



EL-MANARA

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

COPTS' NEWS



22nd Baramhat 1733

30th April 2017

Volume 1, Issue 219

Volume 2, Issue 121

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

Find this issue online at
www.elmanara.org.au



NEXT ISSUE:
28th May 2017

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
22nd May 2017

ST. MARK COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH IN KUWAIT



بابا السلام في مصر السلام
POPE OF PEACE IN EGYPT OF PEACE

HIS HOLINESS POPE TAWADROS II MAKES HOLY MYRON OIL





FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 16 APRIL 2017 EASTER MESSAGE

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE HAS RISEN!!

To the Reverend Fathers, the Priests, the Monks, the Nuns, the Cosecrated sisters, the Deacons, the Church Committees, the Servants, the Youth and all the members of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions.

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, Grace, peace and mercy from Christ who is risen in glory!

Pikhrastos Aftonf! Khristos Anesti! Al Masih Kam! Christ is Risen!

I would like to acknowledge before I begin the traditional custodians of the land.

On this great and glorious day of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, the Feast of Feasts of our Holy Coptic Orthodox Church, And in light of the difficult circumstances that surround our Mother church in Egypt allow me to share with you excerpts from the tenth Paschal Epistle of St Athanasios the apostolic to his congregation for the Feast of the Resurrection of 338AD whilst the church suffered events similar to those occurring now.

"God, who is good, multiplied His loving-kindness towards us, not only when He vouch-safed to us by His Word the common salvation of us all; but also now, when enemies have persecuted us, and have sought to seize upon us. For the might of man and of all creatures, is weak and poor; but the Might which is above man, and uncreated, is rich and incomprehensible, and hath no beginning, but is eternal. It does not, then, possess one method only of healing; but, being rich, it works in divers manners for our salvation by means of His Word, Who is not restricted or hindered in His dealings towards us; Oh! my dearly beloved, if we shall

gain comfort from afflictions; if rest from labours; if health after sickness; if after death there is immortality; it does not become us to be much distressed by the temporal ills that afflict man-kind. It is not right to be greatly moved because of the trials which befall us. It is not right to fear if the host! that contended with Christ, should



conspire against godliness; but we should the more please God through these things, and should consider such matters as the probation and exercise of a virtuous life. For how shall patience be looked for, if there have not previously been labours and sorrows? Or how can experience be afforded of fortitude, when there has not first been an assault from enemies? Or how can a spectacle of fortitude be exhibited, when contumely and injustice have not preceded? Or how can long-suffering be expected, when opposition on the part of Antichrists has not first existed? And, finally, how can a man hope to witness virtue, when the iniquity of the very wicked has not previously displayed itself? Thus even our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ comes before us [as an example], when He would show men how to suffer; was willingly led to death, that we might behold in Him the image of all that is virtuous.

Thus, too, Paul, while he conducted himself after the example of the Lord, also exhorted us, saying, "Be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). In this way, he prevailed against all the host of the devil, writing, "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ." Romans 8:38-39.

What is our role my brethren but to praise and give thanks to God, the King of all? And let us first exclaim in the words of the Psalms, Ps. 124,26. "Blessed be the Lord, Who hath not given us over as a prey to their teeth". Let us keep the feast in that way which He hath consecrated to us for salvation — the holy day of Easter — so that we may celebrate the feast which is in heaven with the angels. Thus, anciently, the people of the Jews, when they came out of affliction into a state of ease, kept the feast, singing a song of praise for their victory... Therefore let us also, performing our vows to the Lord, and confessing our sins, keep the feast to the Lord, in conversation, moral conduct, and manner of life; praising our Lord, Who hath chastened us a little, but hath not utterly failed and forsaken us...; on this account especially I both give thanks to God myself, and exhort you to thank Him with me and on my behalf, this being the Apostolic custom, which these opposers of Christ, and the Schismatics, wished to put

an end to, and to break off. The Lord did not permit it; but both renewed and preserved that which was ordained by Him through the Apostle, so that we may keep the feast together, and together keep holy-day, the one with the other, according to the tradition and commandment of the fathers.

For when we have first meditated properly on these things, we shall attain to be counted worthy of those which are eternal, through Christ Jesus our Lord, through Whom to the Father be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen".

We ask our Lord, the Risen King of Glory to keep for us the life of our honorable father and shepherd, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II. May the Lord grant him many years of faithfully caring for our beloved Coptic Orthodox Church. We also ask the Resurrected King to preserve the lives of our Fathers their Eminences the Metropolitans and our Fathers their Graces the Bishops of the Coptic Orthodox Holy Synod. May the Lord preserve their lives for many years and peaceful times to come. And we pray the Resurrected Lord to bless our Mother land Egypt and our blessed land Australia.

