



July – August 2015

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmouni **Catholicos Patriarch of the Armenian Catholics** (17 January 1940 – 25 June 2015).

He was the second son and the fifth of eight children born to Elias Taza and Josephine Azouz. He completed his primary and secondary studies at the College of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Frères des Ecoles Chrésiennes) in Cairo



He felt a vocation for the priesthood very early in life and thus was sent to the Armenian Leonine Pontifical College in Rome in 1958 where he studied Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. His Bishop, Raphaël Bayan ordained him as a priest in Cairo on 15 August 1965. In Heliopolis he was known as **Father Pierre Taza**.

He served the parish of the Armenian Catholic Cathedral of the Annunciation in Cairo from 1965 to 1968 with the Rev John Kasparian who, in 1982, became Catholicos Patriarch under the name of Hovhannes Bedros XVIII (John Peter XVIII Kasparian).

From 1968 to 1990, Father Pierre Taza was curate of the parish of St Therese of Heliopolis in Cairo

On 18 February 1990, he was ordained bishop of the Eparchy of Alexandria for Egypt and Sudan by the laying on of hands of Jean Pierre XVIII.

From 1992 to 1997, as member of the Catholic Hierarchy of Egypt, he was the General Secretary of the Pastoral Council of the Catholic Church of Egypt.

As a member of the Synod of the Bishops of the Catholic Armenian Patriarch Church, he was:

- Member of the Council of the three Bishops to direct the Patriarchal Curie from 1993 to 1995
- President of the Patriarchal Commission for the Vocations from 1993 to 1995
- Member of the Permanent Synod as of 1994

In October 1999, he was elected by the Bishops of the Holy Synod of the Catholic Armenian Synod, Catholicos Patriarch of Cilicia of Armenian Catholics and took the name **Nerses Bedros XIX**.

He remained in this position until his death on June 25, 2015.



A mass for the 40th will be held on Sunday 2nd August 2015 at 11 AM.

5 John Street, Lidcombe

All believers are asked to raise their prayers for the repose of the soul of our beloved Catholicos Nerses Bedros so that he may join the saints in the heavenly kingdom of God.

That he may be always remembered.

Condolence letter on demise of Catholicos Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX

His Holiness Pope Francis

“It is with great sadness that I have learned of the return to the house of the Father of our beloved brother in Christ, His Beatitude Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmouni Catholicos Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians. I conserve in my heart the memory of my encounter with him, accompanied by the bishops of the Synod and the faithful of this Patriarchal Church, on the occasion of the commemoration of the victims of the Metz Yegern and the proclamation of St. Gregory of Narek as Doctor of the universal Church. It was as if these events lived in the vicinity of the relics of the apostle St. Peter had marked the long and faithful journey of your 'Caput et Pater', revealing some of his most characteristic aspects.

“He was, above all, deeply rooted on the Rock that is Christ. He held that the most valuable treasure that a bishop is called upon to minister to is the faith that comes from apostolic preaching. His Beatitude spared nothing in ensuring its dissemination, especially by promoting the continuing formation of the clergy so that, even in difficult contexts, the ministers of God renew their adhesion to Christ, the sole hope and consolation for humanity.

“He dedicated himself to ensuring that the just commemoration of the sufferings of the Armenian



people throughout their history become an action of God's grace considering the example of martyrs and witnesses, and at the same time obtained from Him the balm of consolation and reconciliation, which alone may heal the deepest wounds of souls and of peoples.

“Patriarch Nerses was finally able to rejoice with the Armenian people at the elevation of St. Gregory of Narek to the luminous title of Doctor of the Church. His Beatitude wished the spiritual influence of this great saint be an example for pastors and faithful, convinced that through St. Gregory of Narek everyone can experience the wonders

that the Lord is able to achieve in the heart that opens up to Him in daily simplicity and humility, and in solidarity with the drama of humanity, through ceaseless intercession.

“Invited to perpetuate this triple heritage left to us by Patriarch Nerses, we implore the Holy Spirit to continue to renew the face of the Armenian Catholic Church, through the commitment of pastors and faithful, and we also entrust to the Father of all Mercy the labours, linked to the limits and weaknesses of the condition of the pilgrims on their way to the eternal homeland”.

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians

On behalf of the members of the Brotherhood of Holy Etchmiadzin and the Supreme Spiritual Council, His Holiness conveyed his deepest sympathies and condolences to Pope Francis, the clergy of the Armenian Catholic Church and the faithful.

The Armenian Pontiff emphasized the dedicated service of the late Patriarch in the life of the



Armenian Catholic Church, for the effectiveness of the Holy Church of Christ's mission and preservation and appreciation of spiritual heritage.

His Holiness prayed that the Lord receive the soul of the late Patriarch in the Heavenly Heights and grant consolation and comfort of the Holy Spirit to the Brotherhood and the faithful of the Armenian Catholic Church.

Serzh Sargsyan President of The Republic of Armenian

It was with deep sorrow that I learned of the passing away of Catholicos Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX of Cilicia.

Being an energetic and prestigious clergyman, for many years he played a major role in the preservation of national identity, the reinvigoration of spiritual and cultural life, as well as in developing and deepening close ties between the motherland and the diaspora.

As a member of the State Commission on Coordination of the Events for the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the catholicos patriarch brought his valuable and effective input into the commission's activities.

I express my deepest sympathy for the demise of the eminent spiritual leader and the merited Armenian,” reads the RA president's condolence letter.

Bako Sahakyan President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

On 25 June Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan sent a condolence letter in connection with the death of Catholicos Patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church Nerses Petros XIX. The letter runs as follows:

"I have learnt with deep sorrow about the death of Catholicos Patriarch of the Armenian Catholic Church Nerses Petros XIX.



The deceased Patriarch had a substantial input in solving national issues, strengthening the Motherland-Diaspora ties, maintaining the Armenian national identity and developing inter-church dialogue.

On behalf of the Artsakh people, authorities and personally myself I express my condolences on this irretrievable loss. The memory of Patriarch Nerses Petros XIX Tarmouni will always remain bright in the hearts of our faithful people."

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

FEAST OF OUR CHURCH 16th AUGUST 2015

The feast of Our Lady of the Assumption will be celebrated on Sunday August 16th. This is a very important Feast in our Church calendar, and we hope to celebrate it like every other year, in great numbers together. After the Holy Mass and the blessing of the grapes, there will be a kebab luncheon and other entertaining activities to cater for young and old.

The function and entertainment will be organized by the Church Council and the Ladies Auxiliary and volunteers.

Those who wish to donate and provide the grapes for the blessing of the grapes ceremony please kindly contact Fr Basil as soon as possible so that we achieve the desired quantity in time for the day of the feast.

Potential trip to Armenia and Europe

Owing to the success of the last trip which was organized by our Church to Italy for the occasion of the 100 year Genocide anniversary. The Church has decided to make this an annual event with some added bonuses.



We encourage our parishes to come and join us on our pilgrimage to the Homeland Armenia and also to some of the well-known countries in Europe.

To allow our parishioners the ability to be part of this blessed event we want to propose a travel fund were anyone who is keen can contribute monthly towards the trip which will be in 12 months' time.

Please contact Father Basil for more information

and expression of interest. Once we have numbers and pilgrims we will then confirm price and trip details.

We intend to conduct a more formal meeting with all interested pilgrims and look forward to our next pilgrimage.

Donation to the Church – Electronic transfer

BSB: 062784 Account: 4055201 Bank: CBA

Account Name: Armenian Catholic Church

Or a Cheque in favor of the Armenian Catholic Church