

## OUR PARISH

With this issue the Bulletin "Our Parish" comes to its end. In 1994, we will be publishing a bi-lingual magazine, "St Gregory's". It will have 10 issues a year. The first number will be that of February 1994.

The magazine will contain articles and news items regarding

- St Gregory's School
- Education
- The Armenian Catholic Parish
- Spiritual and psychological topics
- News from Armenia
- Armenian news from around the world.

We can assure you that it will be exciting.

Mr & Mrs S MAJARIAN  
12 SALADINE AVENUE  
PUNCHBOWL 2196

*As we approach the end of the year, may I thank you all for your support of the school and the church.*

*And I would like to take this occasion to wish you all the best for the Festive season.*

*May the Peace of the Infant Jesus come into your hearts and keep you in his Peace all the days of your life.*

*May the Blessing of God the Father, the Peace of Jesus Christ his Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you always.*

*Amen*

*Father Anton*

## Մեր Երեւոյն Our Parish



## MY YEARS AT ST GREGORY'S

It was approximately eight years ago when I approached the offices of St Gregory's Armenian School for the very first time. It was then situated behind the church at Lidcombe on an extremely small plot of land, with little more than a couple of demountable classrooms. It was a few weeks before Christmas and I was going for an interview for a teaching position. That particular day has left such a vivid image in my mind. I wasn't even half way through the interview, which Father Anton was conducting, when all of a sudden it started to hail. The sound of the hailstones upon the tin roof was almost deafening. After completing the interview the hail storm stopped and Father Anton informed me that I had the job.

That day was to change the course of my life and my outlook on teaching and the role of education.

I had no idea what was to lie ahead of me and how much the school and the students would become a part of my life. It only seems like yesterday. However everyday when I attend school I am constantly reminded of the years that have passed. I look at the students of Years 8 and 9 and realise that they are no longer children but have grown into young adults. They were merely babies on our first meeting and now they are young men and women.

Nothing was more important for me than the development of each individual child not only on an academic level but personal level as well. I wanted to see these children become mature, sensible, responsible young adults who had a love and respect for human nature as well as their own cultural heritage. Watching these children today I can see that the school has achieved these goals. Nothing made me prouder than when I recently attended a 'Dinner by Candlelight' function organized by the school. There I witnessed our children socialising with one another. Enjoying each others company, taking part in Armenian dances and, all in all having a great time. It was so wonderful to just sit and watch them. They have certainly come a long way. However not only have I watched them grow and mature but they have also witnessed me change over the years. They watched me get married and have my first child. Now as a mother I realise the importance and the need for each child to feel loved and have a sense of belonging. At St Gregory's this feeling of belonging and being a part of a large Christian family is so strong that even visitors to our school are overwhelmed by this feeling.

I have shared many wonderful and memorable moments with them and I will treasure them forever. As I treasure their love and friendship.

Michelle Nikopoulos

## A CATHOLIC MARRIED PRIEST

Serving the Armenian Catholic Community of Cairo

I am a 44 year old married priest. I got married 11 years ago and we have three children. The eldest is a son aged nine, the second is a seven year old son who is handicapped and we have a five year old daughter. I was ordained priest a on February 2nd, 1993 in the Armenian Catholic Cathedral in Cairo.

I would have liked to write a book as a thanksgiving witness for all the marvels I and my family received from God. I will try to share, for the first time, with you, a fragment of my life's experience. My life was absurd and meaningless, but with the grace of God, I was able to come out of that situation. I accepted God's grace which is meaningful and rich in understanding.

My Grandfather and Grandmother were from Diarbakeer and were members of the Armenian Catholic Community. Both my parents, my two brothers and myself, were all born in Cairo. After finishing my studies in the French High School of Cairo, my parents enrolled me at the "Don Bosco" technical college, because my knowledge of the Arabic language was weak. I did not know a single Armenian word.

