



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
TEL 96493380 FAX 96493958 MOBILE 0427404952 E-MAIL fr.basil@accsydney.org.au

ԱՍՏՈՒԾՈՅ ՊԱՐԳԵԻԸ

Ահաւասիկ մէկ ամիս անցաւ Յիսուսի ծննդեան օրուրնէ: Տօնական շրջանին բոլոր շուկաները վարդարուած էին գեղեցիկ լոյսերով եւ տոնածառերով: Մարդիկ խուճապի մատնուած կը խուժէին խանութները բնտրելու եւ գնելու համար արժէքաւոր նուէրներ:

Արդեօ՞ք այս է ծնունդին իսկական իմաստը:

Արդեօ՞ք այս պատճառաւ Աստուած իր Միածին Որդին աշխատի դրկեց:

Այս դարուս ծնունդն ու ամանորը կորսնցուցած են իրենց իսկական իմաստը եւ վերածուած խնճոյքի եւ կերուխումի առիթներու: Այո՛, մարդիկ կ'ուտեն, կը խմեն, սոռնալով ծնունդի իսկական իմաստը:

Չիս սխալ մի՞ հասկնաք, ուրախացէ՛ք և Վարճացէ՛ք: Վստահ՝ Յիսուս Մանուկն ալ չ'ուզեր մեզ տխուր տեսնել: Սակայն ձեր ուրախութեան մէջ միշտ յիշեցէք Վաստուած՝ և թէ Ան իր Միածին Որդին դրկեց, որպէսզի մեզ ապատէ մեղքէն ու առաջնորդէ դէպի բարին ու ճիշդը:

Յիսուս Մանուկին ծնունդը, որով Աստուած Իր Միածին Որդին աշխարհի դրկեց իբր մեզի նուէր, մարդոց կողմէ ի՞նչ վարմունքին արժանացաւ...:

Անոնք մերժեցին այս թանկագին նուէրը և զինք խաչ հանեցին: Եթէ մենք ըլլայինք Աստուծոյ տեղ, վստահ որ երբեք պիտի չներէինք այն մարդոց որ խաչեցին մեր զաւակը: Բայց Աստուած, հակառակ մարդոց ըրածին, ներեց անոնց: Եւ Աստուած ամէն տարի նոր առիթ մը կը շնորհէ անոնց, որպէսզի անդրադառնան իրենց սխալին և սրբազրեն զայն: Բայց արդեօք մարդիկ կ'անդրադառնա՞ն իրենց շնորհուած այդ առիթին, կամ արդեօք կը շարունակեն իրենց որդեգրած ուղին: Ըստ տուեալներուն, շատ քիչերն են որ կը սրբազրեն իրենց սխալները:

Եթէ դիտենք մեր չորս դին, պիտի տեսնենք ըսածին կենդանի փաստը: Աշխարհի մէջ ամէնուրեք շարութիւնն է որ կ'իջիւէ:

Չօրաւոր երկիրներ կը փորձեն իրենց իշխանութիւնը տարածել իրենցմէ աւելի փոքր և տկար երկիրներու վրայ: Ինչպէս գիտենք, մեծ ձուկը միշտ կու կու տայ իրմէ աւելի փոքրը: Եղբայր եղբօր թակարդ կը լարէ ու կը սպաննէ: Յիսուս իր ծնունդով ու կեանքով այսպիսի բաներ չքարոզեց: Ան նոյնիսկ խաչին վրայէն խնդրեց Տօրմէ, որ ներէ զինք խաչողներուն, քանզի անոնք չեն գիտեր թէ ի՞նչ կ'ընեն:

Յիսուս իր կեանքով համեստութիւն քարոզեց: Հակառակ Իր Աստուածորդին ըլլալուն Ան համեստօրէն լուաց իր 12 աշակերտներուն ոտերը, ցոյց տալու համար աշխարհին, թէ միշտ մեծը այն չէ որ ուժով,

վէնքով և դիմացինը բնաջնջելով կ'իշխէ և ցոյց կու տայ իր մեծութիւնը: Այլ մեծը այն է, որ կ'ուզէ իրմէ տկարին, որպէսզի վերջինս վերականգնի ու շարունակէ իր ճամբան:

