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June July 06

## ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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After many months of preparation, once again eleven boys and girls dressed in white approached the altar to receive their first Holy Communion. We congratulate the parents on this very important day in the lives of their children. We pray that all will live up to their vows in rejecting Satan and his deeds; Of course they can only achieve this with the help and example of the parents.

To mark this happy occasion the solemn ceremony and the reception in the church hall, were captured on video and it will be available to all the parents and family and friends. We take this opportunity to thank M/s Maida Atachian for her patience and dedication in preparing these Angeles to receive the flesh and blood of Jesus, the son of God.



church loving members of our community.

We wish to thank Mrs Maro Kalendarian for the beautiful flower arrangements. Also our sincere thanks go to the Ladies Auxiliary who for all the preparations of the church and the hall and their exquisite hospitality and catering during the celebration.

And last but not least we congratulate our children: Alicia and Jeremy Zadeian, Khatchig and Hovig Kahvejian, Jack and Vivian Yemenian, Rafi Madikian, Mary bagdesar, Apet Baltejian, Madeline Abram, Christabelle Guvlekjian. We hope that they will grow as good Christians and

## 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rosa Mystica

The Rosa Mystica prayer was founded in Italy in 1943 when our Lady of the Rosary appeared to Pierina Galli who asked her to get the people to recite the Rosary and repent and return to God. Our Lady reappeared on many occasions to Pierina right up to 1967. She asked from Pierina that July 13<sup>th</sup> be reserved for her as the feast day of our lady of the Rosa Mystica. However in 1991 the late George Kalendarian initiated, with a handful of friends, the Rosa Mystica prayer group within the Armenian Catholic community in Sydney.

The prayer group was open to all the Christian denominations, and thus within a short period of time it snowballed to eleven groups, covering virtually the whole Sydney metropolitan area; to day more than eight hundred families participate and recite the rosary on a daily basis. The majority of these families are of other Christian Easter



churches and communities; we wish to see more of our own Armenian Catholic community members take part in this spiritual activity

The group celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 28<sup>th</sup>, the church was packed with members including family and friends who celebrated the Divine Liturgy to collectively honour and thank Our Lady for her blessings over the past 15 years. We pray and beseech our Lady to bless us and intercede on our behalf to Our Lord the Almighty so that He may open up the hearts and minds of all people for peace to prevail in this world.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Luncheon

The first Sunday luncheon in May was donated by Mr and Mrs Qasabian, and the Luncheon in June was donated by an anonymous family. And we are pleased to say that these luncheons generate a reasonable income for our church.

The church Council and the Ladies Auxiliary are constantly looking for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Luncheon donations; if you wish to donate and are unable to do the preparations yourselves (for whatever reason), you may contact any member of the church Council and all will be organised for you. This will not only generate a badly needed income for our church, it will also create the family atmosphere that we all love to be part of. Come on; put your hands up parishioners.

## Acknowledgement

We wish to thank Mr Artin Etmekjian and Mrs Annie Gharibian for all the long hours of work in preparing the draft interim church accounts. This has been and will be a long process for them, as it is anticipated it will take a few weeks. Once the books have been completed they will be presented in our next year's Annual General Meeting. This will no doubt set the standard in our church for the future. Once again our sincere thanks for their patience and dedication.

## **Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption**

### Blessing of the Grapes

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of August is the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption it is customary in the Armenian tradition to bless the first harvest of the Grapes, and we are looking for volunteers who wish to donate a few boxes of the grapes. Any parishioners wishing to provide the grapes may contact the Church Council to discuss the matter re quantity needed etc. Please ensure that you put your hands up early to avoid disappointment as we are expecting many volunteers.

As usual the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their Bazaar on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August; I am sure many of you are looking forward to that event and I believe the Ladies are preparing many surprises for us this year; We wish to remind our parishioners that it will be only a one day affair, so mark your calendars so that you don't miss out. Your support is vital to the well being of our church, and we would like to see many of parishioners and friends joining us with their children on that family fun filled day.

### Annual Dinner Dance

This year the Church Council will be organising its Annual Dinner Dance On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. Tickets will be available very soon and we as usual expect your support and participation to ensure its success. Please mark your calendars and keep that date free. The Dinner Dance will be held at the Grand Westella Reception Lounge at Lidcombe. The entertainment will be provided by the fabulous Lucine and the famous singer Alex Hadchiti. There will be many surprises on the night and we are planning to have another great family celebration within our community. Donations \$75 this includes food and drinks.

## Story in the fourth century

Saint Anthony visited Saint Didymus the dean of the school of Alexandria, who became blind at the age of four. Didymus had devised a technique of carving script on wood, enabling the blind to read with the touch fingers. He thus preceded the French Braille, by about fifteen centuries, in the invention of extrusive writing for the blind.

One day Saint Anthony asked him, "are you sad for the loss of your sight?" Saint Didymus was silent. Again Saint Anthony repeated the question several times, finally Didymus replied, "I thank God in every condition, but no doubt I am sad because I was deprived of seeing many things, especially reading books.

