



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

TEL: 96493380, FAX: 96493958, MOBILE: 0427404952, E-MAIL: fr.basil@armeniancatholic.org.au

Forgiveness

“Happy are those who work for peace, God will call them His children” [Mat 5:9]

Everyone has been wronged, offended, hurt at some point in life. We all know how much trouble is created by simple misunderstandings, whether caused by deeds or words. They often stem from the stressful world we live in and this stress can often lead us to the kind of utterances and actions which more often than not open up past wounds and grievances. It is on occasions like this that it is important for us to remember the words in the Holy Bible ***“be kind and tender hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ”*** [Eph 4-32]

Often we think it is impossible to forgive someone who has deeply wronged us; however, with God’s grace and guidance it is possible to overcome these negative feelings and if we do not we are allowing ourselves to become the slaves of Satan and not the followers of Christ, ***“If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*** [John 8:31-32]

In the Lord’s Prayer we ask God to forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us. ***“If you forgive others the wrong they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done”*** [Mat 6:14-15]

The Holy Spirit can empower us, when we surrender to Him. ***“The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control”*** [Gal 5:22-23]

Some of us might say ***“I forgive but I cannot forget”*** this is hypocrisy, an excuse not to let go of the hurt and injury. The Bible does not permit us to add any conditions to forgiveness. We should not let bad memories torment us. The Bible commands us to ***forgive*** and ***forget***. The moment we forgive means we promise never to mention this offence again. God gave us a wonderful promise ***“I will not remember their sins and evil deeds any longer”*** [Heb10:17] God is full of forgiveness when we open up our hearts to Him, it is only then that we will be totally free.

Quote

People who constantly live in the past,
are usually afraid of the present.

Dear Parishioners,

Our sister community in Melbourne had been experiencing some difficulties for some time. These difficulties and problems surfaced more than a year ago, and it saddens us to inform you that the situation was becoming untenable and it reached the point where decisive action had to be taken to avert it reaching the courts, and thus place the Armenian Catholic Church under public scrutiny and derision.

From the outset, our patriarch was made aware of the facts and we have been instructed by His Beatitude to mediate and do whatever possible in our power not to let this matter reach the courts, and thus avoid at all costs the fall out that may have stemmed from such public challenges.

We are pleased to announce to you that recently, the Armenian catholic communities in Australia have been spared the embarrassment of having its internal misunderstandings and difficulties publicly exposed. But unfortunately and we are sorry to inform you that the cost to achieve such an outcome was \$20000 for our community.

Naturally this was an unnecessary cost for our community, however we were faced with a very sticky situation and where the entire Armenian Catholic church's integrity was at stake; we simply had to obey and act on the patriarch's instructions.

Letter from His Beatitude re abovementioned matter

Dear Fr. Basil and members of the Armenian Catholic Church Council of Sydney,

May I take this opportunity, although somewhat belated, to thank you all for your courageous and relentless efforts to protect the name and the interests of your beloved Church.

I am especially proud and honored by your gallant efforts in intervening in the matters that had arisen in Melbourne between Fr. George Berberian and the Trustees Committee. Without the recourse to the courts, you have skillfully managed to resolve these difficult challenges that our beloved Church had faced, which is the proof of the love and faith you have for your Community and Church. You have indeed resolved this matter, which weighed very heavily on our hearts, without adverse publicity in the media, albeit at a substantial cost to your humble financial means. For that, I highly commend you collectively and individually.

My heartfelt thanks and prayers shall always be with you

With my paternal blessing,

† *Nerses Bedros XIX*
Catholicos Patriarch of Cilicia
for the Armenian Catholics

Quote

You can clutch to the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves your arms too full to embrace the present

Contribution's towards "Lantchik" Church in Armenia

The Armenian Catholic Archbishop Nishan Karakehyan of Armenia had recently written to Fr Basil Sousanian, requesting financial aid to help structurally repair the badly affected church in the village of Lantchik; it is our intention to make a positive response and provide the needed funds which are estimated to be in the vicinity of US \$15000.00;

We, therefore ask our parishioners who are able and capable to assist and contribute towards this worthy cause to contact Fr Basil as soon as possible. You may also, if you so wish send your contribution by cheque in favor of the Armenian Catholic Church, Lidcombe PO Box 315; an official receipt will be issued for all contributions made.

