



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parishioners

Lent and the holy week of Easter have come and gone, and before we know it, Christmas will be upon us and time is flying fast and Easter seems like yesterday.

Although the response from our parishioners on Holy Thursday and Good Friday and Easter Sunday were very encouraging however the attendance during lent and especially during the Stations of the Cross ceremonies was indeed very poor. It is time for all of us to stop and think and sincerely ask ourselves if we truly deserve to be called the followers of Christ, the Christ who died for us on the Cross for the salvation of mankind.

How many of us can sincerely ask ourselves this question, and be satisfied with their answer, how many?

Dear Parishioners, it is indeed easy to sit back and read the papers day after day and see the progress other religions are making at our expense. Today many churches in the world are being bought by other religions (which we do not want to identify in this bulletin); do we really want this to happen in Australia?

So, let us not kid ourselves, unless every Christian individual takes on the responsibility to do his her bit for their church, the church on its own cannot live, in the same manner that the head cannot survive without the body.

Life is indeed very short, hence let us take stock of our lives and carefully examine ourselves and really ask ourselves if we are genuinely committed to our faith; or is it something that we can take for granted and treat it just like any insurance policy, so that we can run and make a claim whenever our lives or the lives of our beloved are in danger or threatened?

Let us all resolve to make a difference and make that vital resolution to change our ways, our behaviour, our attitudes and head towards Our Lord Jesus Christ, who loves us and who is the only way to eternal salvation.

Dear Parishioners, what we really want to say is that we must not forget our church, the house of our Lord, and let us not make our church attendance a once or twice a year affair; we must think of the future generations, how do we expect our young to love their church if we ourselves don't become an example for them? We hope that we will heed these words and make that effort towards change, and with that change we can all guarantee the survival of our church for many generations to come.

The Ungrateful Man

This story written by a prominent French writer Fernand Rrenau;

One day a man was walking along the river seine, and suddenly he saw a multitude gather around the bank of the river. He approached the crowd to see what the commotion was all about; and all of sudden he realised that the crowd had gathered around his seven year old son just pulled out of the running river. In great shock and amazement he wanted to know who had rescued his son. A man approached him and told him that it was he who rescued his son from the river.

Are you the saviour of my son?

Yes, I saw him running along the river and suddenly he had fallen into the river. Then I ran and jumped in and finally managed to get save him.

Then you are the saviour of my dear son?

Yes, it was me, and truly the water was running fast, but I grabbed him from his hair and dragged him to the river bank and resuscitated him on the spot; and thank God he is alive.

The father of the son stared at him in disbelief and said “then you are the saviour of my son, but where is his blue hat?”

Dear parishioners,

God created us and he gave us the life, and in him we grow and live; because he is the fountain of life; He is the one who put the balance between the water, the wind and Plants and he is also the origin of the oxygen that we breathe.

In the beginning he sent us the prophets to show us the way and then he has sacrificed His only son who was born from the Virgin Mary, for the sake of our love and salvation. He suffered and died on the cross and risen from amongst the dead. And to protect us he has sent us the Holy Spirit to permanently guard us from all evil. And thus he has paved the way for us to join Him in his eternal heavenly kingdom.

But we, like the man in the little story, forget all the wonders of the world that God has created and balanced and gifted to us and still ask about the trivial matters that make no sense. We, often ask ourselves and complain to God, why is the weather cold or hot?

Why you didn't make me the son of a rich man, since you are rich and generous in your mercies? Why didn't you give me a beautiful voice since you have created the beauty of the world? Why do you allow unfortunate things to happen to me especially when I always pray to you?

Dear parishioners,

There are many more trivial questions that we usually direct towards God; but fortunately for us he doesn't listen to our complaints and our denial of his benevolence.

We live in a world full of troubles but let us not forget that he has created us with his power and the sacrifice of His son and the protection of the Holy Spirit so that we can glorify him and spread love and peace through out the whole world.

Eastern Rite Churches Congregation

For the first since the arrival of Fr. Parsegh, the Eastern Rite Churches Congregation was held at our church on 18.05.09. It is obviously a great privilege and honour to host such a congregation. After the meeting and the other formalities, luncheon (prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary) was served to all the dignitaries and delegates. We hope that the congregation had brought to light all the issues that confronts not only these churches individually in Australia, but the more pressing and challenging issues affecting The “the Church” and “The Faith” in Australia.

