR FAULTS AND ADMIRE THEIR VIRTUES!!!!!!

I KNOW A LITTLE SUFFERING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL, BUT SOMEBODY MUST BE TRYING TO MAKE A SAINT OUT OF ME!!!!!!

YESTERDAY IS EXPERIENCE ...TOMORROW IS HOPE... TODAY IS GETTING FROM ON TO THE OTHER!!!!!!

I DIDN'T CAUSE IT... I CANNOT CONTROL IT... NOR CAN I CURE IT... BUT GOD CAN! WE HAVE TWO CHOICES WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH DRAW AND BECOME BITTER, GROWING OLD BEFORE OUR TIME AND DYING INWARDLY. OR WE CAN REACH OUT TO GOD AND GROW INWARDLY.. WE HAVE GOD'S PROMISE THAT IT WILL HAPPEN!!!!!!

GOD CAN SEE EACH FALLING TEARS... HE SEES THE HEART THAT, SAD DREAM... HE KNOW THE PATH THAT'S FULL OF FEAR... DON'T GIVE UP FOR HE IS NEAR!!!!!! SO HEIR KALDAS

PROGRAMME FOR THE VISIT OF HIS GRACE BISHOP PAULA BISHOP OF TANTA 1ST OF FEBRUARY – 15TH OF FEBRUARY 2014

Date	Time	AM	Time	PM
Saturday 1/2/2014			5:25 pm	Arrival at Sydney-VA 859 Domestic Airport Thanksgiving Prayer St Mary & St Mina Cathedral-Bexley
Sunday 2/2/2014	9:00am	Holy Mass ST Mark Church Arncliffe	7:30 pm	Seminar for the Engaged Couples St Mary & St Abou Sefein Church - Rhodes
Monday 3/2/2014				
Tuesday 4/2/2014	11:00am - 7:00pm	Clerical Council St Demiana & St Athanasius Church, Punchbowl		
Wednesday 5/2/2014	9:00am	Holy Mass St Mary & St Abou Sefein Church - Rhodes		
Thursday 6/2/2014	10:00am - 7:00pm	Clerical Council St Demiana & St Athanasius Church, Punchbowl		
Friday 7/2/2014	9:00am	Holy Mass Anba Abraam Church - Peakhurst		
Saturday 8/2/2014	8:30am	Holy Mass Archangel Michael & St Bishoy Church - Mt Druitt	11:00am - 5:00pm	Family Seminar Archangel Michael & St Bishoy Church - Mt Druitt
Sunday 9/2/2014	9:00am	Holy Mass St Antonious & St Paul Church - Guildford	7:30 - 9:30pm	Priests' Meeting St Mark Church - Arncliffe
Monday 10/2/2014			12:00 - 3:00pm	Holy Mass - Jonah Fast Anba Abraam Church - Long Point
Tuesday 11/2/2014	8:30am - 11:30am	Holy Mass The Apostles & St Abanoub Church - Blacktown	1:00 - 8:00 pm	Clerical Council St Demiana & St Athanasius Church, Punchbowl
Wednesday 12/2/2014			3:00 - 6:00 pm	Holy Mass - Jonah Fast St Mary, St Bakhomious & St Shenouda Church - Kirrawee
Thursday 13/2/2014	9:00am	Holy Mass - Feast of Jonah St George Church - Kensington	1:00 - 8:00 pm	Clerical Council St Demiana & St Athanasius Church, Punchbowl
Friday 14/2/2014			8:00 pm	Youth Meeting St Demiana & St Athanasius Church, Punchbowl
Saturday 15/2/2014	8:00am - 1:00am	Holy Mass & open day Celebration St Mary & St Mina Cathedral Bexley	3:00pm	Travel to Brisbane by VA 951



Saint Anthony & Saint Paul's Coptic Orthodox Church, Guildford
Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated regions
29 Bolton Street, Guildford

"The Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." Phil 4:7

The church invites you & your family to attend this Spiritual Revival. May the Holy Spirit abide & work in us, to become holy by attending daily. Through the prayers of HH Pope Tawadrous II & his partner in the Apostolic Ministry Our beloved father HG Bishop Daniel

