



## ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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18 June 2005



### *Syrian Ambassador visits our community*

His Excellency, Mr Tammam Souleiman, the First Syrian ambassador to Australia visited our community and Church on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>.06.2005. It was his Excellency's express wish to join us in celebrating the Holy Mass. Following The Holy Mass, a formal reception and Luncheon was organised by the Ladies Auxiliary in his honour.

We are pleased and proud to report to our parishioners who were not present, that the Ambassador was extremely pleased with the friendly and brotherly atmosphere afforded to him on this occasion, which is the real trade mark of the Armenian spirit.

His Excellency felt very much at home and he in turn expressed his immense gratitude and admiration of Armenians in Syria and around the world.

Fr Parsegh, following his official welcome gesture has given a lengthy speech canvassing the whole Armenian / Syrian history .Although the speech was given in the Arabic language we will try our best to give you the gist of it all with the translation of a few excerpts.

*“We greet and welcome your Excellency in our humble venue and community. We are also very grateful for accepting our invitation. This is not an invitation for a*

***friend but for Syrian Arab Brother, who represents the true essence of the Syrian Arab whose friendship and brotherhood was always extended to the Armenians. As the president of Armenia, Mr Levon Der Bedrossian, during his 1992 visit to Syria said," the friendship between the Armenians and the Arab people is as old as history itself."***

Fr Parsegh continued by taking us through the history of the Armenian and Arab relations from the time of the King Dikran the Great.(84 BC) continuing right through the Arab conquests of greater Armenia, culminating with the Armenian and Arab sufferings under the Ottoman yoke. And also said "and so continued the good relations between the two people under the dark shadow of the Ottoman rule.

***"The darkest chapter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century unfolded with the outbreak of world war I. The most savage genocides perpetrated against the Armenian people. One and half million Armenians perished at the hands of the ottomans and the survivors of these atrocities were marched into the Syrian Desert to die a slow death. This, fateful event also coincided with the mass hangings and extermination of many Syrian intellectuals and nationalists".***

***"With this evil deed, the Armenians have lost, land, parents and friends, but found in the Syrian people a protective parent and sincere friend .The Armenians settled on this land, loved it and built it, protected it and fought for it and is prepared to shed his last drop of blood for it".***

Fr Parsegh during his speech also mentioned the problem of the Iskenderoun region and how the Armenians cast their votes in their thousands to make that region part of Syria. He also made reference to Cardinal Aghajanian's contribution in uniting kesab region to Syria. Fr Parsegh concluded his speech, with the request from His Excellency to relay the following message to the president of Syria;

***"Your Excellency, I have a special request which is based on humanitarian rather than political, and that is to raise our request to the President of our beloved Syria, Dr Bashar al Assad, to recognise the Armenian Genocide especially when Syria was first witness to the surviving remnants of refugees, crossing the Syrian desert, fleeing from the atrocities of the Ottomans."***

His Excellency responded that he will relay this message to the president of Syria. He also answered, on a one to one basis, many of the questions that were raised on the day. His Excellency assured all present that his officers at the Embassy are always ready to help their citizens in every respect.

The function, overall, was a resounding success and ended with phot taking session to mark this important occasion of goodwill and friendship.

### ***Saint of this edition, St. Basil the Great***

Was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. He was one of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia. Several of his brothers and sisters are honored among the saints. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law. Eventually he decided to become a monk and found a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made bishop of Caesaria. In this post until his death in 379, he continued to be a man of

vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death. Basil was one of the giants of the early Church. He was responsible for the victory of Nicene orthodoxy over Arianism in the Byzantine East, and the denunciation of Arianism at the Council of Constantinople in 381-82 was in large measure due to his efforts. Basil fought simony, aided the victims of drought and famine, strove for a better clergy, insisted on a rigid clerical discipline, fearlessly denounced evil wherever he detected it, and excommunicated those involved in the widespread prostitution traffic in Cappadocia. He was learned, accomplished in statesmanship, a man of great personal holiness, and one of the great orators of Christianity. His feast day is January 2

### *Fr Parsegh –absent for six weeks*

*Fr Parsegh will be absent for six weeks from Sydney. He will be on annual leave as well as on church business. He has arranged Rev. Fr Hassan Nousair, from the Greek Melkite Catholic Church to say mass during his absence.*

*For any emergency, please contact:*

*Mr Avedis Qasabian on 98732343 or 0411426889*

*Mr Sarkis Majarian on 96101232*

### *Fr Anton Tutunjian visits Sydney*

Fr Anton Tutunjian will be visiting Sydney during the month of June. He will arrive on the 21<sup>st</sup>; however it is not clear how long he will be staying in Sydney. We believe he is coming to Sydney for medical reasons as well as participating in the feast of St Gregory the illuminator at the St Gregory's Armenian School in Rouse Hill.

