



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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Երբ մանուկին թլփատութեան ութ օրերը անցան, Յիսուս կոչեցին Վերջին, ինչպէս որ անուանուած էր հրեշտակին կողմէ երբ տակաւին չէր յղացած մօր արգանդին մէջ: (Լուկ. Բ. 21)

2006 տարին նկատենք Աստուծմէ իրաքանչիւրիս տրուած անպուզականան պարգև մը:

Կեանքի նուէր մը՝ փառաբանելու համար տուողը, Արարիչը, Փրկիչը, Կենդանարարը:

Կեանքի նուէր մը՝ գովարանելու համար պարգևողը, որ մարդ դառնալով առաւ անուն մը՝ Յիսուս, Էմմանուէլ, Աստուած մեզի հետ:

Կեանքի նուէր մը՝ գովերգելու համար վայն, որ աշխարհի իշաւ որպէս զի մեկ բարձրացնէ առ երկինք:

Կեանքի նուէր մը՝ դրուատելու համար մեծասքանչ Արարքը Անոր, որ մարդ դարձաւ որպէս զի մեկ աստուածացնէ:

2006 տարուոյն մաղթենք տեսնել զիրար խորապէս եւ գործնականօրէն դարձած Աստուծոյ վաւակներ՝ լիցքաւորուած Յիսուսով եւ Չինք դարձուցած մեր կիանքի ուղեցոյցը եւ առանցքը մեր առօրեայ գործելակերպին ու կենցաղին: Եւ ապրելով իր ներկայութիւնը որպէս կենսունակ եւ որպէս Սէր՝ կը դառնանք ճշմարտապէս կենսունակ եւ Սէր:

Կեանքը պարապ, անիմաստ չէ: Կարճ՝ սակայն յախտնականութիւնը կ'ապահովէ Աստուծոյ վաւակներուն:

Նոր տարուան սեմին մաղթենք իրարու ըլլալ Ա. Երրորդութեան նման կեանք. մշտանորոգ, այժմէական, ձգտող կատարելալին եւ՝ ծաղկեալ զարմն: Յանձնառու բարիին, զեղեցիկին, օգտակարին, դառնանք երկնաւոր Հօր նման առատաձեռն, սիրոյ եւ գուրգուրանքի հնոց. ամուսինը՝ կնոջ, կինը՝ ամուսնոյն, ծնողը՝ վաւակին, վաւակը՝ ծնողքին, գործատէրը՝ գործաւորին, գորածաւորը՝ գործատիրոջ, քահանան՝ հաւատացեալին, հաւատացեալը՝ քահանային, իսկ բոլորը՝ եկեղեցոյ: Կեանքի Գողգոթայի ճանապարհին վրայ, Ծնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի, առողջութեան տարի, յաջողութեան տարի, խաղաղութեան տարի, արեւշատութեան եւ գուրգուրանքի տարի: Կեանքի մութ գիշերին՝ լուսաւոր տարի, մեղքի հովիտին մէջ՝ առատ ջնորքի տարի, լաւատեսութեան եւ յոյսի ու երջանկութեան տարի:

Տօնելով Նոր Տարին յիշենք վանոնք, որոնք կարող չեն սօնելու. աղքատները, հիւանդները, բանտարկեալները, եւ որբերը: Անոնք եւս մեր եղբայրներն են: Նոր

Տարուան ճերմակ էջերը լեցնենք Աստուածահաճոյ կեանքով ու գործերով նուիրումով, պիջումով, անձնուրացութեամբ և սիրով ողորմած արասարներով: Սէր: Սէր և Սէր ու կ'ունենանք երկինքը երկին վրայ:

Ամանորի մաղթանքը փակենք Ներսէս Գնորիալիի աղօթքին հետեւեալ բառերով. Տրամաստութիւն Հօր Յիսուս, տուր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել, խօսել և գործել առաջի քո ամենայն ժամ: Ի չար խորհրդոց, Ի բանից և Ի գործոց փրկեա՛ր զիս § :

ولما انقضت ثمانية أيام فحان للطفل أن يختن، سمي يسوع، كما سماه الملاك قبل أن يحبل به. (لوقا 2 : 21)

المجد لك يا الهنا

لتكن سنة 2006 عطية من لدن الله لكل واحد منا. عطية حياة لنمجد العطاء المتجسد، الخالق، المخلص، الحياة. عطية حياة لنعظم المانح الذي تأنس واخذ اسم يسوع أي الرب يخلص، عمانوئيل أي الله معنا. عطية حياة لنكرم الذي نزل إلى الأرض ليرفعنا إلى السماء. عطية حياة لنشيد بعجائب من صار انسانا ليؤهلنا.