To Him who is our light, our life, our peace and our joy, be the Power, the Glory the Dominion, the Majesty now and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

Please pray for me

Glory be to the Lord forever, Amen.

Bishop Daniel

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions

Pikhrastos Aftonf! Khristos Anesti! Al Masih Kam! Christ is Risen!



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



THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH, SEE OF ALEXANDRIA. DIOCESE OF SYDNEY AND ITS AFFILIATED REGIONS. STATEMENT FROM THE DIOCESE ABOUT THE TWO ATTACKS IN TANTA AND ALEXANDRIA IN PALM SUNDAY 9TH OF APRIL 2017

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Romans 8:35

On 9 April 2017, whilst Christians around the world celebrated Palm Sunday, the minority Coptic Orthodox Christians in Egypt suffered yet another barbaric attack in the form of two consecutive bombings targeting them as they prayed: the first attack happened in Tanta and the other was in Alexandria, The first suicide bombing occurred inside the St George Cathedral in Tanta killed 31 adults, children and wounded 71 adults and children.

Families, including children, were enjoying the joyous tunes of Palm Sunday as they prayed at the Cathedral of St. George in Tanta, when the cowardly bomb blast hit causing devastation. Whilst dealing with the shock and devastation of this attack, a second attack hit at St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria a short time later in the same day, where His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria & Patriarch of the See of St Mark, was praying. This further barbaric attack saw more innocent lives of families and children catastrophically lost. This second suicide

bombing attack occurred right outside St Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria killed 17 adults, children and wounded 40 adults and children.

The recent suicide bomb attacks on Coptic Churches in Egypt are a tragedy. They strike at the very heart of what we hold most dear – the freedom of worship.

The Coptic community of Sydney, and the wider Coptic communities, is saddened by the magnitude of this loss and devastation, in particular the loss of lives and the undoubtedly permanent damage caused to those injured, and those families who have suffered a loved one. The Coptic Orthodox community, all the Christians and other religions around the world are united, as Coptic Christians, grieve again the loss of innocent lives, caused by cowardly acts of terrorists.

"The multitude had come to the Feast and took branches of Palm Trees and went to meet Our Lord crying "Hosanna" instead the Lord welcomed them in His Heavenly Bosom...." Quote from Media Release of Council of Bishops of Eastern Churches in Australia & New Zealand.

We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ may keep the life of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, His Grace Bishop Paula, Bishop of Tanta and all the members of the Holy Synod, and comfort the hearts of those families affected, and grant peace, patience for all

Christians and all our brothers in humanity.

We pray to God to support the president of Egypt His Excellency Mohamed Abdel Fatah El Sisi for his immediate actions after the events, we pray to God to grant him the power to continue building new Egypt full of love and peace. May the Almighty God keep Egypt – the blessed land-, safe always.

These suicide bombings are an abomination and we condemn these cowardly attacks in the strongest possible terms. The evil perpetrators behind this sadistic hatred stand condemned for these shocking atrocities as no real religion call for killing people.

We ask that the Lord may forgive those responsible for these heinous crimes, and open the eyes of anyone who supports such terrorist barbaric acts, to repent and to see the unintended effect of their actions and the suffering they cause to those families who have lost a loved one.

The persecution and suppression of Coptic Christians is tragically not uncommon. For centuries, we have been targeted but our resolve will overcome the most testing of times. We will not be broken.

We pray that they see that these actions will only build the resolve of Christians to continue strong and united in their faith.

The Diocese of Sydney &

Affiliated Regions express thanks to the Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, to the Leader of Opposition The Hon Bill Shorten MP, to The Primer of NSW, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, to the Leader of the Opposition in NSW, The Hon. Luke FOLEY, MP and to all those who expressed their love and support to Egypt and to the Coptic Orthodox Church.

As we mourn and share in the feelings of loss of our brothers and sisters, the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions, this Easter will only celebrate the ritual celebration of the Resurrection Feast on April 16, 2017. As a mark of respect to the victims, there will be no other celebrations or congratulations for the feast this year.

While we are celebrating the joyful Feast of Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Sunday 16 April 2017, we will be mourning the innocent lives that were lost in Egypt by receiving condolences at St Mary & St Mina Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Bexley, 339 Forest Road, BEXLEY, from 11am – 1pm.

We lift our hearts in prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ may bestow His peace upon Egypt and the whole world.