At the age of 17 and a half, I started working, often changing trade. I was successful in many positions: as a technician, supervisor, turner, welder, truck driver, barman and even factory foreman. I migrated to Australia where I lived for 5 years. I wanted to try everything in life: the company of women, pleasures, alcohol, tobacco ... One can very freely do all this far away from the family, as was my case in Australia.

I advanced in my employment, I was able to attain an honourable position in society, enjoy comfort, have my own car etc ... But at the end of the day I was unhappy and my heart was empty. I felt that something was missing. I was on the brink of despair when one day our Parish Priest, after blessing our home, invited me to some lectures that were to be given in the Parish Hall. I went there, without expecting to hear anything new. They spoke of Jesus, of life's meaning, the question was: Who am I? Who is God for me? This was my first step along the road of Neo-catechumenate.\*

\*A term meaning: rediscovery of religion.

## A CHRISTMAS TALE FROM BRAZIL

In every Advent sermon, Father Robert promised the people of San Paulo that, this Christmas, they would have a "living crib". All were enthusiastic to see it.

The 25th December was approaching; the usual plaster crib was set up in its usual place, but there was no sign of a "living crib". On the last Sunday of Advent Father Robert again announced the great event. After Mass he asked three young adults to: *"Go to the poorest areas of the parish and look for the poorest families. Write down their names, the ages of any children, and the address."*

The young people came back with about a hundred addresses. These were written on slips of paper, and placed on a tray set beside the altar. As Midnight Mass commenced, Father Robert held two posters. He placed one on the plaster crib. It read "Dead Crib". He laid the other beside the tray. This poster read, "Living Crib".

There was a dead silence. People waited for an explanation. Father Robert spoke briefly: *"Unemployment, homelessness, lack of love, ignorance and poverty, have forced Christ to change his address. This Christmas, Christ is waiting for your visit at his new address, which you will find in this tray."*

After Mass the church remained empty, as did the tray. That day the baker sold more bread, the butcher more meat, the shops more rice and beans. That day, clothes, toys, books and pens found new owners.

## SOME CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

- **Cassettes of Armenian Mass** \$3.00 each  
We have 2 cassettes of the Armenian mass with high quality recording.
  - a) Yegmalian Mass - Holy Etchmiadzin Choir, Armenia
  - b) Gomidas Mass - Holy Gayane Choir, Armenia
- **Reproductions of the Fresco**
  - a) 30 x 50 cms reproduction \$20
  - b) 30 x 50 cms reproduction framed \$40
  - c) 10 x 15 cms reproduction Postcards \$1 each or 10 for \$6
  - d) 10 x 15 cms double (greeting cards) \$1.50 each or 10 for \$9

## The Rosary In The Church

From Tuesday November 30 to Monday December 6th, the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be in the Church. Every evening the Rosary will be said at 7.30 pm, except for Sunday December 5th. On Sunday December 5th, the Rosary will be said after 11.00 am Mass.

We look forward to seeing you come along and honour the Blessed Virgin Mary as members of one community.

George Kalenderian

## Mass Intentions:

12 December: Dikran Kuyumgian (40th day Mass)

19 December: Ohan Kahwejian (Anniversary Mass)

## DONATIONS:

In Lieu of Flowers, for the Late Dikran KUYUMGIAN, Mr & Mrs John Totonjian made a donation of \$500 to the Church.

### Church:

Tabbakh family	\$50
Mr H Shahinian	\$20

### Bulletin:

Mr & Mrs A. Totonjian	\$20
Mr H Shahinian	\$20

### School:

Anonymous	\$20
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# WIN A FORD FESTIVA

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE  
in AID of St GREGORY'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL

In aid of the school a Christmas Raffle is being organized.  
One Prize only:

*5 Door Hatch, Automatic, On Road Costs*  
**FORD FESTIVA valued at \$16,975**

Tickets: **\$1 only.**

It will be drawn at the School on December 19, 1993 at the conclusion  
of the Carols by Candlelight (approximately 10.00 p.m.)