لنتمنى لبعضنا البعض ان نكون خلال سنة 2006 ابناء لله قولاً وفعلاً، مفعمين بروح يسوع المسيح، هو مرشد لحياتنا ونور ليومياتنا وسيرتنا. وأن نعيش حضوره فيما بيننا هو المنعش والمحبة المتجسدة وان نبث بدورنا الحياة الروحية والمحبة الانجيلية حولنا. فللحياة الدنيوية معنى كبيراً وقيمة أكبر: باستطاعتنا ربح السعادة الابدية بايام معدودة ولو كانت محاطة بالصلبان.

بمناسبة حلول عام 2006 لنتمنى لبعضنا البعض ان نكون حياة متجددة دوماً تصبو إلى الكمال. لنفتش عن الحقيقة والخير والجمال. لنكن كأبنا السماوي اندفاعاً وعطاءً ومحبة: الزوج لزوجته والزوجة لزوجها والاثان لاولادهما والبنين لأهلهم ولبعضهم البعض، صاحب العمل للعامل والعامل لصاحب العمل، الكاهن لمؤمنيه والمؤمنون لكاهنهم والكل للكنيسة الواحدة الجامعة الرسولية.

على درب حياتنا لنتمنى لبعضنا البعض سنة مباركة ملؤها الصحة الجسدية والروحية، مكللة بالنجاح والسلام والقداسة. في ظلمة الحياة الأرضية لنتمنى سنة ملؤها الأنوار السماوية وفي وادي الدموع لنتمنى سنة مفعمة بالتفاؤل والايمان والرجاء والمحبة فنجعل الأرض سماء.

وفي حلول السنة الجديدة لا ننسى كل من حرّمته أنانيتنا حق العيد ولنسجل في كل صفحة من صفحاتها أعمالاً انسانية وانجيلية ننشل بها اخوتنا المتعبين من وضعهم المأساوي.

" انظروا أي محبة خصنا بها الأب لندعى ابناء الله واننا نحن كذلك. إذا كان العالم لا يعرفنا فلانه لم يعرفه. أيها الأحباء نحن منذ الآن ابناء الله وما أظهر بعد ما سنصير إليه. نحن نعلم أننا نصبح عند ظهوره اشباهه لأننا سنراه كما هو." (1يو 3: 2-1)

Christmas is the greatest love story ever told.

It is a story of the greatest love ever given.

And the story of the greatest gift. The Lord Jesus Christ, Our Saviour.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. While we often think about Christmas as a single day, it is actually a season of the year. It extends four weeks before Christmas day and two weeks after. However, the time before Christmas is a special season called the Advent, comprising the four Sundays before Christmas day. While the entire season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany can be seen together, they each have distinctly different roles in the Church year. "Advent" means "coming" and is a season of expectation and hope, the time of waiting for the coming of the Messiah that is celebrated at Christmas. This time of waiting symbolises the waiting throughout the Old Testament for the new act of God that would bring deliverance to his people.

Jesus was born to be the deliverer, our deliverer from sin.

"Epiphany" "the Feast of the Three Magi" festival of the announcement of Christ to the Magi the wise men from the east. The three wise men were the first Gentiles who

offered their adoration and gifts to our Saviour. They believed in the prophecies “*A young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name Him Emmanuel*” [Isaiah7:14]

“*Bethlehem, you are one of the smallest town in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel*” [Micah5:2]. Their faith was firm, strong and full of a holy desire to behold and worship the Saviour.

God’s justice requires that sin be punished in all of His creatures. And the punishment required death. We must die physically and spiritually and eternally. We are unable to save ourselves.

God is sinless—He cannot die!

In Bethlehem God become man in order to die on the cross for mankind in punishment for our sins. He became our Saviour. He came to bear the condemnation of His own law, the law which condemned us.

