



EL-MANARA

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

COPTS' NEWS

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20).



COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
DIOCESE OF SYDNEY & AFFILIATED REGIONS
NSW • QLD • NT

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NEXT ISSUE:
5th October 2014

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
28th September 2014

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE



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INVITATION FOR NEW PRIEST ORDINATIONS



COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
DIOCESE OF SYDNEY & AFFILIATED REGIONS
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Beloved Children,
Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come' (Revelation 1:4)

I am pleased to invite you to attend and share with us in the blessed occasion of the ordination to Priesthood of three

of our beloved sons:

1- Full Deacon Eng. Yasser Ghattas as General Priest, in the Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions.

2 - Full Deacon Eng. Ehab Rizk as General Priest, in the Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions

3 - Full Deacon Pharmacist John Doss as General Priest, in the Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions.

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DIOCESE OF SYDNEY'S FAREWELL DINNER TO EGYPT'S CONSUL GENERAL

The Dioceses of Sydney and Affiliated Regions and the Public Affairs Council (PAC) hosted a special farewell dinner on 25 August 2014 for his Excellency the Consul General of Egypt Mr Ayman Kamel and his wife Mrs Ghada Kamel at St Anthony's Coptic Church, Guildford.

Attending this special farewell dinner were representatives of most of the Coptic churches and its committees. His Grace Bishop Daniel welcomed Mr

Ayman Kamel and his wife upon their arrival. Mr John Nour spoke about the relationship between the Consulate General of Egypt and the Diocese of Sydney. He discussed the excellent relationship and co-operation between Mr Kamel and the Coptic Church in Sydney and how Mr Kamel had been very supportive of the church and Egyptians during his four-year posting as Consul General. Mr Nour said, "Mr Kamel is an

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THE DORMITION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Bl. John of Kronstadt

“Magnify O my soul, the honourable Translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven.” (Refrain for the 9th Ode of the Canon)

Let us be happy, beloved brothers and sisters that we belong to the Holy Orthodox Church, worthily and rightly glorifying the Most Holy Sovereign Theotokos on this eminent day out of all the days of the year with special solemnity. There exists on earth many societies and entire governments that do not consider the need nor the obligation to call upon and glorify the Queen of heaven and earth, the Mother of Our Divine Lord Jesus Christ, and other saints and angels; to submissively serve Her lovingly, as the true Mother of God. Sadly in Russia nowadays we have heretics (among us) who actively dishonour the Mother of God, the saints, their icons, their relics and their festivals. O, if only they also unanimously with us glorified the worthy Queen of heaven and earth!

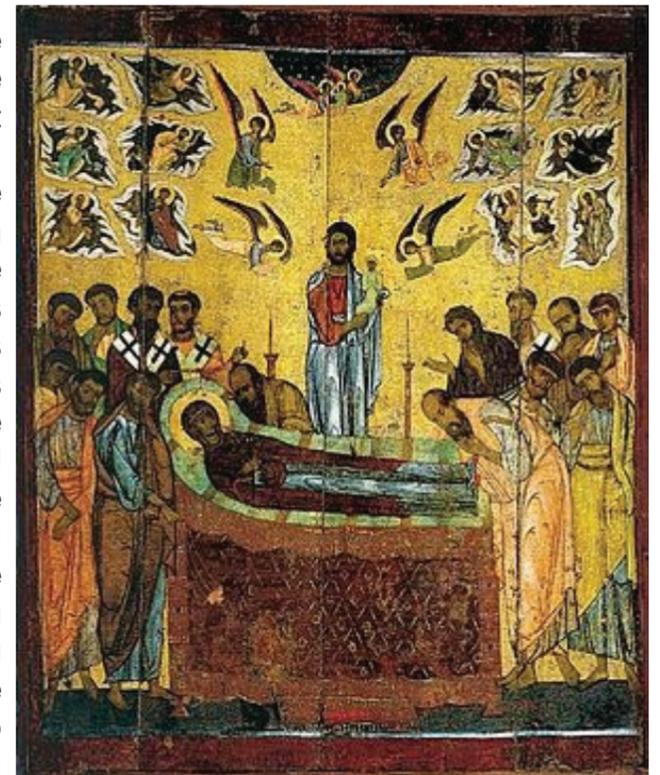
Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honourable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation - she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honourably buried, and on the

third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the centre of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.