Fr Parsegh has welcomed him to say the Holy mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July or on any weekday if he so desires whilst in Sydney.

We urge all our parishioners to show their respect to Fr Anton who has given 35 years of his life serving the Lord and his people. We must also remember that twenty of those years were spent serving the Sydney community.

We are certain that Fr Anton would like to meet as many of you as possible, so please turn up in big numbers and make him feel at home.

### *Annual Feast of our Lady of the Assumption*

#### **Holy Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> August**

On the feast of our lady of the Assumption, there will be a special mass and the traditional blessing of the grapes will take place. After the religious ceremony, the Ladies Auxiliary will declare the bazaar open. This year it will be on Sunday only, however it will be something special. In addition, as usual there will be many interesting things to choose from on the day, including our famous Kebab and Shawerma.

Entertainment for the children will also be available on the day.

#### **Dinner Dance Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

The church council has decided to hold the Annual Dinner dance on Saturday 20th August 2005. Tickets will be ready and made available soon. Again we remind our parishioners that this is a very important event within our community. It is the only opportunity for us as a community to get together; It will provide us the opportunity to socialise, sing and dance and laugh together; so join us and let us feel like a big family. As usual, children under twelve are welcome and it will be at the reduced special rate. We ask our parishioners to mark this special day on their calendar, and to try organise as many of your family and friends as possible. The bigger the number the merrier it will be.

Soon, those in charge of the tickets sales will be approaching you, and we ask you not to disappoint them.

Venue: Emporium- South Terrace Bankstown

Music: Arax Band (Karnig)

Tickets Enquiries: Mr G. Tcherkezian Tel: 96862048; 0414410321

**New Website of the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate**  
**www.armenianchurch.org**

*We congratulate Our Patriarchate on their new website and we encourage all our parishioners to visit the site on the above address.*

*Special thanks*

Our immense gratitude to Mr George Madfouni from( Master Widows Pty Ltd.) for donating the aluminium structure and partition in the Reception Lounge . May God bless him and his kind family and may the good Lord recompense them a hundred fold.

Our special thanks to Mr and Mrs Adel and Hilda Halwagy and Mrs Marlene Kalendarian for their relentless cleaning efforts in our church. May the Lord bless them and give them the necessary health and ability to continue this sacred work. We hope their example will inspire many of us.

*Weddings*

28.5.2005 Mr Robert Kondrajian and Miss Thu Nguyen

29.5.2005 Mr Domenico de Felice and Miss Rita Golossian

*Baptism*

5<sup>th</sup> June 2005 Baby Michael Christian son of Mr & Mrs Joseph Michael Opoyan

12<sup>th</sup> June 2005 Baby Patrick son of Mr and Mrs Jack and Rita Nercessian.

*Births*

Baby Mark Guvlekjian born 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 is the first born to the proud parents Francis & Rita Guvlekjian

*We take this opportunity in congratulating all the above parishioners and we pray that the Almighty bless them and give them health and happiness for ever.*

*Donation to the Church*

**\$ 400:** Mr & Mrs Elie Aslanian,

**\$ 250:** Mr & Mrs Artin Etmekjian

**\$ 200:** Mr Joseph Halwagi, Mr & Mrs Ara Stambouljian, Mrs Juliana Wazir

**\$ 100:** Mr & Mrs Albert Dawood, Mr Paul Manoukian, Mr & Mrs Onnig Jeghelian, Mr & Mrs George Jeghelian

*Home Blessing Donation*

**\$ 100:** Miss Dania Dawood, Mr & Mrs Garo Tcherkezian, Mr & Mrs Paul Fisher, Mr & Mrs Edouard Georgeflie, Mr & Mrs Raphael Halwagi, Mr & Mrs George Jeghelian

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