



OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2009

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear parishioners

As you were all aware I have spent the last six weeks in Europe and the Middle East visiting members of my dear family. Whilst in Europe I had the opportunity to visit Lourdes with my parents; it was indeed a great source of spiritual pilgrimage for me and my family. You can rest assured that you were always in my prayers and I lit two candles in front of the grotto of our Lady of Lourdes, one for each parish, Sydney and Melbourne.

Visiting priest

Fr Movses Donanian arrived in Sydney just before Fr Basil's departure overseas for his annual leave. Fr Movses was serving in Damascus prior to his departure to Australia. In the past he served in Beirut, Buenos Aires, San Paulo and Armenia, Gumri.

Fr Movses filled the vacuum left by Fr Parsegh, in that, the community was able to continue hearing the holy mass in the Armenian language and we were very fortunate indeed with his presence for we as a community were able to bury our dead and attend to a couple of Hokehankists. Fr Movses will stay in Sydney to the full extent of his visa which is three months. We wish him a very happy stay in Sydney.

First Holy Communion

Dear parishioners, we are planning to organize the first Holy Communion ceremony in February 2010, we advise all parents who wish to have their children to participate at this very important sacrament of the Church to kindly contact our Church so that their names can be registered.

Annual Dinner Dance

Dear Parishioners, the Annual dinner dance held at the "Fontana Di Trevi" in Bankstown on 1.8.09 was once again a resounding success: financial and secondly due to the amazing response from our parishioners and supporters of our beloved church.

Amongst the VIP's present were The Honourable Barbara Perry, Minister responsible for mental health; Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chairman of the Community relations Commission for a multicultural NSW, and Mrs Kerkyasharian and Last but not least the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Sarkis Yedelian and Mrs Yedelian.

The MC on this occasion was Mr Alphonse Diodati, who did an excellent job right through the night and after his welcoming and opening speech the party got underway.

We were as usual entertained by the ageless "Karnig" who entertained us with his unforgettable and magical music and songs. The dance floor was always busy and patrons ate

and drank, with their families and friends, to the tune of the magical melodies and atmosphere.

The generosity of the patrons was once again reflected through their active participation in all the night's fund raising aspects. All items placed on auction were duly sold and the new raffle ticketing method was indeed a great success.

We wish to thank Mr George Shad and Mrs Rauda Kanawati for their continuous generosity and contributions in making the evening a great success.

We also wish to thank the management of the venue, for their delicious food and service.

The net proceeds from the function were in excess of \$13,000.00

Annual Bazaar on Assumption Day

On the 16th August the Holy Mass of the feast of our Lady of the Assumption was concelebrated by Fr Basil Sousanian & Fr Movses Donanian. Fr Anton Totonjian who was on a visit to Sydney was also present during these celebrations. At the end of the Holy mass, as per our custom, the blessing of the grapes ceremony took place; great numbers of our parishioners took part in these celebrations which were followed by the general bazaar which was organised by the ladies Auxiliary. Many families and friends spent the afternoon socialising and enjoyed the delicacies and the foods on offer including the famous kebab prepared by the joint effort of the various council members and the volunteers. It is at times like this that the true spirit of cooperation and fellowship that surfaces within the entire community, and which is vital for its advancement and its progress.

For the first time, our annual church raffle was an immense success and the response from our parishioners was indeed very encouraging to say the least. The response to our mail raffle tickets which were allocated to each family was 30%. The total tickets sold amounted to 3700 tickets.

Major prize winners

1 week holiday cottage in Terrigal:

won by Mr Paul Manoukian

LCD 81cm TV:

won by Mrs Clarissa Di Pietro

Sanyo HD Video camera:

won by M/s Salwa Kasparian

DVD Sony:

won by Mrs Therese Qasabian

Funerals

In the last ten weeks, our parish lost four dear and beloved parishioners, namely, Ishac Assadourian, Lucine Akelian, Alice Kalenderian and Khatchig Markarian. We wish to extend our sincere condolences to the Assadourian, Akelian, Kalenderian and Markarian families. May their souls rest in peace and may the Lord embrace them and make them worthy in the glory of His heavenly Kingdom.

Wedding

Clarissa Qasabian, daughter of our church council president Mr. Avedis Qasabian was joined in Holy matrimony with Mr Davide Di Pietro in our church on 4th October 2009. The church was packed with family and friends despite the inclement weather. The marriage ceremony was performed by Fr Basil Sousanian in three languages, Armenian, Italian and English.

Our sincere congratulations and well wishes to the newly weds and their respective families.
May the lord the almighty bless their union and grant them a long and happy life together.

Baptism

Sophie Louise daughter of Mr & Mrs Tristan & Sylva Welford Boladian on 04.07.09

Dvin Son of Mr & Mrs Arlen & Nina Sarkissian Shirvanian on 04.10.09

Jenya & Emmyne daughters of Mr & Mrs Arlen & Nina Sarkissian Shirvanian on 04.10.09