We say that our dead have “fallen asleep” or “passed away.” What does this mean? This means that for the true Christian there is no death. Death was conquered by Christ on the cross. But there is a translation, i.e. a rearrangement of his condition, i.e. his soul is in another place, in another age, in another world beyond the grave, eternal, without end, that is what is meant by “falling asleep”. It is as if it were a temporary dream after which, by the voice of the Lord and the fearful yet wonderful trumpet of the Archangel, all the dead shall live and come forth each to his place: either to the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:29). This is what the Christian means by translation. We should be ready for this translation, for the day of the general resurrection and judgement, for this indescribable world event, recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

This preparation for the meeting of the heavenly King before the dread judgement seat, after death, is essentially the person’s preparation throughout the whole of his life. This preparation means a change in all his thoughts, and the moral change of all his being, so that the whole man would be pure and white as snow, washing clean everything that defiles the body and spirit, so that he is adorned with every virtue: repentance, meekness, humility, gentleness, simplicity, chastity, mercifulness, abstention, spiritual contemplation, and burning love for God and neighbour.

Our preparation for meeting the heavenly King, and for the inheritance of eternal life in heaven, should consist of these things. The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact the human soul is more spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in



it and will fill it with Himself. “We will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23), says the Lord about the souls who love Him.

And so, ye participants in the Christian feasts, and especially the present feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, ye who are brightly adorned with every virtue and translated to the heavenly kingdom, to Her Son and God, proclaim to each and every one about preparing their souls to be the dwelling place of the Lord, about continual repentance, and about the incorruptible adornment of Christian virtue. Let your death also be unashamed and peaceful, serving as the pledge of a good answer at the dread judgement seat of Christ. Amen.

INVITATION FOR NEW PRIEST ORDINATIONS

After receiving the blessings of Priesthood, the three ordained Priests will cover the service in NSW and QLD and will concentrate on the youth service in the Tertiary Education

(Universities & institutes). This important and happy occasion will take place during the Holy Liturgy on Saturday 13th of September 2014 at St. Antonious & St. Paul Church,

Guildford, located at 29 Bolton Street, Guildford NSW. The Holy Liturgy will commence at 8.30AM, followed by Aghapy with the entire congregation. We wish to welcome all of you to

this blessed ordination. May God bless you all. Bishop Daniel Bishop of the Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions.



Romans 8:35-39...

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long. We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. for I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels or principalities, nor powers nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Next week, we will celebrate the Feast of El Nayrouz, which is the start of the Coptic New Year 1731

And on this day, we honour those who offered their lives to the Lord as a sweet smelling sacrifice, by witnessing their faith, with great love and commitment.

And so, to remember these saints, and keep their message alive in our hearts every day, our church adopted a calendar called the "Calendar of Martyrs".

And because we love them so much, we number each year as being: "in the year of the martyrs."

Feast of El Nayrouz 1731

But I want to ask...what is martyrdom? Is it something that only happened in the past, to those who shed their blood for the sake of their beloved Lord Jesus?

Or is martyrdom something that can still be alive today?

In Greek, the word 'MARTYR' means 'TO WITNESS', and so this means that martyrdom is not only in the form of bloodshed, but in any way that makes us witness for the Lord. You can live the life of the martyrs by following in their steps of:

- having strong faith
- having courage
- having long-suffering
- and looking forward for eternal life.

All of these virtues we can achieve with God's grace

1. We can live the life of martyrdom today, through living a life of righteousness, and being a good example for others. In this way, we can be strong witnesses for the Lord.

For example, we see how the story of St Anthony, had a great affect on the people of Rome, and it became the reason for monasticism to spread there. Also, when St Augustine read the story of St Anthony, he was greatly affected, and this led him to repent.