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



“THE BREAD OF LIFE”

2ND SUNDAY OF THE HOLY PENTECOST GOSPEL READING : JOHN 6:35-45

Today is the 2nd Sunday of the Holy Pentecost, and each of the gospel readings during the 7 weeks of Pentecost, tells us about an important gift resulting from the Lord's holy crucifixion and resurrection. Today, the gospel reading is teaching us about our Lord Jesus being the True Bread.

We partake of this True Bread each time we have the Holy Communion, or the Holy Eucharist. Each time we have the Holy Eucharist we are confirming the message of the cross, His death, His resurrection and His ascension. As we mention in the Liturgy: “For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you preach My death, confess My resurrection and remember Me till I come”.

“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE ... WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN”

The Lord always spoke about Himself as being “Bread”;

□ Bread gives nourishment and support to the body, just as Christ who is our spiritual bread gives life and nourishment to our souls.

□ As the Living Bread, He gives life unto the world : both spiritual and eternal life; it is the life of the soul in union and communion with God here on earth, and there in the hereafter, and it is a life that is full of happiness.

□ The manna which the Israelites ate in the wilderness, only gave them nourishment, but it did not preserve their life forever. But our beloved Lord Jesus Christ gives life to those who are dead in sin.

□ The manna was given only for the life of the Israelites, but Christ is given for the life of the world; and none are excluded from the benefit of this Bread – except those who want to exclude themselves.

□ That He is the bread which came down from heaven, and represents:

1. The divinity of Christ. As God, He dwelt in heaven, and came down to take our nature in order to carry out a divine

commission.

2. He is the source of our nourishment and goodness.

3. His coming down to us implies a constant communication of light, life, and love, from God to the believers through Jesus Christ, in the same way as the manna descended daily.

4. As the True Bread, those who believe in Him shall never hunger or thirst. Those who ate manna, and drank from the rock, hungered and thirsted afterwards. But in Christ there is an over-flowing fullness that will never be exhausted, and there is ever-flowing communications from Him that can never be interrupted.

5. As the True Bread, those who believe in Him shall never die – meaning, that they shall not die eternally, but they shall have the assurance and the promise and the fruits of everlasting life. In our life today, we have already experienced a taste of this everlasting life, through our union and communion with Christ – this is the beginning of our everlasting life.

6. As the True Bread, those who believe in Him, shall live forever. The Israelites who ate the manna in the wilderness, died and perished, but those who eat the spiritual manna – which is the Lord Christ being the True Bread, will live forever in eternity.

“EVERYONE WHO SEES THE SON AND BELIEVES IN HIM MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE”

What does it mean to believe in Christ?

□ To believe in Christ means to come to Christ. Repentance towards God is coming to Him, as it is mentioned in Jeremiah “Return to Me” (Jer. 3:22). So faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ is coming to Him as our king and Saviour, and our way to the Father.

□ It is to show our affection towards Him – to come to Christ is to ‘come away’ from all those things that stand in opposition to Him or competition with Him, and to ‘come up’ to those things

upon which life and salvation are offered to us through him.

□ It is to feed upon Christ with appetite and delight, that we may receive life, and strength, and comfort from Him. We must feed upon Him as the Israelites did on the manna.

“THE ONE WHO COMES TO ME I WILL BY NO MEANS CAST OUT”

The Lord in His love, is also giving us another honour – that if we come to the Lord through faith, He will not send us away.

i. Our beloved Lord welcomes all those who come to Him. How welcome this word should be to our souls that Christ Himself welcomes us! And by using the ‘singular’ word in “the one who comes to Me”, the Lord is giving each one of us a special and individual message. He not only cares about the church being a body of believers, but He is showing how each one of us is precious in His sight.

The Lord tells us that if we come to Him, He “will by no means cast out”. The Lord is expressing His great favour and love towards us. Even though we have reason to fear because of our weaknesses, the Lord assures us that He will not reject us. He will receive us, and dine with us, and give us everything that we come to Him for.

As the True Bread of Life, He offered His body to be broken, and His blood, which is True Drink, to be shed for the life of the world. Through the wonderful story of redemption that was made possible through His holy death and resurrection.

To eat His body and drink His body, involves more than just partaking of the Holy Communion...

□ it means believing in Christ

□ and it means, that as we partake of Christ through the Holy Communion, we also partake of His benefits by faith. Believing in Christ includes

these important things:

- It implies we want to apply ourselves to Christ. Food will not nourish us if we only look at it. It will only nourish us if we feed upon it, and so we become one with the food we eat

- It implies we delight in Christ and in His salvation. The doctrine of Christ crucified and resurrected is our food and drink, and it is very pleasant and delightful. And so we must feast upon the words of the gospel.