“*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” [John 3:16]

Forever we are indebted to our Lord. Therefore, we must glorify, praise and thank our heavenly Father, and teach our children the pure love and the true meaning of Christmas.

Where there is love, there is no room for hatred.

Where there is purity, there is unity.

Unity leads to divinity.

The Riches Man In The Valley Will Die Tonight!

The wealthy man stood, in the balcony of his palace, proudly gazing at his vast land in every direction, for he possessed the whole valley. He was saying to himself, “These are my fields and lands; I am the riches man in the valley.”

He began to utter, in a loud voice, the thoughts of the rich man in the Lord’s “Parable of the Rich Fool”:

“What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” [Luke 12:17-19]

His voice was raised in pride and arrogance. While looking here and there, and in the midst of the quietness, he noticed an elderly worker sitting under a tree, not far from the balcony, who had a cheerful expression and a sweet smile. He had untied a small bundle in which there was piece of dry bread and a small portion cheese to eat for lunch after hard work in the rich man’s garden.

The wealthy man greeted the old man from the balcony and the old man returned the greeting.

“Did you hear me speak, Sam?”

“No my lord. I did not notice you; my eyes are dim and my ears heavy due to my old age.”

“I see that you are happy this evening, Sam.”

“I thank God for his endless gifts, my lord.”

“For what do you thank him? For the dry bread and the piece of cheese!”

“Yes my lord, for God my Father has bestowed upon me food and He supports me in my work. He has given me a tunic to wear, a bed to sleep on and a roof over my head. These are much more than what my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ had when He was on earth.”

“I wonder how you could be happy with such simple food as this!”

“My God gives me sweetness in my mouth whilst I use His gifts to me. This sweetness is a divine gift.”

Sam suddenly changed the subject to tell his wealthy employer of a dream he had the night before:

“I would like to tell you, my lord, of a dream I had last night. I dreamt that I had risen to heaven, and found its gates open. I saw the great city, the heavenly Jerusalem, and its unspeakable glories. I am unable, my lord to describe the beauty of what I saw. I desired to stay there, but what amazed me was that I heard a voice from within saying, ‘The richest man in the valley will die tonight.’ After that I heard the sounds of heavenly hosts praising and singing. I had woken from my sleep, but did not wish to rise. My lord, I heard these words very clear and wondered how I would meet you to tell you of what I had seen and heard.”

The rich man’s face became pale, and he tried to hide his feelings and fears, but he retreated from the balcony to his room and threw himself upon a nearby seat whilst repeating “The richest man in the valley will die tonight!”

Was this merely the dream of an old man?

Was it a prophecy of a divine vision?

Was it a reflection of the feelings of a worker towards the richest man in the valley?

He is after all, a loving, pious and righteous old man!”

Only hours had passed when Sam felt a rise in his temperature. He tried to conceal his sickness so he would not bother anyone. His sickness increased and the old man began to recite his Psalms and calling upon God, and his face was filled with joy.

When his condition worsened, his friends hurried to call a doctor. Whilst the doctor was treating him, Sam retold his dream to him. At this the doctor laughed saying, “Don’t worry for the richest man in the valley is very well and he will not die tonight.”

At a very late hour, the rich man heard his doorbell. He found a labourer at the door apologizing and saying, “I am sorry, my lord, Sam has died and we know you loved him and wondered what we should do?”

The rich man was astonished and began to say to himself, “The richest man in the valley will die tonight. Yes, Sam seemed very poor in my sight, but in the eyes of God he was the richest in the world. He was rich in faith. He possessed the richness of heaven which is priceless and enjoyed a better life. I believed within myself that I was the richest man in the valley, but I have discovered who was truly rich. And now return, o my soul, to your riches.”

WHAT IS EDUCATION?

When I was doing my teacher training quite a while ago, one of the units we had to study was a subject called “What is Education?” I can recall almost word for word what one of the professors had to say about it, such a profound effect it left on me:

“Education is what you are left with when you have long forgotten almost everything you have learnt out of books.”

The contribution of yet another professor was:

“We know when education takes place when people’s behaviour changes as a result of it.”

It is very odd, when I think back, both of these were very demanding in what they expected of us; their favourite phrase was: “close enough is not good enough”. They expected high standards of performance and were very strict.