2. We can live the life of martyrdom today, through living a life of repentance.

For example, we see how God was merciful to saints like St Moses the Black and St Mary the Egyptian, and many others. We see how God helped them in their struggle not to return to their sin again. Don't you think that this struggle is a form of martyrdom? Their repentant lives were a great witness to others, of their faith and love, and that's why their spiritual fathers (St Isidore and St Zocima), glorified God in them.

3. We can live the life of martyrdom today, through living a life of love for others.

For example, it was because St Bishoy was full of love, that the Lord gave him the blessing of seeing the Him. Also, it was because St Stephen the Archdeacon was full of love for his enemies, that God gave him the honour of seeing the glory of heaven.

The Lord said in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Don't you think that these people who are full of love, are the best witnesses for the Lord? Even the Lord Himself said, that love will be the sign that will differentiate you from others.

4. We can live the life of martyrdom today, through living a life of serving others.

And we have many examples... We have the example of Deacon Habib Girgis. He spent all his life serving the church and establishing the

Sunday School movement. He became a great witness for others that many wanted to be his disciples. One of them was a young man named Nazeer Gayed, who was the fruit of Habib Girgis's successful ministry.

Also the example of Fr Bishoy Kamel. This priest lived his whole life to serve others. He was a very effective witness to the Lord, and through his example, many people converted to Christianity, and many Christians repented and lived holy lives. Don't you think this life of service is a life of martyrdom?

And the list is long...

So what we can learn here, is that each one of us can make the life of martyrdom and witnessing, relevant in our lives every day, by living a life of purity and righteousness.

I wish you all a blessed Feast of El-Nayrouz through the intercessions of the Virgin St Mary, all the Martyrs and by the blessings and prayers of HH Pope Tawadros II, may the Lord keep his life for many years to come

Glory be to God Amen.

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

DIOCESE NEWS

DIOCESE OF SYDNEY'S FAREWELL DINNER TO EGYPT'S CONSUL GENERAL

by John Nour



honest and honourable man who loves Egypt and treats all Egyptians equally". Mr Gadalla Gadalla described Mr Ayman Kamel as "A legend who will be remembered for a long time". His speech was followed by another by Dr Emad Mohareb who said, "Mr Ayman's legacy will remain with

us for a long time". Dr Mohareb described him as a man of high achievement who loves helping everyone. His Grace Bishop Daniel spoke for about 30 minutes on the strong relationship between himself and Mr Ayman Kamel, for which he expressed appreciation. He thanked him for his support

during the very difficult time that Egypt and the church had suffered and he said "You are an honest person who is very committed to all Egyptians and who wants the best for Egypt". Mr Ayman Kamel thanked HG Bishop Daniel for the support His Grace had given him and the strong communication he had

had with the Church and the Coptic community. Mr Ayman said "Your Grace, I will never forget you or forget the love that you have shown my family and me over the past four years. You are my friend and I am honoured to have known you". Mr Kamel and his family returned to Egypt on 29 August 2014.

CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS OF THE EASTERN CHURCHES



On Tuesday 26th August and 2nd of September 2014, HG Bishop Daniel attended a Special Urgent Conference with the Council Bishops of Eastern Churches. The Conference discussed the painful situation of the Minorities in the Middle East. The Council condemned the brutal attack & genocides on Christian Minorities in the Middle East and mainly in Iraq, Syria and Egypt. The Council

questioned the recent horrific events and attempted to devise plans that would assist and aid these minority groups in their current struggles. The Council agreed unanimously that this issue must be raised with the correct government bodies in order to address this issue with a state of urgency. HG Bishop Daniel suggested that the council should send a very strong statement to political parties and the Australian

Government to explain this holocaust, mass murder and violence against Christians in the Middle East specifically in Iraq, Syria and Egypt. He also emphasised that the Australian Government has to take a strong stand against the fundamental Islamic groups which have recently emerged. HG Bishop Daniel also advised the Council that HH Pope Tawadros II and HG Bishop Rafael the General Secretary of

the Holy Synod have released a statement dated 22/08/2014 encouraging Bishops in the Lands of Immigration to raise awareness with their governing officials concerning the current situation in the Middle East. As a result of this statement HG Bishop Daniel presented the Council with a proposal of action items that could be taken by fellow church representatives.