- It implies that He is the source of our nourishment and we depend upon Him for the support and strength of our spiritual life.

- To feed upon Christ is to do everything in His name, and be in union with Him. It is to live upon Him, and nourish our souls with Him, as we nourish our bodies with food.

We can have no spiritual life unless it is derived from Christ by faith. Faith in Christ is the first principle of grace; without it we cannot have the truth of spiritual life, or any claim to eternal life.

THE BENEFITS...

1. We shall be one with Christ, as our bodies are with our food when it is digested: “He who eats My Body and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him”. By faith we have a close union with Christ. As believers, we dwell in Christ as our stronghold or city of refuge; Christ dwells in us as the master of the house, to rule it and provide for it. Such is the union between Christ and believers – He shares in their sorrows, and they share in His graces and joys. It is a union that cannot be separated – just like the body and the digested food.

2. We shall live eternally. True believers receive this divine life because of their union with Christ.

May this always be the desire of our souls, that we taste that the Lord is good, and may we always feast upon the word of God, and the Word which is God. May this True Bread be our daily bread and our continual feast, and may we never be separated from it.

DIOCESE NEWS

Papal Visit 2017

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

- 1) Registering your details either electronically or manually.
- 2) A Church Membership Card with your photo will be printed.
- 3) The Church membership card to be collected at your Church.


you need to complete your registration by 14/5/2017 to allow enough time for printing & distribution of the cards.

MANUAL REGISTRATION PROCEDURE


- 1) Collect a form from your Church
- 2) Fill in the form as per your driver's license or passport
- 3) Attach a photo of yourself, your spouse and children under the age of 15.
- 4) Hand in your completed form to your Church Treasurer.
- 5) No forms will be accepted after 14/5/2017

For all enquiries please contact the treasurer at your Church

**ATTACH
PHOTOS
HERE**



Coptic Orthodox Church
Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions
Papal Visit 2017



Church Membership Form (to be filled in by people 15 years and over)
Please fill in the information below in English and as shown on the Driver license or Passport.

Church: _____

Title: Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Master ☐ **Gender:** ☐ M ☐ F

First Name:

Last Name

Country Of Birth

Preferred Language

Confession Father
 (Optional)

Denomination Coptic Orthodox ☐ Other (Specify)

Disability (optional) Yes ☐ No ☐

Date of Birth: Day / Month / Year

Address

Street

Suburb

State

Postcode

Home Tel No: (0)

Mobile Tel: 0 4

Email address: _____

	First Name	Last Name	M/F	Date of Birth	Mobile No	Disability (Y/N) (Optional)
Spouse						
Child 1						
Child 2						
Child 3						
Child 4						
Child 5						

PLEASE FILL IN THE BACK OF THIS FORM AS WELL

We would like to attend the following functions:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sydney – Youth meeting – Friday evening
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sydney - Holy Liturgy – Saturday morning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sydney – General Reception – Saturday evening

Date, time and location of these events will be announced at a later date.

Privacy and Personal Information - Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

The Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions needs to collect, use and disclose personal information generally for pastoral and administrative purposes. Not providing us with this personal information may affect our ability to serve our Coptic congregation.

By providing your personal information to us you acknowledge and consent to:

- ✱ The collection and use of your personal information for the Sydney Diocese’s database for the Coptic Orthodox.
- ✱ The disclosure of your personal information on a confidential basis to the Coptic Patriarchate of Egypt, Bishop of the Coptic Sydney Diocese, priests, church committees, bodies and persons deemed concerned with the issue by the Bishop of the Coptic Sydney Diocese and representatives of these; and
- ✱ Where you provide personal information to us about another person, you are authorised to provide that information to us, and you will inform that person who we are, how we use and disclose their information, and that they can gain access to that information (unless doing so would pose a serious threat to the life or health of any individual).

DECLARATION

I acknowledge and consent to the collection, use and disclosure of my personal information as per the Privacy and Personal Information section above.

We declare that we have read and agree to the confidentiality clauses shown above.