The Film “The Lark Farm”

The Armenian Catholic Church Council sponsored a special screening of the “Lark Farm” at the Reading cinemas on Parramatta road, Auburn on the 26th April. The film is French, Spanish, Bulgarian and Italian effort; the film tells the story of a prominent Armenian family in Turkey during the Genocide. The film is so powerful that it made all those who have attended relive the horrors of our ancestors. Although no entrance fee was charged 240 people attended; many stayed away as they deliberately did not wish to test their emotions on this very painful subject.

The film is well made and powerful and highly commended by all who have had the opportunity to see it.

The Italian directors, the Taviani brothers, deserve all our respects for a job very well done.

End of Month Celebration for the Virgin

As we all know the month of May is dedicated to the Virgin Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sunday 31st May marked the end of that month and all our parishioners and friends gathered and joined us in the special ceremony for our Lady.

After the Holy mass and the procession with the statue of our Lady of Rosa Mystica, a special luncheon was organized by the Ladies Auxiliary to mark the event. The luncheon was donated by the Qasabian family and it consisted of our traditional shish Kebab.

Many stayed back for the luncheon and socialized with family and friends. It is our wish that such luncheons take place in our church because it gives all an opportunity to spend some time together and in this way an atmosphere of family and fellowship can be further enhanced.

Annual Dinner Dance 1st August 2009

The Church Council has decided to announce the date of our Annual Dinner Dance earlier than previous years. It is hoped that this decision will give our parishioners and friends ample time to make their bookings and to organize their affairs accordingly.

The venue; Fontana di Trevi Function Centre

Address: 53 Raymond Street, Bankstown.

Time: 7.30 pm

Tickets: Adults \$75 Children: \$40

Entertainment: Hovig & Karnig

Once again we stress the need for your moral support which we have enjoyed over the past few years. Your participation in this Annual event is crucial in bringing friends and families together; and let us not forget that it is this fellowship and family spirit that keeps the flame of this community alight. So let us see you there in great numbers with your loved ones family or friends and let us spend an enjoyable evening together.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption and Annual Bazaar 16.8.09

The feast of our lady of the Assumption will take place on the 16th august 09 and as usual there will be a sung mass to celebrate and honour our lady and as our tradition dictates the blessing of the grapes will take place. Those who are interested in donating the grapes for this year's ceremony may contact the church at their earliest convenience.

The annual bazaar will take place immediately after these ceremonies; as you are all aware that it is a one day affair, so to make the most of it this year, come and join us during these festivities and enjoy the luncheon of assorted delicacies and kebabs; the Church Council has decided to launch a lottery with many exciting and expensive prizes. The list of prizes will be shown on the tickets which will be sent to your homes via the monthly bulletin.

Ten tickets will be sent to each family and we expect our parishioners to support their church and thus ensure its future growth and development.

Each ticket will cost \$1.00 and we believe this sum is within the means of all concerned. Please send your 10 coupons with your names and telephone numbers marked on it, together with the correct amount of money in an envelope addressed to The Armenian Catholic Church, PO Box 315, Lidcombe, NSW 2141.

Baptism

Serina Benlian daughter of Mr & Mrs Hagop & Lilit on 01.03.09

James John Mavelian Son of Mr & Mrs Chris & Taline on 29.03.09

Sienna Kahawaty daughter of Mr & Mrs Dany & Izla on 12.04.09

Amarnie Furnari daughter of Mr & Mrs Sebastian & Mary on 19.04.09

Nathan George Hazari Son of Mr & Mrs Robert & Haidy on 25.04.09

Donation to the Church

\$2000: Hamazkaine Armenian Sevan Dance Ensemble Australia Inc.

\$ 500: Mr & Mrs Gabi Kahawaty.

\$ 250: Mr & Mrs George Jeghelian.

\$ 200: Michael Christian Opoyan, Mr & Mrs Vicken Izmirilian.

\$ 50: Mrs Emily Hanoun & Family, Mr & Mrs Albert Dawood.

\$ 30: anonymous.

**Never mistake knowledge for wisdom,
one helps you make a living,
the other helps you make a life.**

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