TRIP TO TAREE – CENTRAL COAST



During the Fast of Our Mother Virgin May, HG Bishop Daniel prayed the Divine Liturgy on Saturday 16th August, at St. Anthony & St Paul Church, Guildford NSW, together with the V Rev Fr Tadros Simon, Rev Fr Macarius Ibrahim, Rev Fr Sorial Hanna and Rev Fr Yousef Fanous. The four fathers, deacons and congregation were blessed by HG's attendance and thanked him for blessing them during the Holy Fast of St. Mary.

On the evening of Saturday 16/08/14 HG Bishop Daniel together with V Rev Fr Tadros Simon arrived at Port Macquarie airport late at night and were

the entire congregation. HG also paid special attention to the children and invited them to show their talent by singing a hymn for St. Mary. The children



greeted and joined by Rev Fr Karas , who then accompanied them to Taree. On the blessed morning of Sunday 17/08/14 HG prayed the Holy Liturgy together with V Rev Fr. Tadros Simon and Rev Fr. Karas, at a rented hall in Taree. During the Holy Liturgy HG completed the ordinations of some Deacons from the Epsaltos

were happy and joyful to be part of the day, and while around HG, they felt they were an important part of the Church. HG also led the Reverend Fathers and congregation in praise for our mother Virgin St Mary. It was a blessed day for HG to visit and meet our Coptic Community in Taree, to attend to their spiritual needs in the



rank to Aughtnostos and from Aughtnostos to Epideacon. The congregation attended the Holy Liturgy that morning consisted of the Coptic Community of Taree, Coffs Harbor and Port Macquarie. HG and the Reverend Fathers shared an aghapy meal with the congregation afterward, then HG held a general meeting with

area and share a day of joy with them. The entire Community also joined in choosing a name for their Church, St. Mary & St. Pope Kyrillos VI Church which was decided by the whole congregation. They were all happy to be blessed with His Grace's and the Reverend Fathers.

HG BISHOP DANIEL TRIP TO SANGKALABOURIE - THAILAND SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 2014



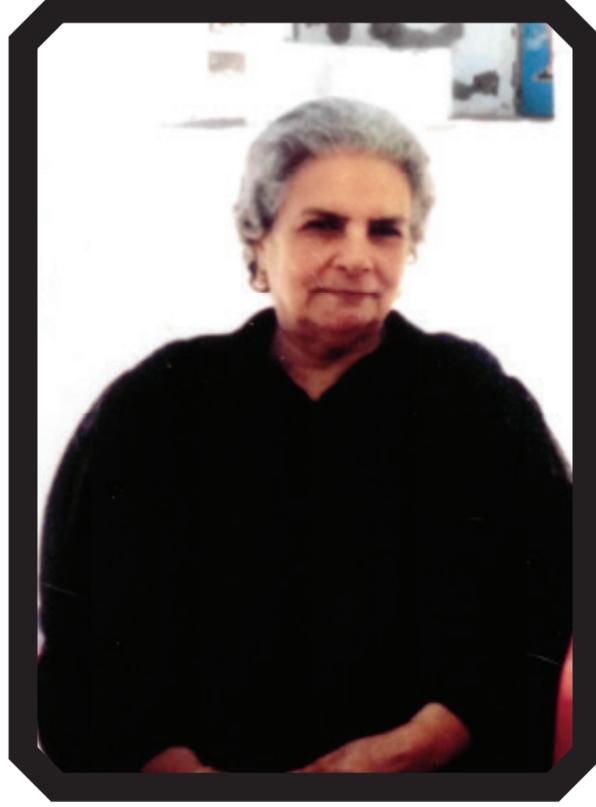
HG Bishop Daniel Bishop of the Diocese of Sydney and Its Affiliated Regions, together with V. Rev. Fr. Youhanna Bestawros prayed the Holy Mass at St. Mary Church at Welfare House-Sangkalabourie and some Coptic members from Thailand, attended and all joined in Holy

Communion with the spirit of love. HG Bishop Daniel then spent time with the Students and attended the Afternoon Devotion with them. It was a great opportunity for HG to get to know them on a personal level.