Signature: ----- Date: -----/-----/ 2017

Spouse Signature:----- Date: -----/-----/ 2017

Priest Confirmation

Name: -----

Signature: ----- Date: -----/-----/ 2017



Ekhrastos Anesti, Alithos Anesti

On behalf of the NSW Coptic Schools Board, we would like to congratulate you on the Easter celebration. May we all enjoy the power of His Resurrection every day in our life *"that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death."* Philippians 3:10

We would like to share with you the following good news for both St Marks and St Mary & St Mina Colleges:

1. **Spiritual & Pastoral Services:** HG Bishop Daniel has issued a decree confirming the following Reverend Fathers to look after the Spiritual Services at the both Colleges from Term 2, 2017:

St. Mark (Wattle Grove)	
Fr. George Nakhil (Chaplain)	Fr. Antony Morgan
Fr. Basilious Gad	Fr. Joseph Ghattas
Fr. Mark Basily	Fr. Alexander Aziz
Fr. Thomas Dos	Fr. Suriel Hanna

St. Mary (Bexley Campus)	St. Mary (Rockdale Campus)
Fr. Shenouti Gobran (Chaplain)	Fr. Elijah Iskander (Chaplain)
Fr. Dawoud Najeeb	Fr. David Shehata
Fr. Joseph Ghattas	Fr. Mark Basily
Fr. Cyril Abdel Malek	Fr. Paul Fanous
Fr. Antony Morgan	Fr. Daniel Fanous

This means that there will be a priest available at all College campuses every day to provide the highest possible level of spiritual and pastoral care needed for every student to grow to love the Lord.

2. **Inspection / Lifting the monitoring:** the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), previously known as the Board of Studies (BOSTES), has communicated to the Board that there is no further monitoring required for both Coptic Colleges- St Mark and St Mary until the next inspection date of 2021. This is a huge step forward and has taken a lot of effort from the school's leadership, previous and current Boards. It is a vote of confidence that the systems and processes at both a governance level and operational level meet NESA's stringent requirements.

We will continue to keep you posted with all the other projects.

God bless

Maged Bector
Chair and Secretary of NSW Coptic Schools Board



Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales

Letter of Condolence

On behalf of NSW, I send my deepest condolences to the Coptic Orthodox Community after the barbaric Palm Sunday attacks in Alexandria and Tanta.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to your community in NSW and around the world who are mourning the deaths of innocent victims. The shockwaves are still being felt by all of us.

The principles that led those parishioners to Palm Sunday services in Alexandria and Tanta are the same values that bind us together in New South Wales. These include principles such as respecting shared values and allowing individuals to take part in religious and public life. They are values we shared during our recent Easter services, along with the celebrations of rebirth and resurrection.

NSW is home to thousands of dedicated Coptic Orthodox Christians, living in the peace and prosperity that generations of new migrant families have come to enjoy in our great State. That some members of our Coptic Community have family and friends directly affected by the attacks show the close links our community has with Egypt, which will be further demonstrated during the upcoming visit of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria in August this year.

I join with leaders in Australia and across the world in condemning these attacks and express our deepest sympathies to the Coptic Community in New South Wales and abroad.

Yours faithfully,

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier
Member for Willoughby

GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 ■ P: (02) 8574 5000 ■ F: (02) 9339 5500 ■ W: premier.nsw.gov.au

Continued next from last issue

THE BEAUTY OF ORTHODOXY I

by Bishop Angaelos

We, on the other hand, are opening more and more monasteries, and it's not just a numbers game. This is an indication of the spirituality we have received through our Church.

Some people say, "The Church is dead." That is not true – that which is dead does not give fruit. That which is dead does not produce. That which is dead does not bring forth life from death. These monasteries themselves are life in the deserts that are full of death and nothingness, but the prayers of the monks and nuns have brought the desert to life.

Because our church has these ascetic and ecumenical qualities, there is an interesting marriage between the two. The strength of teaching with the humility of

monasticism. While our worship, praise, prayers and rituals are so full of life and expression in the hymnology (from the ecumenical side), at the same time, they have undertones of respect, honor and calmness that come from the acetic side. Coming from that are our strong pursuits of contemplation and meditation and solitude.

As you know, because our rituals are so rich, we have a strong dependence on the worship and praise. Some people think of "praise and worship" as a twentieth-century phenomenon of the charismatic movement. Our Fathers have been worshipping in the catacombs since the first century, and in the monasteries since the fourth century. Our midnight praise is nearly the same as what our Fathers prayed in the fourth

century. Look at some of our beautiful, joyful hymns that bring the words to life. That is alive, it's not dead.

Why is the Coptic Orthodox Church so different from other churches, as people are so quick to point out? People say we look like we do not want to "move" or partake with anyone. We are different because we have characteristics that are different from other churches, that are true and pure and handed down to us. And we do not compromise on those – not our dogma, theology, or teaching – because, quite simply, they are not ours to compromise on. If I lend you my car, and then someone says, "This car is boring bishop's cars. Let's make it youthful, with spinning wheels, tints, spoilers, revved up engine, etc." You could not do that – it's not your

car with which to do that. We have received the teachings of our fathers only to hand them on to those who come after us, and they were initially given to us by the Lord and founded in Scripture. If we did not have this safeguard, anyone could change anything in the Church.