Date	Holy Liturgy 8.30 to 10.30 am	Vespers & Sermon 7 to 9 pm	Arabic Service	English Service
Wednesday 29/01/14	Very Rev Fr Tadros Samaan	"He who has begun a good work in you, will complete it..." Phil 1:6	Very Rev Fr Tadros Samaan	Rev Fr Matthew Attia
Thursday 30/01/14	Fathers of the Diocese Feast of Saint Anthony the Great	"...To live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil 1:21	Very Rev Fr Raphael Iskander	Rev Fr George Nakhil
Friday 31/01/14	1 st Mass Rev Fr Suriel Hanna 2 nd Mass Rev Fr Makarios Ebrahim 3:00 to 6:00 pm	"Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ..." Phil 1:27	Very Rev Samuel Wadie	Rev Fr Jonathan Ishak
Saturday 1/02/14	Very Rev Fr Shenouda Mansour	"Stand fast in one spirit, one mind, striving together..." Phil 1:27	Very Rev Fr Mina Diskoros	Rev Fr Suriel Hanna
Sunday 2/02/14	Church Fathers	"...your adversaries are a proof to you of salvation..." Phil 1:28	Very Rev Fr Bishoy Yassa	Rev Fr Kyrillos Farag
Monday 3/02/14	Rev Fr Yousef Fanous	"...not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake..." Phil 1:30	Very Rev Fr Moussa Soliman	Fr Bassilious Gad
Tuesday 4/02/14	Very Rev Fr Tadros Samaan Mass : 7:00 to 9:00am	"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Phil 2:4	Very Rev Fr Yacoub Magdy	Deacon Antonious Soliman
Wednesday 5/02/14	Very Rev Fr Tadros Samaan	"...it is God who works in you for His good pleasure." Phil 2:13	Very Rev Fr Tadros Samaan	Rev Fr Shenouti Gobra
Thursday 6/02/14	Rev Fr Makarios Ebrahim	"...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead." Phil 3:13	Rev Fr Yousef Fanous	Rev Fr Mark Basily
Friday 7/02/14	1 st Mass Rev Fr Suriel Hanna 2 nd Mass Rev Fr Makarios Ebrahim 3:00 to 6:00 pm	"Be anxious for nothing, ... let your requests be made known to God." Phil 4:6	Rev Fr Makarios Ebrahim	Very Rev Fr Augustinos Nada
Saturday 8/02/14	Very Rev Fr Shenouda Mansour	"Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say, rejoice!" Phil 4:4	HG Bishop Daniel	Very Rev Fr Shenouda Mansour
Sunday 9/02/14	HG Bishop Paula	Feast of Saint Paul the First Hermit Annual Church Open Day and Fete		

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His Holiness Pope Tawadros of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt also visited the Syriac Orthodox monastery of St. James of Sarug in Germany on the 21st of December. The Pope will also go to Switzerland and Austria during this visit which will be his third visit to churches in Europe since he was enthroned over the Apostolic See of Saint Mark. Pope Tawadros II has visited the Monastery of Saint Anthony and open the Theological School in German. His Holiness

has also held lectures for a week in the Theological school which will be teaching in German and Arabic languages and soon will teach in the English language. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II is to come back to Egypt before Christmas to attend Christmas Eve in St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Abasseya. Pope Tawadros II has visited Europe twice; first to Vatican City on May 9 which was the first time in 40 years and on May 23 to Austria.

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I will announce your arrival in the nether world as the One who is to come, just as I have already announced it on earth."

As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"

He did not expect assent to this but denial. As soon as a slight breeze blows on a reed it bends away. What does the reed represent if not an unspiritual

soul? As soon as it is touched by praise or slander, it turns in every direction. If a slight breeze of commendation comes from someone's mouth, it is cheerful and proud, and it bends completely, so to speak, toward being pleasant. But if a gust of slander comes from the source from which the breeze of praise was coming, it is quickly turned in the opposite direction, toward raving anger. John was no reed, shaken by the wind. No one's pleasant attitude made him agreeable, and no one's anger made him bitter.

CONTEMPLATION ON THE SYMBOLS OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Continuation from last Week

3- The cloud which covered the tabernacle of meeting.

Exodus 40: 34-35 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Numbers 9: 15-16 "Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night."

Isaiah 19:1 "The burden against Egypt.

Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud,

And will come into Egypt;

The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence,

And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst

What was mention in the Kiahk Psalmody, Yearly Psalmody and the Agpeya

You are the cloud of light that lead us to the rain of the coming of the only begotten Son of God.

She is the tabernacle of meeting

and Moses' dome. God's glory dwelt within her womb and so she became the house of God.

She is the swift cloud that carried the Lord and brought Him to Egypt. As the cloud is high within the heavens, so likewise is the status of the Virgin Mary.

4- The women clothed with the sun & moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars

Revelation 12:1-2 "Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth."