After four years of teacher training the underlying message I carry with me is that children are formed through education. Well then what is this thing called education? And if we are going to forget, what’s the point in learning anyway? And what’s more,

our children can go anywhere for this so called education!!! Why then do we look for good schools for our children? Why do we want the very best education for them, even though we know they are not going to all turn out to be doctors, lawyers or professors? Who are the educators in our children's lives?

We as parents know instinctively that education is more than book learning. It is important to remember that we are our children's first educators. Thus when we set out to find a school for our children, we usually look for a school that will most closely reflect our own philosophy on life and our own standards in personal development, because information, we can get anywhere, even on the computer.

Education is the total formation of a child. We start at home, and it is continued at school. It takes a lot of discipline, dedication and commitment to give children a good education. If we are the principal educators of our children, does it not stand to reason then to take an active interest in their development both inside and outside the home?

We cannot be expected to dump them at school, take a long breath, say that we have done our share and now it is up to the school. We cannot put them in school at kindergarten and expect to be given a finished product.

School is not a factory where you put the raw ingredients in one end and expect the finished product all packaged and neat at the other end. There needs to be a lot of involvement from the parents and a lot of input at the school level for them to turn out nicely finished and packaged. As we go, we can then have a say what the finished product will look like, and discover the reality of it because our children are very unique and we must discover that uniqueness and encourage its blossoming in each one of our children.

In order to do this we must become very involved with everything our children do especially at school, the more we are involved, the more motivated our children will be to perform, for they grow, develop and blossom with love, and what better way to show that love than total involvement. Never miss any parent teacher night, become involved with the canteen, with anything that the school puts on for them. Volunteer to help out at school, keep in touch with the teachers to find out how they are going, and to see how better you can help them.

Do not be like the ostrich, hiding so you do not hear the truth about them. Do not be afraid to find out if your children have problems, these problems can be opportunities for you to get closer to them and help you both to grow together and learn from each other. Statistics show that the more parents are involved with the schools, the less the children misbehave at school; because they know that the parents can find out the truth from the teachers and therefore they cannot go home and tell tales to the parents. Become allies with the teachers and the school so you can give your children the very best education.

It is never easy to raise children; it is harder still to know what the best thing to do for them is. As parents, we do want the very best for them, but we do not know how to at times. That is when we need to put our pride aside and ask for help.

Here in Australia we are so very fortunate that there is so much available to help parents out with issues. The government acknowledges the fact that our children are our future, and that they grow healthy in a loving and supportive environment, therefore the Attorney General's department subsidises a lot of facilities to help parents with their children. All we need to do is ask where they are, and the first place to ask is the school.

Choose a school because of what it offers, and then proceed to cooperate with it to get the most out of it for your children. If you have chosen a school because you believe in its philosophy, stay with it and find out all about it and cooperate with it to get the

most out of it, especially if it is a good school built on well-established values and standards. If you do not help to uphold these values, you will not get the benefit of what they have to offer your child. Do not be afraid to be firm with your children, to say no to some of their demands, to show them that they must think of others as well as themselves, to teach them self-discipline, the greatest gift you can give them.

A school that is committed to the above values and works out of them, will help produce well rounded citizens who are not only well-educated but are also an asset to their families, their communities and society at large. But always remember that the first school is home, the first and most important educators are you the parents. Knowledge, our children can pick up anywhere, but real education of the whole person takes a lot of commitment and many years of dedication especially by the parents.

They only have one childhood; you can only give them one start. How will you make sure that it is the right start?

Charity Bridge to Armenia

During a recent conversation between the new Archbishop of Armenian, Mgr Nishan Karakehian and Fr Parsegh the need to create a special Fund to help our sister community in Armenia was evident and accordingly Our Church Council now happily announces the creation of such a Fund. The Church Council will arrange its transfer through our Archbishop in Armenia who will with his council distribute the proceeds of the fund as necessary.

We urge all our parishioners to show their generous spirit during this festive season and we advise that all donations, now or in the future, be directed to the Armenian Catholic Church Council “Charity Bridge to Armenia” Fund.

Armenian Catholic Youth

We are happy to announce that the Armenian catholic Youth movement has been successfully launched in our church.