Raffle tickets

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Phone: .....

- Please find enclosed \$ ..... for ..... tickets  
at \$1.00 each.
- Please forward ..... books of 50 tickets each,  
I will pay after selling the tickets.

Send this to the school:

ST GREGORY'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL  
P. O. BOX 6206  
BAILKHAM HILLS MAIL CENTRE NSW 2151

*We desperately need your support*

LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE



Luke 2:15

1993

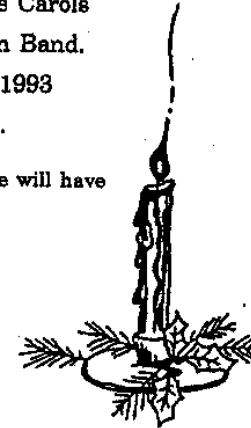
## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Unique Celebrations at  
ST GREGORY'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Well renowned singers of the Armenian Community  
will lead in the singing of the Carols  
Accompanied by an Armenian Band.  
on Sunday, December 19, 1993  
On the school grounds.

The Celebrations will commence from 4.00 p.m. and we will have

- \* Armenian Band
- \* Armenian Songs
- \* Santa
- \* Games
- \* Dinner
- \* Christmas Raffle - Festiva
- \* Carols by Candlelight



Adults \$10  
Children \$ 6

Come and enjoy this festive season  
with your relatives and friends.

*Come along with friends and neighbours and  
enjoy this unique experience*

at home because "We" the students are like brothers and sisters; I know who my real friends are.

This year I have enjoyed going to school, I felt time passing very quickly and now its nearly the end of the year. I am looking forward to 1994, the tenth year of this school.

**Joanne Tleige - Year 9**

I came to this school about five years ago not knowing what to expect. I didn't know how the students would be so I was a little scared at first and the thing that scared me most was that I didn't know any English but I was relieved to know that St Gregory's was an Armenian School.

When I first saw the school I loved it. It was very different from other schools, it was unique I think that's what I loved about it.

When I entered the classroom the students were having Armenian with our Armenian teacher Mrs Azad. I didn't know Armenian very well and seeing how good the students are in Armenian I got very embarrassed.

In the past five years I have grown to love my fellow students and I never want to leave this school.

When I left this school at the end of year six and went to a new school it was a very big change for me and a change that I didn't like very much and every day I missed my friends more and more. My parents, seeing how much I wanted to come back, allowed me to return to this school and till this day I don't have one regret about leaving my former school and coming back to St Gregory's where I belong.

**Alina Vartazarian - Year 9**

I came to this school towards the end of 1988 and entered year 4.

I didn't understand English that well but this school changed everything, it put me in the position I am now. What I'm trying to say is that I graduated year six and went on with my high school years here.

I made new friends, and have had new teachers as I went on each year, including Mrs Pett, Miss Scott, Miss Shahinian.

Now I am in year 9, the year that we have to study a lot because next year in year 10 we are going to sit for our School Certificate exams.

Over the years Father Anton has taken some students from high school on excursions to different places around Australia, such as Central Australia and The Snowy Mountains

I thank this school for helping me and other people to work hard and to be well educated for the future and I also thank Father Anton for opening this Armenian School

**Sayat Agaciyani - Year 9**

## MY YEARS AT ST GREGORY'S

I came to this school when I was only 9 years old. I didn't know English then (because I had come from Lebanon). As you could imagine this was a very hard time for me. Everything was different in Australia.

It was the last term of 1988. I went in year 3 which was the highest class then. The teacher was Mrs Michelle. I took a look around the room and there were about 30 faces staring at me. I was new to them and they were new to me as well. I didn't know how to act, I was scared.

