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Armenian Catholic Church

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Our Lady of the Assumption 50th Anniversary Celebration

On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our spiritual and cultural center at our Lidcombe Church, a special Holy Liturgy was said in the presence of *His Eminence Cardinal Leonardo Sandri (prefect of the Oriental Churches)* and all the bishops from the various Eastern Churches within Australia.

This was an historic event since it was the first time that a Vatican representative and a New South Wales Premier (*The Honorable M/s Gladys Berejckian first Armenian Premier of the state of New South Wales*) attend and grace our humble Church in Lidcombe.

This special mass was also attended by many representatives and dignitaries and distinguished guests from the various Armenian organizations, as well as, many of our regular parishioners which brought the Church to full capacity.

It was a beautiful sung Mass in the real Armenian tradition and the choir was in an excellent form, and they did us all proud.

The honor of reading the day's Gospel was given to Bishop Haigazoun Nazarian from the Armenian Apostolic Church, and Bishop Robert Rabbat from the Melkite Catholic Church which highlighted the true spirit of ecumenism.

Mgr Basil has welcomed and thanked Cardinal Sandri, and Premier Berejckian and all the other Bishops for accepting to share with the Armenian Catholic Community the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of our Church in Australia. He also touched upon the many challenges the young Armenian Catholic Community had faced in the early days of its life, and how they had finally managed to secure this spiritual and cultural landmark. Mgr Basil also spoke about the Armenians and their resilience and their contributions and loyalty to the society they live in.



At the end of his speech Mgr Basil invited Cardinal Sandri to say a few words to all present.

Cardinal Sandri from the outset showed his deep sense of admirations towards all Armenians in general, he also showed an understanding of the pain all Armenians carry in their hearts due to the great injustice of the Genocide. He stressed the acknowledgement of the genocide by Pope Francis together with host of other nations. He also mentioned the proclamation of St Gregory of Nareg a Doctor of the Church, which is a great honor to all Armenians.



At the end of the Holy Liturgy all the dignitaries and distinguished guests were treated with a special fully catered dinner in the Church Hall.

During this special dinner, a Church Council representative also gave welcoming words to all present and elaborate on the council's current and future programs.

All in all, it was very memorable and successful evening.

Speech of Mgr Basil Sousanian

Your Eminence Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, (Prefect of the Oriental Churches Congregation)

The Honorable Gladys Berejeklian, Premier of New South Wales,

Your Excellency Adolfo Tito Yllana (Apostolic Nuncio)

Your Eminences, Excellences, Graces, Monsignors, Reverend Fathers,

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to welcome you and thank you for joining us this evening in the celebration of this Holy Liturgy on the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of our humble Church in Sydney, Australia.

In 1968, the late Monsignor Sarkis Ouzounian was sent to Sydney to become the first Armenian Catholic Spiritual leader for the fledgling Armenian Catholic Community.

The first 10 years presented great challenges for the community as it struggled from week to week to shuffle from Church to Church, so that it can celebrate the Holy Liturgy in its mother tongue, and to preserve the traditional heritage which all Armenians hold so dear in their heart.

However, finally in the late seventies, Mgr Ouzounian (May his soul rest in peace), and his Church Council managed to secure this Church we are standing in today, and ever since then, it has become the spiritual and cultural central for the entire Armenian Catholic community of Sydney.

As Armenians and survivors of Genocide, our heritage, Religion and culture are inseparable; and Armenians, wherever they are, and no matter what country they live in, uphold these values very tenaciously and vigorously. They are also law-abiding citizens and conduct themselves with honor and integrity and their contribution, to the society they live in, is always exemplary, be it in academia, politics or business.

Your Eminence,

In the true spirit of Ecumenism, the conference of the Bishops and representatives of the middle Eastern Churches was founded in Sydney, in 2001, and regular meetings are held to discuss important issues affecting our communities as they arise; however, the last five years the main agenda was the settlement and reunion of our brothers and sisters from war torn Iraq and Syria.

We pray for the ultimate unity of Christ's Church and we also pray that His Holiness Pope Francis may, by the power of the Holy Spirit, repeat the historical agreement achieved in Egypt with Pope Toadros II Patriarch of Alexandria of the Coptic Orthodox Church (where-by both Churches recognize the original Baptism of the individual) by accelerating the ecumenical dialogue with all the sister Churches, so that we may all celebrate Easter and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ together, as we have done so this year.

Your Eminence, I wish to conclude my speech by thanking you for making this very long and tiresome journey to be with us tonight and I also would like to specially thank our Premier M/s Gladys Berejikian and all our all our distinguished guests for honoring our community by joining us for this special Anniversary of thanksgiving Holy Liturgy.

Celebration on the 14th of October 2017

Our Community has had a year of celebration in 2017 because reached a major milestone of its 50th Anniversary, being established here in Sydney.

With this milestone, we continue to celebrate and wish to invite our Community to come and join us in our celebration on the 14th of October at 7:30 pm at the Concourse Chatswood an event that is in honor of KOMADIS the great Armenian Composer.

This is a one-night event and will be free of charge, we wish to advise that we only have limited seats and urge you to contact us and book your seats as early as possible.

If anyone wishes to sponsor the event they are more than welcome to contribute and all sponsors will be mentioned during the event. For sponsoring please contact me directly to discuss.

In honor of the 50th Anniversary we will have many honorable guests on the evening which including the His

Eminence Bedros Miriatian the Archbishop of Aleppo for the Armenian Catholics, and religious and political leader.

This is a yearlong celebration for the Armenian Catholic Church, and there are a few other events that we are in the process of organizing, we will continue to communicate and update you closer to the relevant events and dates.