What was mention in the Kiahk Psalmody, Yearly Psalmody and the Agpeya

I saw a sign in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet. On her head was a garland of twelve stars.

Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth.

Mary is the new heaven on earth, and the sun of righteousness who is our Lord Jesus Christ, was shining through her.

The moon under her feet is John the Baptist, and the twelve

stars are the twelve disciples surrounding her and glorifying her.

Hence all nations glorify the Virgin because she delivered the Lord while her virginity is sealed.

You are brighter than the sun, and more sparking than the Cherubim. And the Seraphim with six wings, is joyfully hovering over you.

The Virgin is the woman clothed with the sun (Christ Jesus the sun of righteousness), and the moon under her feet (John the Baptist), and a garland of twelve stars (the disciples).

Thursday Theotokia

5- The door that the God of Israel entered while it was closed

Ezekiel 44: 1-2 "Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the LORD said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the LORD God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut."

What was mention in the Kiahk Psalmody, Yearly Psalmody and the Agpeya

The door to the east Is the Virgin



Mary who is the door to the honoured bridal chamber of the pure Bridegroom.

Ezekiel has witnessed and revealed to us saying, "I saw a door to the East."

The LORD and Saviour came through it, and yet it remained completely shut.

O the honourable gate of life, The honoured Theotokos.

She is the door from the east which Ezekiel saw; she is the initial gate from the east. She is the sealed gate which the Lord entered and exited while remaining closed. This is a symbol of her perpetual virginity after giving birth to the God of glory.

Glory be to God

Bishop Daniel

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions.

THE WEDDING IN CANA OF GALILEE

by Fr. Matthew the Poor (El Meskeen)

Cana in Galilee is 6 miles north east of Nazareth, a two-hour walk. The Virgin Mary went before Jesus and his disciples as was the custom for the women to attend the marriage (which extended for 7 days) from the beginning.

As usual, Jesus comes at the right time (just as soon as all the wine had been drunk). He comes with only a few of his disciples, since they had not yet reached their full number; (it had only been 3 days since Nathanael was called and Philip a little earlier, 4 days since the call of Andrew and Peter, and only a week since John had changed

from following John the Baptist to following Jesus).

Therefore, the number of the disciples on the day of the wedding could not have exceeded that of the fingers of a hand.

This miracle was the first sign to mark the inauguration of Christ's ministry after His Baptism. It was also the first to correspond to the ministry of John the Baptist, as it gives the clearest conception of Jesus "the Son of Man". For here is a man who baptizes with water, practicing asceticism and total abstinence from wine, living in the wilderness; yet,

here is Another who begins by the wedding in Cana of Galilee, transforming water into wine.

It is noteworthy that this miracle inherently brings out the transformation from water—the capital stock of John the Baptist—as a power of purification and change through repentance and behavior, to Christ Himself as an exceedingly greater power to transform the very essence of human nature and its subsequent behavior. For Christ here, when subjecting water and transforming it into what is not water through the power of his word, explicitly and forcefully points out that the

power for being able to change, repent, rejoice and find comfort, which all mankind craves, originally exists in Christ and in His word.

Moreover, this miracle implies that wine, in the presence of Christ, is no longer the source of refreshment and change of mood from depression into joy and jubilation. For now we have a more effective source, namely Christ who actually creates the very nature of wine and subsequently all of its power or even more! "For your love is better than wine" (Song of Songs 1:2).

The focus in this miracle is upon one word: Christ as the source of “transformation”. In His first sign and at the beginning of His ministry, Jesus calls our attention to the fact that He has come to be the exclusive “source of transformation” in man’s life. So it is not through asceticism or seclusion in the wilderness; not through acts of ablution with water and supplication; not through Elisha, John or the prophets, but in Christ Himself that the transformation of man is effected just as the water was mystically transformed through neither prayer, supplication, nor any other act to become what is not water, but good new wine which man wrongly thought would give him comfort.

The Miracle:

The Virgin Mary intentionally announced her Son to the world as the Messiah. She was trying impatiently to declare His glory, for she was completely certain of it. She was extremely eager to find the opportunity to share with the whole of Israel what she had known with certitude about the mystery of Christ, the hope of all ages.

But the good-hearted Virgin was not aware that the starting point of Christ’s revelation was also itself the beginning of the appearance of the phantom of the cross, and that the very day His glorious nature was revealed was the beginning of the down count to Passion Week!

“O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come” (John 2:4). How more fitting were it, in the eyes of Jesus, for the Virgin to have kept away from the path of the cross! How more needful were it for her, in His eyes, not to become an instrument to hasten about the sword which would pierce through her soul when seeing Him on the cross!