The Church IS progressive in the way it delivers the message. We give you this lecture talking your language, on your terms, using the latest technology and the means around us. That is fine – our Lord Himself spoke the people's language and used parables. So we can use these tools to be progressive in the way we deliver this message – but we cannot change the content, for it is not ours to change.

ST PAUL'S MISSION HOSTS SUCCESSFUL EASTER DINNER CELEBRATION FOR SYDNEY'S HOMELESS

By Andrew Hanna

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20:35



Thanks to the grace of God, St Paul's Mission, has yet again hosted another successful Easter Dinner for Sydney's homeless! Since the year 2000, St Paul's Mission has been serving the homeless of Sydney every Wednesday night. From very humble beginnings, the service has now flourished and serves over 180 homeless people across 5 different locations in Sydney's CBD: Wynyard Park, Woolloomooloo, Martin Place, 'Wood Chips' and Ward Park.

On Wednesday the 5th of April 2017, however, St Paul's Mission did not go and serve in the CBD, but rather it brought busloads of our brothers and Sisters in Christ

to St Pope Kyrillos VI and St Habib Girgis Church Monterey to host for them an amazing Easter dinner!

The evening commenced as church buses came in filled with multitudes of homeless people from different areas of the CBD being warmly welcomed by an entourage of servants who were ready to be their hosts for this special night! While our guests were enjoying the wonderfully prepared dinner, they were kept entertained by the youth conversing and keeping them company. Moreover, during the course of the dinner our beloved guests had access to a very generous free clothes display

which was set up on the Church grounds.

After dinner, our guests were escorted to the Church, where they enjoyed live performances by Nora one of the talented youth and the Coptic Diocese Choir Sydney. Also, our guests had the pleasure of watching some beautiful Easter Video presentations and also listened to some nice spiritual words from Fr Yousef Fanous, who spoke to them about the significance of Easter. The homeless were really appreciative of the talk given by Fr Yousef, and at the end of the talk a group photo was taken to remember this wonderful occasion. Furthermore, at the

end of the night each person received a nicely prepared Easter Gift Bag, filled with a handful of useful gifts to remind them of this wonderful event.

We would like to thank Fr Yousef Fanous and all the St Paul's Mission servants who attended - you helped make this Easter Dinner a wonderful and successful night! We strongly encourage the youth of Sydney to attend St Paul's Mission, we meet at 7:00pm every Wednesday night at St Pope Kyrillos VI and St Habib Girgis Church Monterey, 119 Barton St Monterey. Thank you to each and every one who helped. Happy Easter!



ST. MARK COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH IN KUWAIT



HIS HOLINESS POPE TAWADROS II MAKES HOLY MYRON OIL



The Art Of Iconography

A course run by St Luke's Iconography College



Course modules include:

- The art style of the Coptic Icon
- The painting style of the icon
- A historical account of the icon from the time of the Iron Age
- The meanings behind the icon
- The meanings and placement of the cross in the icon
- The meanings of colours in the icon
- The meanings of shapes in the icon
- The meanings of items pictured with the saints

Every Saturday starts Saturday 21/02/2015 at St Demiana & St Athanasius Coptic Church.
119 Highclere Ave, Punchbowl.
From 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Course is free of charge, however students are to supply their own materials.
For registration call Mr Alfred Kaldass on 0422 104 740 or Mrs Nelly Grace on 0404 739 140

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions

Saints Kosman & Demian Group of Love

Did you know, there is a service called **Group of Love**
Did you know, whom the family consist of
Did you know, they are a member of our congregation
Did you know, that our joy within the church is incomplete without them
Did you know, we meet & see the Christ within them
Did you know, their guardian angels stand before our father & the lord of hosts
Did you know, they are not in need of our service but rather we are in need to serve them
If you want to join the **Group of Love** and to know about this new service
Please contact Mr. Saed Awad
Mobile no: 0405 988 428

COCOS LOOKING FOR A NEW BASE



COPTIC ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICE

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Heb 13:2

Scan QR code for our latest video.

For Direct Deposits:

We are reaching out to our network and community for assistance in finding a temporary place to base our service. We are looking for somewhere with a semi-commercial kitchen to prepare our weekly meal every Tuesday that has storage space for our stock and equipment.

Bank: St George Bank
BSB: 112-879
Account No: 152760826 For cheques:

Make cheque out to 'Coptic Orthodox Community Outreach Service'
Mail to: COCOS
PO Box 362, CAMPSIE NSW 2194

We serve at Parramatta and City, and current kitchen is based at Guildford. If you need more information, or you know someone that may be able to assist please contact us on info@cocos.org.au or 0408110442.