Saint Anthony commented, how you can be sad Didymus, about losing the sight we have common with animals and insects, and not rejoice that God has granted you the insight, which you share with the heavenly, to know divine and wondrous mysteries!

Indeed, we thank God for the gift of sight, and if He takes it away, we receive a keenness in our spiritual sight, and so thank Him for losing physical sight and delighting in a greater and everlasting insight.

## Baptisms

22 April 2006 Amy Monica daughter of Anthony & Monica Kainuku

4 June 2006 Matthew Joseph William son of Bruce & Lucy Blacker

11 June 2005 Shane Ohannes son of Yacoub & Shanta Qaldirian

## Funerals

14 April 2006 Florence Wartabetian

13 June 2006 Yester Baltejian Chankoulian

### **DONATION TO THE CHURCH**

**\$ 300:** Mr Ara Stamboulian & Family, Mr & Mrs Artin Etmekjian,

**\$ 200:** Elie & James Nol,

**\$ 120:** Mr Peter Gardner & Family,

**\$ 150:** Mr & Mrs Antoine Kedsi

**\$ 100:** Mrs Maro Jammo, Mr Edouard Georgeflie,

**\$ 50:** Mr & Mrs Sarkis Majarian, Mr Tony Golossian & Family, Mr Karam Bahi & Family, Mrs Emily Hanoun & Family,

### **HOME BLESSING DONATION**

**\$ 200:** Mr Johannes Shirvanian & Family,

**\$ 50:** Mr Nabil Ayoub & Family, Mr & Mrs Alex Boladian, Mrs Alice Kondrajian, Anonimus,

**\$ 30:** Mr & Mrs Jean Oghelian, Mr Hanna Higiazin & Family,

**\$ 25:** Mrs Marie Kahvejian,

### **IN LIEU OF FLOWERS FOR THE LATE FLORENCE WARTABETIAN**

**\$ 100:** Mr & Mrs Vrej Yezekilian,

**\$ 50:** Mr & Mrs Garo Soghomonian, Mr & Mrs Harout Zaitounian, Mr & Mrs Zohrab Zaitounian, Mr & Mrs Manuel & Asdghig Manoukian, Mr & Mrs Khatchik & Seta Hovaghimian, Mr & Mrs Hovannes & Azad Soghomonian. Mr & Mrs Anazonian.

**\$ 30:** Mr & Mrs Khatchik Aprikian, Mr & Mrs Simon Zaitounian,

**\$ 20:** Mr & Mrs Hagop Boyajian, Mr & Mrs Khatchik Majarian, Mr & Mrs Sarkis Majarian, Mrs Gladis Zaitounian,

# I AM SORRY

**“Because of your great mercy  
Wipe away my sins!” [Psalm 51:1]**

Apology is a powerful action, it resolves conflicts without violence, and it brings stability to relationships.

We get caught up and waste valuable time in trying to figure out who is right and who is wrong, an excuse to justify ourselves, an excuse to ignore the problem instead of concentrating on the real matter and repair the damage.

Apologies have the power to repair harm done, mend relationships, soothe wounds and heal broken hearts. It also has the ability to disarm others of their anger and prevent further heartaches.

A meaningful apology can be the first step toward forgiveness.

Colleen O’Conner a journalist, she once wrote ***“The successful apology dissolves anger and humiliation. It shows respect, builds trust, and helps prevent further misunderstanding. A sincere apology makes it easier to forgive.”***

And author Barbara Engel says that a true apology depends on the three **Rs: regret, responsibility, and remedy.**

In Jesus’ story of the prodigal son, the headstrong young man who returned home after squandering his inheritance approached his father with humility and remorse: ***“Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son”*** [Luke 15:21].

He expressed regret for the pain he had caused, took responsibility for what he had done, and was prepared to work as a hired servant [Luke 15:19].

Let’s remind ourselves of the greatest love, the love of forgiveness which was given to each one of us without any hesitation. Jesus Christ our Lord forgave us and paid our debt with His precious blood carried the pain, the suffering, the humiliation, and the death on our behalf. What an unbelievable love? What a great and forgiving Lord?

We as Humans do not deserve such love, we are arrogant, selfish, proud, ignorant, unkind and hypocrites etc.... we must be honest with ourselves and the Lord, and try to understand the meaning of the words we utter each time we pray:

**“Our Father.....Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrongs us...”**

An apology opens the door for forgiveness.

**“If you forgive, the Father in heaven will surely forgive you”** [Matt 6:14-15]

As Christians, we have the responsibility to repent and sincerely say **“I am sorry”** whenever we wrong another person. In a spirit of humility and love, we can help those who need to forgive us by offering a genuine apology.

A sincere apology doesn’t compel others to forgive, but it’s the right thing to do. We must take the first step on the path toward the freedom of forgiveness.

Apologies are a way to restore trust and gain respect.

**A heartfelt apology can’t change the past  
But it can brighten the future.**

**Our sincere gratitude to ROMAN PRINTING  
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