However, because of her absolute faith and trust in Him, and on account of the special esteem in which He held her, He did not reject her solicitation. He accorded her request though after a brief reproof; and thus began His glory, together with His Passion, at one and the

same time!!

In order to clear away the mystery which envelops the way the Lord addresses her (“O woman”), we should understand that Christ speaks here as God, for He is about to work a miracle of supernatural creation; in other words the Son of God is here addressing a human mother!!

Thus Christ is eloquently indicating to the Virgin that He has come into His divine sphere to begin His supreme ministry which by no means admits the counsel of a woman or any human being. At the age of 12 He had once told her, “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Lk 2:49). But now He has entered forever into His mystic relation with the Father where the only counsel is from the Father and from no one else!

Likewise, we cannot let pass lightly the way the Holy Virgin expressed her request: “They have no wine” (John 2:3). Here the very request is actually a prayer, a prayer which may be the shortest recorded in the Holy Bible and the most confident, the most assured and the most faithful.

We wish that our prayers were thus so very concise, and so very confident, and merely a realistic presentation of the situation, “They have no wine.”

In spite of Christ’s verbal response which almost means a renunciation or at least a denunciation of her request, the Holy Virgin knew very well the depth of Christ’s meekness. She remained unwaveringly confident that He would meet the needs of the people. This confidence was based on her experience with Him for 30 years, “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5). This shows the extent of her confidence in His infinite power, and how fully she understands His absolute readiness to respond favourably to prayer.

Water of Absolution

In the purification water, Jesus finds the proper source



for performing the miracle, and for putting an end to the significance of the formal purification, for all of the water was transformed into wine. Now there was no more water in the jars and consequently the stage of purification with water in the life of humanity came to an end.

The wine in the wedding festival jars here covertly signifies its close relationship with the Last Supper wine offered as the blood to be shed on the cross for the true purification through the remission of sin.

The transformation of the purification water into wine here, is a preliminary process which Jesus brought to perfection at the Last Supper by transforming the wine into veritable blood for the remission of sins.

Therefore, by transforming all of the purification water into wine, Jesus was actually insinuating that He Himself was the true source of purification: “When He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb 1:3).

Similarly, the act of transforming water into wine as the initial miraculous act at the beginning of His ministry of salvation, was actually a process of overwhelming stimulation to the minds of those who were longing for the salvation of Israel.

Here the age of Moses has come back again, the age of salvation: The age of Moses who transformed the water in the rivers of Egypt into blood, and Moses who also at the beginning of his ministry manifested through himself God’s power and glory so that his people might believe in him and respond to the act of salvation to which he was to lead them. That is why the Gospel according to John refers to this implicitly by saying, “...and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him” (John 2:11).

Every single day our water is transformed into wine which in turn develops into holiness and everlasting life—and only those who abide at close quarters in expectation can see and Savour the Lord and rejoice!

The Max Families worship God Gratefully
MAY The LORD OF HEAVENS GRANT US EVERLASTING SUCCESS.

Congratulations from the bottom of our hearts to
Dr. Madeleine Max

On her graduation in the practice of medicine & surgery from
Notre dame University, Sydney Australia.

Congratulations from Dad Max and Mum Erin – from Uncle Fikry and Aunty Mona - from
Miriam, Steve, Jordan and Christian - from Marisa ,
Stephen and Amelia – from Matthew & Kristy.



عائلات مكسي تسجد لله شكرا"
والله السماء يعطينا دائما" النجاح
وتهنئة من القلب

للدكتورة مادلين مكس

لحصولها على بكالوريوس الطب والجراحة من جامعة نوتردام سيدني استراليا.



* تهنئة من بابا مكس وماما إيرين
* من انكل فكري مكس وطنط منى.
* من ميريام مكس - ستيف - جودان وكريستيان.
* ماثيو مكس - كريستي
* من سمير مكس وطنط لولو وجورجينا وراجي وميلي.
* من طنط مارسيل مكس وانكل جورج وايريني ومارى وعائلاتهما.
* من طنط فاتن مكس وانكل فرح وجانيت وجورج و جوناثون
* ومارى ومينا وميلي.
* من طنط مرفت مكس وديسبينا وبيشوى.
* من انكل فايز مكس وطنط ريهام وفادى وترفيينا.
* من د. عاطف ود. منى وأندرو وليا.
* من طنط هدى وانكل عادل ودينا وميريام.
ومن جميع الاهل والاقارب يقدمون خالص التهاني.