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لي اشتهاه أن أنطلق وأكون مع المسيح، ذاك أفضل جداً. (في ١: ٢٣)

انتقلت إلى الأمجاد السماوية بالقاهرة

الأم الحنونة البارة / فيبي سويحة تاوضروس

حرم المرحوم المهندس فوزي كيرلس تاوضروس ووالدة كل من الدكتور حشمت كيرلس بأستراليا والاستاذة الينا حرم الاستاذ بهاء رويس بنيو ساوث ويلز والاستاذة أوديت بأسوان حرم المرحوم الدكتور يسري رزق الله والاستاذة فيرا حرم الدكتور سمير أديب بلوس أنجلوس والاستاذ بطرس زوج الاستاذة ميرفت شاروبيم بأستراليا. وشقيقه المرحوم المحاسب رويس سويحة والمرحومة ماري والمرحومة نعمة وابنة عم المرحوم وليم كيرلس وصوفي واليس وعائدة والمرحوم توماس فيلبس والمرحوم مجدي والاستاذ أنيس وهدي وأمثال بالأقصر. وابنة خال القمص صرابامون رياض بالفيوم والمرحومين ميشيل والفى رياض والمرحومين عدلي وفرح وسعد رزق الله وابنة خالة القمص صرابامون الشايب والإهامي ونادي وعمة الاستاذ بهاء رويس بسيدني والمتنح القمص مينا رويس والقمص رويس بالمعادي والاستاذة نوال حرم القمص صرابامون والاستاذة سهير حرم المرحوم الدكتور وصفي إبراهيم والاستاذ فايق رويس. وخالة المهندس بنيامين بشيكاغو والمهندس نبيل بكندا والاستاذ أمير بسويسرا والمرحومة نادية والمهندسة فادية والمهندسة هيام بالأقصر والاستاذة إيفون عوض والاستاذ ناصف وعواطف.

وجدة كل من مينا بهاء وببشوي وكيرلس بهاء ، ويوحنا يسري والدكتور يوسف والدكتورة ماري حرم المحاسب رامي نبيل ، وبيتر سمير وأندرو وجون وماريان حرم جورج بطلوان . وكاترين بطرس وكالرا وليديا بأستراليا وفادي فوكيه وأخوته وجون وصفي وأخوته ومينا ضياء وأخوته ومريم فايق ونانسي وشيرين ونزار أمير . وجدة كل من ابرام مينا بهاء ولوسنده ببشوي بهاء ولوك ودميانة واليزابث يوحنا يسري. ودانيال وكيرية يوسف يسري وأن وماري وجورج رامي نبيل وونس أندرو وسمير وميريام جورج.

وقريبة نياقة الأنبا باخوم أسقف سوهاج

وقد شيعت الجنازة من كنيسة مارمرقص بالمعادي بتاريخ ٢٠١٤/٨/١٨ بصلوات وبركة أب الأباء قداسة البابا المعظم الأنبا تاوضروس الثاني ونياقة الأنبا دانيال أسقف المعادي.

The guest from above
I was honoured that she was part of my life
she was the best thing that comes a long in your life that changes you
You will be truly missed
She always taught me to how to pray
I always see her with a heavenly sweet smile
In the times where she was in a lot pain I would see her praying and reading her bible and Agpeya

She has finished the good fight

"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". (II Timothy 4:7-8 NKJV)

From your grandson Kirolos sewiha

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE



On 24th August 2014, the Parish of Pope Kyrillos VI and Archdeacon Habib Guirguis Coptic Orthodox Church celebrated the first Holy Liturgy and laying of the Foundation Stone at the new land that the church has recently purchased. This historical event began in the evening of the 23rd August 2014, where the Vespers service was held on site. It was then followed by the celebration of the Holy Liturgy in which the congregation was blessed by the attendance of His Grace Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Sydney and its affiliated regions and His Grace Bishop Danial, Abbot of St Shenouda Monastery, Putty.