As time passed I got to know the students and got to like them all. We were young then and we used to fight about the silliest things that you could imagine. Unfortunately not all the students are with us now. They are all going to different schools but we are still friends. Although our class decreased from 30 to 9, new students arrived in our class. Now we don't fight about anything as if there is a special bond between us. The one thing about this school that I liked was the friendly atmosphere that was created by the students and the teachers.

Now I am in year 9. "We were the first graduates of primary, and we will be the first graduates of high school. I am very glad that I attend this school and not another because of my friends and teachers. The teachers are different here, they care about you. If you don't understand they'll explain it a hundred times, and it is a very good thing. We are so fortunate to have a school like this where there is an Armenian atmosphere as well. My class right now has the best teachers anyone could ever have. They are very caring.

In this school I have had my ups and downs but whatever happens I'll always like this school because it is an Armenian school and I mainly grew up here and I owe all my knowledge to this school.

Thank You.

**Catherine Hanna - Year 9**

My first year at this school was in year 6. It wasn't easy leaving my old school because it was my second home, and it was like leaving something very valuable that I kept part of me for such a long time.

When I arrived at this school, it wasn't how I imagined it to be, just by the look of this school I knew I would start a new friendship with my class mates, but things didn't go like I planned because the students in my year 6 class didn't like me very much.

In year 7 it was different, lots of the students left. There was only a few left. But I thought it was better because we became better friends. In year 8 we all felt like a family, we got along much better than before, and now in year 9 I feel more

# ST GREGORY'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL

## ENROLMENTS AT ST GREGORY'S

**KINDERGARTEN:** Those born before July 15th, 1989 are eligible to be enrolled in Kindergarten in 1994.

**OTHER CLASSES:** We have vacancies in most classes. If you know of any friends or neighbours, please pass on this message.

For all informations, please ring the school, someone will ring you back and answer all your queries.

**Tel: 629 3133**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday	December 5	School Concert
Saturday	December 11	Disco at Lidcombe Church Hall
Thursday	December 16	End of School Year
Sunday	December 19	Carols by Candlelight



## Մեր Ժամերգացուցիչներն են:

**Մայր Գաղթի** ավելի կիրակի 11:00-ին  
 ավելի Գաղթի Կիրակի 7:00-ին:  
**Գաղթի Կիրակի** Ժամերգացումը  
 Գաղթի Կիրակի 11:00-ին  
**Կիրակի** Ժամերգացումը  
 Կիրակի Գաղթի Կիրակի  
**Գաղթի** Ժամերգացումը  
 3 ամիս առաջ հարկ է լինի առաջ  
**Լոգեմանգրիս** Տարույ ընթացիկ մասնակցաբաժնի 10  
 կիրակիներ կամ երբ լինի կրկար  
 Լոգեմանգրիսի պայմանները կարդայ:  
 Ձեր որոշումներն առաջ հարցուցե՛ք:

Եկե՛ք Գաղթի մեկ ամիս առաջ հարկ է լինի առաջ  
 Ձեր ամուսինը ու հասցեն, նաև պատերազմի դիմումները:  
 Գաղթի Կիրակի Գաղթի Կիրակի Գաղթի Կիրակի  
 առաջ Գր Հորն Գաղթի Կիրակի Կիրակի Կիրակի:

## In Our Parish

**Masses:** Sundays 11.00 a.m.  
 Fridays 7.00 p.m.  
**Confessions:** By appointment  
 also before and after Mass-time.  
**Baptism:** By appointment  
 Sundays only  
**Marriage:** By appointment  
 3 months notice required.

**Mass offering:**

- There are about 10 Sundays in the year when we cannot have Masses for the dead. Check before you decide.
- There are envelopes provided in the Church:
  - write your name and address
  - the intention of the Mass offering
  - give this envelope (with your donation) before Mass to Mr George Kalendarian or Mr Sarkis Majarian.

All donations for Baptism, Marriage and Mass offering are allotted:  
 90% to the running cost of the Church  
 10% as aid to Armenia.