Harbor Picnic Cruise 18th April 2010

The Armenian and the Syrian Catholic Communities in Sydney have jointly organized a Harbor Luxury fun cruise for the benefit of their respective Churches. This is a "one of" unique occasion where both communities can get together on a fun cruise which we anticipate would be a memorable day for everyone, especially our young.

We encourage everyone to spread the word and take part in this worthy activity which will not only benefit each individual, through fellowship and friendship, but also our churches who are in need of funds to carry out the immense tasks and challenges of their respective communities.

We implore you to keep the abovementioned date in mind and accordingly contact your parish priest to make your reservations; the numbers are limited so be quick and make that phone call.

Donation \$150.00 pp (includes food and drinks)

Holy Communion Ceremony

The 2010 First Holy Communion ceremony will take place on Sunday 7th March 2010. This year, 6 children were prepared to take their first Holy Communion. We invite all their extended families and all our parishioners to join us on this happy and very special occasion.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Miss Maida Atachian for all her sacrifice and dedication in preparing these children for their first most important gesture of faith in their entire lives.

LOOYCE Armenian School

It is now official; our Saturday school will open its doors on Saturday 27th February. We are happy to announce that so far the inquiries that we have received far exceeded our expectations. We invite all those who are interested to have their children registered, to contact Fr Basil on 96493380 or 0427404952 at the earliest of opportunity. Full details of the Saturday school can be obtained from our church.

Holy Mass In Arabic

Dear Parishioners as from March 2010 Fr. Basil will be saying a special Holy mass in the Arabic language, for those parishioners who can only speak the Arabic language. The Mass will start at 10 am. But the normal Armenian mass will be said at the usual normal hour that

is 11am. Please take note that during the Armenian mass the Holy Gospel will be read in the Armenian and English languages only.

Khatchi Janabar Station of the Cross

We remind our Parishioners that “Khatchi Janabar” commences every Friday at 7.30 pm from 19.02.2010 Please take note and try to be on time.

Let us this time to walk in the footsteps of Jesus who died on our behalf on the cross, and we believe that there is no other better way in showing Him that we appreciate what he did for us, and in so doing we may be able to prepare ourselves for a truly Holy Easter.

Reconciliation

After all it is the month of lent and what a better opportunity for us all to make our peace with our God, our so called enemies, our neighbors, our friends; and how can we achieve that without opening our hearts and ask for forgiveness for all our sins from God; for there is no one amongst us without sin; and how can we do this? Yes my friend, we can do this by the simple act of confession to your priest who is the representative of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth.

During the month of lent Fr. Parsegh will be available everyday to hear your confessions, and all you have to do is turn up to open up your hearts.

Wedding

On the 24 October 2009 David William Milne-Home & Nancy Kondrajian, Our heartfelt congratulations to the newly- weds and may the Lord grant them a long and a happy life together, and may they also be blessed with many healthy children.

Baptism

08.11.09 Emily daughter of Mr & Mrs Charlie & Eva Ahad

06.12.09 Sienna Marie daughter of Mr & Mrs George & Julie Golossian

19.12.09 Daniel Alexander Son of Mr. & Mrs. Cars ten & Denise Daber

16.01.2010 Sion Son Of Mr & Mrs Narbeh & Alina Shirvanian

16.01.2010 Joe Son of Mr & Mrs Jack & Josephine Srabian

31.01.2010 Gabriel Vincent Son of Mr & Mrs Tristan & Sylva Welford

Congratulation to the all proud parents and we pray this children may grow in the Christian faith and they become invaluable members within the Armenian Catholic Community.

Quote

Why do we emphasize the importance of home ownership?
when life itself is only leased ???

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