Ինչպէս Աստուծոյ խօսքը կ'ըսէ. Եթէ ցորենի հատիկին չափ հաւատք ունենաք, կրնաք լեռները իրենց տեղէն շարժել, ես ալ իմ կարգիս կ'ուզեմ երկրորդել ըսելով. Եթէ ցորենի հատիկի չափ սէր ունենանք մեր սրտերուն մէջ, կրնանք աշխարհի վրայ մեծ յեղաշրջում ստեղծել դէպի լաւն ու բարին: Մաղթանքս է որ այս տարին իր հետ բերէ աշխարհի խաղաղութիւն, ի մասնաւորի մեր սիրելի Աւստրալային, որ տարիներէ ի վեր եղածէ մեր երկրորդ հայրենիքը:

God's Gift

Already a month has passed since the celebrations of the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. During the festive season all the shopping centres and malls were beautifully decorated and colourfully lit. People in their confusion were rushing to the shops to purchase all the expensive and appropriate gifts for their loved ones:

Could it be possible that this is the reason why God had sent his only begotten son to the world? In this day and age Christmas and the New Year have lost their true meaning and have become nothing but an occasion for parties, eating and drinking. People eat and drink without ever giving a thought to the true meaning of Christmas.

Do not misunderstand us, even the young Jesus wouldn't want to see us sad and unhappy. But always remember during your celebrations and happiness and enjoyment of life that the good Lord has sent his only begotten son to save us from deadly sin and to lead us in the path that is good and right.

Our Lord Almighty, with the birth of Baby Jesus, has given the world the greatest gift, even though the world did nothing to deserve it:

They rejected God's most valuable gift and crucified him: If we were in God's Place we would never forgive those who crucified our son.

But the Good Lord, despite the evil deeds of men, has forgiven them, and every year, He provides them with the opportunity to repent and realise their mistake and correct them. But I wonder if people realise this opportunity that God has bestowed upon them? Or I wonder if they continue in their chosen paths? But only few are willing to mend their ways. If we have a good look around us, we can see the living truth of His words. All over the world Evil Reigns:

Powerful nations try to spread their power and control over the weaker nations. The same way the large fish swallows the little fish. Killing and abusing one another.

Jesus with His birth and life did not preach us these things, on the contrary even when high on the cross, He pleaded with his Father to forgive those who do not know what they do. Jesus with his life taught us humility. Even though He was the Son of God, he humbly washed the feet of his twelve disciples. He has shown us the great is not the one who reigns with arms and with the power of the gun, but he who helps the weaker so that he can stand up and continue on his road.

Jesus said "You can move mountains even if your faith is as small as a grain"

And I, in turn would like to add and second our Lord's words by stating that , if we had love, so much as a small grain in our hearts , we could create such a great wave in the world for the good of mankind. I wish that this new-year will bring peace in the world and especially in our beloved home, Australia, which has been for many years our new adopted country.

Annual General Meeting

We invite all our community to an Annual General Meeting which will be held in our newly renovated church hall on 31st March 2006 at 8.00pm. This is a very important meeting, and we expect you to turn up in big numbers, because our church's future is your future.

The Agenda for the meeting is:

- 1) Church Council report
- 2) Financial report
- 3) Ladies Auxilliary Committee report
- 4) Future plans for our Church
- 5) General concerns of our Community and Parish.

Տարեկան Ընդհանուր Ժողով

Հայ Կաթողիկէ Համայնքի բոլոր անդամները հրաւիրուած են Եկեղեցւոյ Տարեկան Ընդհանուր Ժողովին որը տեղի կ'ունենայ Ուրբաթ, 31 Մարտ 2006 երեկոյեան ժամը 8:00 ին, եկեղեցւոյ վերանորոգուած սրահին մէջ:

Այս խիստ կարեւոր ժողովը կը կարօտի մեր համայնքի լուրջ քաջալերանքին: Ուստի, հաճեցէք մեծ թիւով ներկայ ըլլալու մեր եկեղեցւոյ ապագան քննարկող սոյն ժողովին:

Ժողովին օրակարգերն են:

1. Եկեղեցւոյ Խորհուրդին զեկոյցը
2. Նիւթական զեկոյց
3. Տիկնաց Օժանդակ Մարմնի զեկոյցը
4. Եկեղեցւոյ ապագայ ծրագիրները
5. Ժողովրդապետութեան եւ համայնքի ընդհանուր մտահոգութիւններու շուրջ խորհրդակցութիւն

الإجتماع السنوي العام

تدعوكم كنيسة الأرمن الكاثوليك في سيدني لحضور الإجتماع السنوي المزمع عقده في الحادي والثلاثين من شهر آذار الساعة الثامنة مساءً وذلك في قاعة الكنيسة التي تم تجديدها. نتمنى حضور جميع أبناء الرعية لهذا الإجتماع المهم نظراً لأهمية المواضيع التي ستطرح ولدراسة مستقبل الكنيسة والطائفة بشكل عام.