Donations \$2 and above are tax deductible. ABN: 35 131 816 531
Please contact us on for more information.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/COCOOS/>



✠
Saint George Church 1-3A Bowral St Kensington
The Revival Program of Saint George the Roman
April / May 2017

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb 12:1)

From the saying of Thrice blessed Pope Shenouda III in following the footsteps of the martyrs and the saints :

+ [we need to imitate the saints in that which is possible for us. For example; the life of martyrdom may not be for us; but we may follow the steps of the martyrs in the strength of their faith, their courage, their endurance of sufferings, their readiness to eternity, not loving the world nor longing for any worldly ownership; all of these are possible for us.]

+ [We should not forget the influence of the saints. To succeed, think of the approaches of those who are successful, so they are always practical examples for you. Be strengthened by them, so you may come to know their methods of success in life, and the ways and means by which they have achieved it. These are examples of success in all facets of our life, the spiritual, and the social, family and private lives.]

The topic of the revival is: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Date	Holy Liturgy Morning	Vespers, Sermon & Glorification 7:00 - 9:30 PM??
Fri 20 Baramudah 1733 AD 28 April 2017 AM	+ 8:00 - 10:00 Fr Dawoud Lamei + 10:00 - 11:00 Aghabi + 11:00 - 1:00 spritual talk : Fr Dawoud Lamei	Combined youth meeting from St Mary, St Mark, Pope Kyrillos & St George
Sat 21 Baramudah 1733 AD 29 April 2017 AM	8:00 - 10:30 The fathers of the church	Fr David Shehatta
Sun 22 Baramudah 1733 AD 30 April 2017 AM	6:00 -8:30 Early Liturgy E&A 9:00 - 11:30 A Liturgy 8:30 - 11:00 E Liturgy	Fr Daniel Fanous
Mon 23 Baramudah 1733 AD 1 May 2017 2017 AM Feast of the Martyrdom of Saint George the Roman	8:30 - 10:30 The fathers of the church	

"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct" (Heb 13:7).

May the Lord keep you in full spiritual and physical health and strength.



St. Mark Nubian Foundation
(ACN 168 959 966 / ABN 29 168 959 966)
P.O.BOX 574 ST MARYS NSW 1790 TEL: 61-2-0410 285 118 FAX: 61-2-9833 9299
EMAIL ADDRESS: - "stmarknubianfoundation@gmail.com"

(For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men) "1 Peter 2:15"

"Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36)

We would like to inform you that your charitable organisation is about to lodge an application for full Accreditation. This means that after getting this full Accreditation; we can apply for grants from the Australia government to fund the developing projects in South Sudan as well as Sudan.

But one of conditions, set by the government is to transfer \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousands dollars) over the course of three years in order to receive this Accreditation.

Accordingly, we urge everyone in our Coptic community, to co-operate with us, give generously and send fund to Sudan through our organisation rather than sending it directly, so as to fulfil this condition earlier.

Kindly, assist us in spreading this information.

For your continuous and generous support, kindly forward your donation to:-

Swift Code: - SGBLAU2S
BSB: - 112-879
A'cc:- 493911231
A'cc Name: St. Mark Nubian Foundation
Bank Name:- St. George Bank

"And let us not grow weary while do good, for in due season we shall reap if we don't lose heart." (Galat 9:6)

"We can issue with our own Tax deductible Receipt"

**"He that pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord" (Pro 19:17)
(Heb 13:16)**

St. Mark Nubian Foundation Board of Directors:-

Fr. Youssef Fanous (Director & Presiding Member), Fr. Pishoi Botrous (Director & Vice President), Mobarak Alera (Director & Liaison Officer), and Emile Girgis (Director and



One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed. Proverbs 19:17

Needy Dinner Night

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE NEEDY

June 4 2017

Date: Sunday 4th June 2017

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Bowman Hall,
Campbell St., Blacktown

Ticket donations: \$30

SPIRITUAL PLAY

OPEN BUFFET DINNER

Q&A

For Donations:

St Mary & St George Charity, CBA

BSB: 062174

Acct #: 10016969

PRIZES TO WIN ON THE DAY

COME AND INVITE OTHERS

For enquiries or to purchase tickets, contact

Mina 0433 386 822 or Rasha 0414 361 404

St. Mary & St. Cosman & Demian Coptic Orthodox Church

Thank you for your continuous support.
God Bless you

Your donations will go towards the continuous improvements and completion of outstanding works for our new church. We look forward to seeing you there!