Liturgy, the ritual of the "Laying of the Foundation Stone" commenced. With the presence of HG Bishop Daniel and HG Bishop Danial, together with the honorable Fathers, Rev. Fr Basillious Gad, Rev. Fr Yousef Fanous, Very Rev. Fr Samuel Guirguis, Very Rev. Fr Mikhail Mikhail, Rev. Fr Daoud Naguib, Rev. Fr Abdelmassih Gergis and Rev. Fr Shenouti Gobran.

Before the stone was placed a box with several items were placed inside and locked. The items in the box included a Declaration in both arabic and english, describing the events of the day which was signed by the two attending bishops. It also contained two currencies,

one from Australia and one from Egypt. A cross was also placed signifying that Christ is the foundation of our faith and the foundation that this church will be built upon. An image of the Two saints of the church, as well as a copy of the "Spring of Love" Magazine from this day.

As a delegation of deacons from the St Athanasius School of Hymnology and Liturgical Theology chanted the hymn of Glorification "Axios..." the Bishops together with the members of clergy proceeded to close the foundation stone, by placing bricks on top and cementing them down. They then placed a commemorative plate on top and the ceremony

was completed as the women filled the area with ecstatic ululations ('zagareet') of joy.

The night then commenced with a harbour cruise that contained a programme for the night that was delightful and sincerely enjoyed by all.

The church committee would sincerely like to thank His Grace Bishop Daniel and His Grace Bishop Danial for blessing us with their presence on this monumental event. An extended thanks also goes to the Reverend fathers who attended and all those who worked tirelessly to make this event successful, may the Lord of all good bless you with heavenly rewards.





25th ANNIVERSARY GALA
CELEBRATING 30,000 CHILDREN EMPOWERED




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Honoring the Promise

An Evening Celebrating the Children of Egypt

GUEST OF HONOUR
NICK KALDAS APM
Deputy Commissioner NSW Police Force

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014 ~ 5:30PM
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DRESS: FORMAL

ADULT: \$125* CHILD UNDER 12: \$65*

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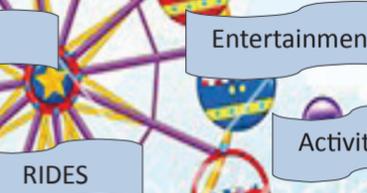
**All proceeds will go directly to our field programs in Egypt*



ST MARY & ST MINA'S COLLEGE
ANNUAL SCHOOL FETE


















All Day Rides \$30 or Pre Purchase your ticket from the school office and pay \$25

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2014
11.00 am-5:00 pm
Corner Bayview St, and Forest Rd, Bexley

“HOW I STOOD UP TO ISIS ON SATURDAY, 2ND AUGUST 2014”



Following the successful turnout on Saturday, 2nd August 2014 by Christian communities across Sydney to show their support of the persecuted Christian minority in Iraq following the horrific onslaught of ISIS, the ACM came across a proud young man wearing the infamous white ‘We are N’ t-shirt who appeared to not be of Middle Eastern

decent. Raphael Saccasan is a proud young Christian family man who came out in support of his Christian brothers in the Middle East. We asked him why, being an individual who grew up in Australia and has never faced persecution for his faith, decided to give up a beautiful Saturday morning to stand in solidarity

against the injustices of his brothers and sisters thousands of kilometres away. Here’s how Raphael responded... Why did I, as a person on the other side of the world, who has never been physically persecuted for my faith, why did I feel the need to protest the genocide of my Christian brothers and sisters? These are people who I do not

know, whom I have never met and likely will never ever meet in the future, and I am not even remotely related to them by blood.

I went because Christ commanded me to go. Because He commanded me; feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, and He gave a promise that “whoever does this for the least of these does this for me”. I believe that it is impossible to feed the hungry, or clothe the naked, or visit the imprisoned if you do not give a voice to those who cannot speak.