مواضيع الإجتماع:

- 1- تقرير من المجلس الرعوي
- 2- تقرير من اللجنة المالية
- 3- تقرير من لجنة السيدات الخيرية
- 4- دراسة عن مستقبل الكنيسة
- 5- اقتراحات من قبل أبناء الرعية لدراستها وكيفية تطبيقها.

DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S IQ?

By Fila Qasabian (MAPS)

In my capacity as psychologist, one of the many duties I have to perform is the psychometric testing of students to assess the levels of their abilities, in case they need specialist help to be able to cope with the workload at school.

I often find that some children are underachieving! Even though they can perform much better, they fail to do so. These children will need some specialist intervention in order to start improving. The greatest specialists that children need in their lives are their parents!

The children's first school is home. Their first educators are the parents. Their attitudes to work, school, relationships, authority, moral issues, values and just about anything else, are developed at home, even before they ever start school. Children learn what they live and what they see, not necessarily what we tell them!!

In the current economic climate, some strive mainly to "have money and lots of it". How sad! Are we sacrificing principles and values on the altar of materialism? Are we sacrificing family life and togetherness so we can "have money, and lots of it?" Do we belong to the school that says: "if you have money, you have everything?" What about family values? And I don't mean visiting the parents on weekends, I mean making the family top priority and spending time with our children, teaching them noble values and being there to supervise until the outcome is assured!!

Never ever, ever, ever underestimate the need that children have for their parents. The most important relationship for us is the one we have with our parents. Our sense of self and our core being is developed in relation to them. We need to get this right for our children from the outset.

Children do not understand their needs. They just feel them and act out of them. The only thing they are trying to do is feel better. If they lack attention they are going to look for it even if they have to misbehave (and get punished) to get it. Each time, they are crying out for help, for recognition, and for time to be spent with them.

Is there anything more important than our children? Isn't everything we do just for them? Isn't our whole life spent to give them the best? Far more than we had? Whatever we do, we do it with them in mind! Well our children do not; definitely do not need any more material things. They need us, our time, and our attention. They need us to actually show them that we care.

Children who actually grow up with constant parental supervision, and interaction in a positive manner, stand out in the crowd. The interesting thing is that, they do not allow other children who misbehave, to influence them or distract them. They **know** that they are cared for, they **know** they are special to their parents. They **know** that they are loved. They do not need to prove anything. They do not need to test anybody. They are content.

Well then, how do we **show** our children that they are the most important people in the world for us? EASY! Spend time with them. Talk to them. Become interested in what they do. Do we know what our children like? Dislike? Who their best friends

are? What they really like to do in their spare time? What are their strengths and weaknesses? What are the names of their teachers? Which teachers they like or dislike? Why? When was the last time they came and told us that something bothered them and we really listened? Are we afraid we might hear something that we might not know how to deal with? Are we afraid to discipline them? Make them take responsibility for their actions instead of blaming other people for things? Are we afraid to put limits appropriate for their age?

When our children come to us with a problem, they just want someone to listen to them, and somewhere safe to talk. They themselves often find the solution to things. They might need to explore a few possibilities and alternatives so they can decide which is the best to follow. It is therefore important to listen to them, explore ways of dealing with the issue at hand, trust that they know what's best, keep in close touch, and supervise what's happening, sometimes closely, other times from a distance.

Our children are our responsibilities, our treasures, and our future. When was the last time we turned off the "televicious" and played a game with our children? When all the family members were able to talk to each other? Where the art of debating was encouraged so our children learn how to think and stand up for themselves? When was the last time the family members shared a meal and the events of the day? When was the last time we read our children a book and then discussed it with them?

So let's start talking, start relearning the art of communication, and start retraining our children in the art of talking and thinking, for these are by far the most important gifts we can give our children. They have positive by-products; higher self-esteem, closer relationships, reclaiming power over outcomes, better grades at school, greater happiness, less fearfulness, less disobedience, more transparency, more cohesion in the home, an increased level of functioning. The list is endless....

The commitment has to be total from us, parents. We can't give up because it did not work the first time. The results will be slow in showing. Therefore it becomes important for mother and father to communicate and clarify what it is that they want for their children, and stay committed to the end!!!