You're invited to join us for a night of food, fun, and fundraising to help support our new church.

St. Mary & St. Cosman & Demian Coptic Orthodox Church
Fundraising Dinner



Where
Glenwood Community Centre,
72 Glenwood Park Drive,
Glenwood, 2768

When
5.00pm, Sunday 21st May 2017

\$30 Per Person Donation

St Cyril's
COPTIC ORTHODOX
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Applications for 2016 close July

ACCREDITED

St Cyril's is accredited through the Sydney College of Divinity. FEE-HELP available. Enrol now, spots filling fast!

NEW DEGREES

New degrees on offer from Diploma to Masters of Theology. Includes both Undergraduate and Postgraduate studies

S2, 2016

Units available include introduction to Theology, New Testament, and Biblical Hebrew. Face to face or distance available

For more information go to <http://stcyriils.edu.au/>
e: registrar@stcyriils.edu.au fb: <https://www.facebook.com/stcyriils/>
a: 72 Wollongong Rd, Arncliffe, NSW 2205 p: (02) 9567 3076

NEEDY CHRISTIAN FUND

"Only in heaven will we see how much we owe to the poor for helping us love God better because of them." - Mother Theresa

Donate Now! Serve Egypt's Poorest

BASIC SUPPORT

Poor families will receive support for basic daily needs. We provide food, blankets, clothing, shelter and assist where possible to those in need. Money will go towards establishing an orphanage in Dar El Salam, we will also assist in building facilities to be used for disabled children in Alexandria.

PROJECTS

We fund projects such as developing farms where we purchase animals such as goats and chickens in order for families to become self sufficient. We also provide sewing machines, sell gas bottles and help families receive sustainable incomes.

MEDICAL

Money will be used to purchase medical equipment that is desperately needed. Plans are to establish a pathology and to purchase the following: Blood analysis equipment, Dialysis machines, Premature baby incubators, a dental chair and kidney x-ray machines.

EDUCATION

Money will be used to purchase a school bus for poor children in remote travelling lengthy distances. 20 ladies will undertake an 18 Month nursing course, serving in the Hagana Hospital. Computers will also be purchased for children.

Needy Christian Fund
BSB 062 199 | ACC 1012 8130

+61 02 8090 6915
info@nctf.org.au
http://www.nctf.org.au/

SUMMARY OF NCF SERVICE - From December 2016 To March 2017						
	Name of (Diocese / church)	Name of Requester	Phone	Kind Of Request	NCF Decision	Approved Amount (LE)
1	Sohag Diocese - St Mary, El asyrat (المسيرات)	Fr. Abakeer	1284797652	Medical	Aproved	30,000
2	Matay Diocese	Fr. Abd Elmotagaly		Eye Operatjion	Aproved	7,000
3	Assuit and Malaway	Fr. Antonios Shawky		Families Baice needs	Aproved	40,000
4	Bani Hashem - Beba	Fr Yaakoub	1227711142	TokTok	Aproved	10,000
5	Samaloutte Diocese	Fr. Abskhiroun Wadee	1277754221	Families Basic need	Aproved	20,000
6	El Behara Diocese	Fr David Labib	1227075188	Renovation 2 houses	Aproved	20,000
7	St Mary - Road El Farag	Fr Mekaël Ibrahim		Medical	Aproved	50,000
8	Sohag Diocese - St Mary, El asyrat (المسيرات)	Fr Abakier	1284797652	Building	Aproved	30,000
9		Mr Tharwat	1212744002		Aproved	5,000
10	St. Mary Bashteel Fawzy	Fr Sydarous	1225446148		Aproved	20,000
11	Various/Many	Mr Emil Grace		Blankets	Aproved	142,000
12	Various/Many			35 Marriages @ 5,000	Aproved	175,000
13	Various/Many	Mr Emil Grace		800 Tracksuit	Aproved	70,000
14	El-Areesh	Bishop Seraphim			Aproved	60,000

15	Bani Hashem - Beba	Bishop Estaphanouss		Kindergarten	Aproved	92,000
16	Various/Many	Mr Emil Grace		7 Kindergarten-monthly	Aproved	10,200
17	Various/Many			Projects	Aproved	31,000
18	Various/Many			Medical	Aproved	137,000
19	Various/Many			Assisting with building	Aproved	75,000
20	Various/Many			basic Need		84,000
21	Alexandria	Fr Mina Solomon		Medical exp.- Disable and nursing home	Aproved	10,000
22	Various/Many			On Going Monthly Assistance	Aproved	115,000
23	NCF Village Sponsor - El Habashya-Assuit			Over a period of 3 years	Aproved	826,000
						2,059,200