Mr Robert Hazari and Mrs Ani Gharibian have dedicated themselves and sacrificed valuable time to lead this new group of young people within our church who have joyfully accepted and shown a great deal of enthusiasm to our call.

Nevertheless, the youth initiative is still in its humble beginnings, however the group is working to the best of its ability to prepare the 2006 programs which are guaranteed to be full of interesting activities aimed at attracting more youth members. We take the opportunity to invite all the young in our community to join and be part of this group.

It is no secret that our future and the future of our church depend on it. We need to prepare our youth, so that they in turn will be able to assume the future responsibilities of our parish.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of all our parishioners to advocate this worthy cause and encourage all their young to be part of this important educational program.

Lady of the Assumption Choir

Many of our parishioners may have noticed the reverberating sounds of our newly formed choir. We look forward to many more participants, for as the saying goes, the more the merrier. So if anyone within our community feels he or she would like to add their voices to this musical chorus, we would be very happy to hear from them. Please call the church at any time and indicate your interest in the choir.

First Holy Communion

We wish to remind our Parishioners that the first Holy Communion ceremony will be in May 2006. We ask all our Parishioners, who wish their children to join the first

Holy Communion class which is being currently being conducted by Ms Maida Atashian, which has commenced a few weeks ago, to contact Fr Basil as soon as possible.

Church Calendar

Many of our parishioners have already purchased the new 2006 Church calendar. We wish to inform our parishioners that this year the calendar has been specially designed for our parish and it embraces all our festive programs and public holidays. The numbers are very limited so please hurry up and secure your calendar.

Weddings

We congratulate the newly weds Danny Kahawaty and Izla Hanna who were married 30th October 2005. May the Lord bless them and bestow upon them a healthy and happy Christian life together.

Baptisms

11th October Sherakian Koko son of Alex and Nyssa
6th November Guvlekjian Mark son of Francis and Rita
6th November Izmirilian Alex son of Viken and Blanch
26th November Korajian Natalie daughter of Raffi and Elisabeth
26th November Korajian Rebecca daughter of Raffi and Elisabeth

Births

We wish to congratulate Sahag and Christine Bardajian, for the arrival of their first born Alexandra on 10 October 2005.

Congratulation also to Sarkis and Jeanette Misisilian for the arrival of their third child Jessica on 27 October 2005.

We also congratulate Carl and Micheline Aris for their first born child Ella on the 2nd December 2005

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We wish to inform our parishioners that Baby Rachele is now open to the public every day of the week. Our parishioners will receive a special discount on all purchases.

**A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella
when the sun is shining,
and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.**

Donations

Donation to the Church

- \$ 300: Mrs Aznif Kalenderian.
\$ 200: Mr Yousef Wazir, Mr Joseph Halwagi.
\$ 150: Mrs Emily Hanoun & Family.
\$ 100: Mr Alex Karakas, Elie & James Nol.

Home blessing donation

- \$ 50: Mr & Mrs George Golossian.

In lieu of flowers for the late Elmasd Tchilinguirian

- \$ 200: Mr & Mrs Ara Stamboulian & Family.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

- Saturday 24th December 2005 at 07.30 PM Christmas Vigil Mass
Sunday 25th December 2005 at 11.00 AM Christmas Sung Mass
Sunday 25th December 2005 Christmas Dinner Dance *
Sunday 1st January 2006 Mass 11.00 AM
Sunday 8th January 2006 (Baptism of Christ) Mass 11.00 AM
Monday 9th January (Day of the Dead) 9.30 AM Blessing of the tombs at Rookwood Armenian Cemetery followed immediately by Mass (if weather permits) at the Cemetery Altar otherwise Mass will be held at Church as usual.

* Christmas Party 25th December



The church council with the collaboration of the Armenian Catholic Youth (A.C.Y.) have decided to organise a Christmas Party for our community on the 25th December (Xmas day). The venue will be “The Emporium function Centre Bankstown. Entertainment will be provided by the renowned Armenian performer Lucine. Please remember that this party is for the children because Santa will be coming with great presents for all. Tickets will be available at the church and we ask all families to secure their tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Tickets donations for adult's \$60 children \$35

Exclusive Donation for joining member of Armenian Catholic Youth \$45



**Our sincere gratitude to ROMAN PRINTING
For the printing of this Bulletin since its inception**