Going back to the point at the beginning of this paper, it is actually possible to increase the intelligence of our children, as it is tested by the IQ tests, by quite a considerable amount. Is it not worth giving our children the best we can? When our children feel good about themselves, they are capable of performing better and are more realistic about their limitations, because they count a lot just as they are, to the most important people in their lives, us, their parents.

Our children do not need parents with degrees to raise them. They need parents who are brave enough, loving enough, caring enough, humble enough to start right now and put their hands up for help if they get stuck, and never, ever give up. Intelligence scores have improved by as much as 30 points in some cases, where children have had special nurturing after an initial test.

They only have one childhood. We can only give them one start.

Let's make it the right start

Do you want to improve your child's IQ?

Church Hall Renovations

The brothers, Jack and Peter Majarian have come once again to our rescue and conducted the repairs to our church Hall, a legacy of the bad workmanship of the previous shonky builders.

Also to Mr Basil Asmar and Mr Sami Shehadeh who will be installing and painting the new parquetry in the church hall, and to Mr Abdullah Wazir who will be installing the new doors for the church hall.

And last but not least to our gallant and valiant Ladies Auxiliary who work so hard to raise the funds to pay for all these necessary capital expenses in order to beautify our beloved church.

The church hall once completed it will provide the venue of which every member of our community will proud of, and it will be made available for the small private functions of friends and parishioners.

On behalf of the Church Council and the Community we wish to convey to all those abovementioned parishioners and friends our heartfelt thanks and May the Lord recompense them a hundred fold.

Church Library

Our special thanks and gratitude goes to Mr and Mrs Michael Opoyan for their generous contributions, for they have provided the seeds to our fledgling church library.

We are happy to announce that the books (costing \$3800) have arrived from Aleppo and Beirut. We are sure they will go a long

Way in enhancing our language and culture.

All our parishioners are welcome to enjoy these Armenian literary treasures.

Many Thanks

Our special gratitude for the labour of love of Mr Bashir Babik and Mr George Jeghelian for giving a face lift to the hanging "Stations of the Cross" in the church.

Also many thanks to Mr and Mrs Morris Doumet for donating the stainless steel "candles sand box" and the incense burner's new stand in memory of Mr Souren Voskeridjian.

Ash Wednesday

This year we are celebrating Ash Wednesday on Sunday, 26th February. This will give the opportunity to many more of our parishioners to celebrate this solemn and holy occasion.

Stations of the Cross

We remind our faithful that the "Stations of the Cross" will begin Friday 3.3.06 at 7 pm. It will be conducted in two languages and we hope to see many of you during these special dedications and prayers during Lent.

1st Sunday Luncheons

The 1st Sunday of the month Luncheons are on again, now that the festive season is behind us. Anyone wishing to contribute towards a luncheon or wishes to donate the cost of the whole function do not hesitate to contact any Church Council member or Fr Basil on 0427404952; or 96493380. Church Council members and the Ladies Auxiliary are always ready to assist in the preparation of the food.

Charity Bridge to Armenia

We wish to remind our parishioners not to forget this worthy cause; already we have a sizable contribution from many of you. The church Council will ensure that the funds personally deliver these funds to the appropriate people in due course. A proper receipt will be issued to all donations above \$2. And please remember the only legitimate fund raiser is your church.

Weddings

We congratulate the newly weds Hagop Benlian and Lilit Vahanian who were married 12 February 2006. May the Lord bless them and bestow upon them a healthy and happy Christian life together.

Baptisms

14 January 2006 George son of Sarkis & Houri Kalpakjian
26 February 2006 Tamara daughter of Vartguess & Allison Markarian
5 March 2005 Krista Katherine daughter of Charles Avedis & Hanna Majarian.

Births

We wish to congratulate George and Loubna Berekhan, for the arrival of their first born Zouhair on 2nd February 2006.

We wish also to congratulate Bruce & Lucy Blacker (Boladian), for the arrival of their first born Matthew Joseph William on the 24 February 2006.

No greater love

A little girl was critically injured in an accident and taken to hospital. She had lost a great deal of blood and needed a transfusion, but her blood type was rare.

Finally it was discovered that her seven year old brother had the same blood type. The doctor took him into his office and told him, "your sister is very sick, unless she gets some blood, I am afraid the angels are going to take her to heaven, are you willing to give your baby sister your blood?"

The boy's face turned pale and his eyes widened in fear. After some agonising moments he whispered to the doctor, "I will give my sister my blood."

As the transfusion took place, the boy watched as his blood passed through a tube to his sister. The doctor noticed that the boy seemed nervous and said, "It will be over before long."