I am currently studying law at the University of Notre Dame, Australia. It is an excellent institution and I am proud to go there. One of the primary reasons I study Law is that deep down I want justice. I want justice for myself and others, and where people cannot have justice I want to bring it to them. I want to help people when they need help, to protect the weak,

and to speak for those who do not have a voice. It is a passion that is very close to my heart. Right now, in Iraq and Syria, there are thousands who are weak, vulnerable, and in need of help. The most distressing part is that they have no voice; they have no one to speak for them, no one to draw attention to their suffering. There are countless atrocities going on in the world right now. All you have to do is turn on the news and you will see them but NO ONE is talking about the genocide of Christians in Iraq and Syria. Not a single mainstream media source will speak the word 'Christian' when talking about the atrocities being committed by ISIS. The protest in Sydney was a chance, an opportunity, to give a voice to a voiceless people. It was a chance to speak up for my Christian Brothers and Sisters, a chance to speak up for my family in Mosul. My experience on the day of the protest was completely overwhelming. My wife and I arrived at 9am and grabbed a coffee to warm ourselves up. We headed over to the park where the protest was beginning. I was expecting to see maybe

200 or 300 people. What I saw were 3000 loud and passionate Christians (I found out later that the crowd reached a size of over 9,000 people however, my wife and I were not there to see this, my wife is pregnant with our first child and we had to leave at 12 o'clock to go and pick up our first baby cot). I was completely blown away not only by the size of the crowd but also by the attitude of those present. Everyone there was passionate and excited but they were also peaceful. I was very impressed to see a variety of flags in the crowd; I was especially pleased to see Australian flags in the crowd.

There was a man holding a sign at the protest, I thought what he had written was so powerful I took a photo of him holding it. The sign read "YOUR SILENCE IS DEAFENING". On Saturday August 2nd, we, all of us, we were no longer silent. It might not end the violence, it might not even make world leaders pay attention but at least we can say we were there on August 2nd! We did something and we were not silent!

Perhaps the greatest part, in my opinion, were the chants

going around the park. To me it highlighted the difference Christianity makes to a person's life. Unlike me, many of the people attending the protest would have a relative in Iraq or Syria affected by the violence (or they would at least know someone who had a relative). Despite this, the chants that were going around the park were "we want freedom", "we want equality", "equality between men and women", "we want human rights", "God Bless Australia", and "Salvation through Christ". Not once was there a call to violence! This showed me that Christ's message of love had found a home in all of the people present at the protest, that His message made a real difference to people's lives. It would have been completely understandable for anyone to call out for the heavens to open up and meteors to rain down on ISIS. However, no one did that, instead, we prayed for peace. This demonstration of Christian love sends a powerful message to the world. It shows that we as Christians do live up to Christ's command to 'turn the other cheek'. Hopefully this example of love will inspire people to

come to know Christ.

What I learned from my experience at the protest was that we as Christians can make a difference through peaceful means. Prior to the protest practically none of the media outlets were talking about the massacre of Christians by ISIS but by raising awareness over Facebook and by organising the protests, we have now gained media attention. The job isn't finished yet but at least we have the ball rolling.

The protest also reminded me of the need to pray. We must pray constantly and at many times during the day. We must pray for our Christian brothers and sisters but we must also do as Christ commands and pray for those who persecute us. We should pray for the conversion of ISIS.

The only real way to prevent this sort of massacre from happening again in the future is to remove hate from the situation and replace it with Christ's love. Overall, I am incredibly glad I went. It was a blessing to attend this event and I will always remember it

OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

By Jonathan Hanna

When you think about it, all of us aim to achieve one specific end. We relate to it a lot but a great many of us fail to comprehend its true meaning. Attempt to guess what I'm talking about. If I were to say; I need this then I will be (omitted) or if I get this job then I will be (omitted). Any guesses? Correct Happiness. All of us seek happiness as one of the main purposes or callings in our lives. But we all go about it the wrong way. One thing we must clarify is that the world cannot offer us our happiness. What the world offers is utility, or in other words satisfaction which is merely dynamic pleasure. According to the Greek philosopher Epicurus, dynamic pleasure is pleasure that is ultimately accompanied by pain. For example, everyone must eat and eating food can be enjoyable. But as you eat, and should you overindulge, you would have stomach pains as a result. Any pleasure that has

an end in pain or the removal of the aforementioned pleasure would cause pain is a dynamic pleasure. As everything in the world is in fact temporal, that is to say has an end, as opposed to being eternal, every form of happiness the world has to offer is a dynamic pleasure. Some people might argue that having a very good friend or friends will give you happiness but no friend is eternal and will eventually pass away causing you pain which again would make friendship a dynamic pleasure.

This leads to my next point. If nothing finite can grant happiness than the only alternative to that is something that is infinite. And of course we all know that the only infinite being (in and outside of creation) is God. This follows that only being with God and having God with you grants happiness.

To illustrate my argument I would like to bring an example from the Old Testament. This

illustrious example would be the story of Job. Now people might say that the story of Job is one solely of faith and faithfulness to God, but I believe that one of the core underlying principles is what gives a person happiness. I'll just give a brief summary of the story.

Job and his wife were both very wealthy and owned hundreds of livestock, lived a comfortable life and had many children. Pretty much everything they could've asked for. Job was a God fearing man and was spiritual and observed all his duties in relation to God and both he and his wife were happy. Then Satan came to God and said I can make your servant Job stumble merely by taking away the gifts that you have given to him. God allowed Satan to trouble Job and he and his wife lost everything. They lost their land, wealth, livestock, health and even their children all died. Throughout all these tribulations, however,

Job remained happy while his wife was incredibly unhappy - repeatedly urging Job to give up, curse God and die. The only difference between Job and his wife was that Job still loved God and said God has given and he can also take away.

This shows us that unlike the common preconception happiness does not come from any outside source. Happiness comes from within us because God resides within us.

In conclusion, God is the one who grants eternal happiness and all you have to do is be near him. Nothing the world has to offer can compare to it or last anywhere near as long.

All I ask of you is that you take this into consideration and reevaluate your goals and your way of viewing the concept of happiness. Thank you for your time.

HG BISHOP DANIEL TRIP TO QLD



On Friday 29th of August 2014, HG Bishop Daniel arrived at the Gold Coast Airport for a pastoral visit to the churches in the state of QLD. HG started his pastoral visit with the Youth of St. Mina & St. Anthony Church, at the Gold Coast.



On the blessed Sunday 31st of August 2014, HG Bishop Daniel prayed the Holy Liturgy at Virgin Mary Church, Brisbane, in the presence of a hundred families. During the Holy Liturgy HG Ordained some Deacons. HG announced that we should pray for the Lord to have mercy on us all and grant peace and wisdom to the world especially in the Middle East, and also for the Lord to extend his healing hands over our two beloved Metropolitans, Anba Bakhomious, Metropolitan of Boheira and Anb Mikhail, Metropolitan of Assiut.

HG joined the Church Committee and some of the congregation in Aghapy, and then attended a meeting with them to follow up with the needs of the Coptic Community in the state of QLD.



On Saturday 30th of August 2014, HG Bishop Daniel prayed the Holy Liturgy at St. Mary and St. Anthony's Monastery together with V Rev Fr. Moussa El Antony, Rev Fr. Mattaous Wahba, Rev Fr Gabra Bourhany from the Eritrean Orthodox Church, followed by a meeting with the Monastery Committee regarding the service at the Monastery.



HG prayed the Vespers at St. Mark & St. George Church, North Brisbane, together with V Rev Fr. Moussa El Antony and Rev Fr. Mattaous Wahba, followed by a meeting with the congregation then Aghapy.

HG visited a sick Church member at the hospital with the presence of his family. He also visited other members of the Church with the presence of V Rev Fr. Moussa El Antony, Rev Fr. Mattaous Wahba and Rev Fr. Gabra Bourhany.

HG held a Priests meeting to follow up with the spiritual service and the needs of the congregation in the State of QLD.