At that moment, big tears welled up in the boy's eyes and he said, "will I die pretty soon then?"

He thought he was giving his own life to save his little sister!

There's no greater love.

Jesus lay down His life for us even before we were His friends.

"The greatest love a person can have For his friends is to give his Life for them"

[John 15:13]

DONATION TO THE CHURCH

\$ 1500: Mr & Mrs Michael & Marie-Louise Khachiki

\$ 1000: Mr Abraham Markarian

\$ 500: Mr & Mrs Michael Hennawi,

\$ 250: Mr & Mrs Ara & Sonia Stamboulian,

\$ 150: Mr Sahag Assadourian.

\$ 100: Mr & Mrs Albert Dawood, Mr Anthony Halwagi, Baby Elie Nol, Baby James Junior Nol, Mr Albert Dawood & Family.

\$ 50: Mrs Rosa Nazad, Mr & Mrs Jack Tarazi, Mrs Loucine Serian,

HOME BLESSING DONATION

\$ 300: Anonymus. Mr George Sarkis.

\$ 200: Mr Nerses Barsoumian & Family,

\$ 100: Mr Anton Baghdisar & Family, Mr & Mrs Abdulahad Madfouni, Mr George Madfouni & Family, Mrs Jeanette Ayoub & Family, Mr & Mrs Antoine Kedsi, Mr Avedis Qasabian & Family, Mr Joseph Said & Family, Mr Gerard Ohanian & Family, Mr Samir Wazir & Family, Mr Harout Boladian & Family, Mr George Jeghelian & Family, Mr Zohrab Zaitounian & Family, Mr Paul Kisso & Family, Mr Mardiros Zaitounian & Family, Mr Harout Zaitounian & Family, Mr & Mrs Gary Tcherkezian, Mr Bashir Babik & Family, Mr & Mrs George Estephan, Mr Edouard Georgeflie, Mrs Emily Hanoun & Family,

\$ 70: Atachian Family,

\$ 50: Mr & Mrs Sarkis Majarian, Mr & Mrs Joseph Kalenderian, Mr Hagop Boyajian & Family, Mrs Aznif Kalenderian, Mr Khatchik Majarian & Family, Mrs Alice Izmirilian, Mrs Siranoush Totonjian, Mrs Gladis Zaitounian, Mr Joseph Boladian & Family, Mr & Mrs Yousef Wazir, Mr & Mrs Joseph Deodati, Mr & Mrs Raymond Sisilian, Mr & Mrs Alex Boladian, Mr Robert Madikian & Family, Mr Harout Babayan & Family, Mr Simon Zaitounian & Family, Mr Jack Simonian, Mrs Antoinette Halwagi, Mr Tony Golossian & Family, Mr & Mrs Magar Opoyan, Mr Garo Anterisian & Family, Mr Alphonse Diodati & Family, Mr Adel Halwagi & Family, Mr Jack Diodati & Family, Mr Nishan Kondrajian & Family, Mr Albert Kisso & Family, Mr George Gharibian & Family, Mr & Mrs Joseph Taza.

\$ 40: Mrs Marie Tcherkezian, Mrs Victoria Manoukian & Family,

\$ 30: Mr Khatchik Markarian & Family, Mr Jack Tarazi & Family.

\$ 25: Mrs Marie Kahvejian, Mr & Miss A. & G. Aslan, Mrs Haiganoush Kalenderian & Family,

\$ 20: Mr & Mrs Jack Yedelian, Mr Movses Movsessian & Family, Mrs Aida Hango Zada, Mr & Mrs Steve Kalenderian,

CHARITY BRIDGE TO ARMENIA DONATIONS

\$ 100: Anonimus, Mr & Mrs Avedis Qasabian

\$ 50: Mr & Mrs Jack Tarazi, Mr & Mrs Basil Asmar,

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS FOR THE LATE SOUREN VOSKERIDJIAN

\$100: Anthony & Jacqueline Surari.

\$50: Danny & Marie Chahine, Walih Younes, Hasmik Manogian & Sossy Hagopian, The Badrian Family, Simon Badrian, Dylam Developments. Mr & Mrs Michael Geroyan, Mrs Zabel Giroyan, Mr & Mrs Anto Guiroyan & Family, Harout & Susie Simonian, C. Saliba.

\$25: Mr Hagop Baronian, Michael & Marie Rizk.

\$20: Anonymus, Leon Guiroyan Family

\$10: Anonymus.