

His Grace Bishop Gregorios of Mesaoria (Church of Cyprus) visits the Parish of Saint Catherine, in Sydney.

On Sunday 15th January 2012, the Parish of St Catherine was honoured to welcome His Grace Bishop Gregorios of Mesaoria (Church of Cyprus). His Grace Bishop Gregorios is the director of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus's office for inter-church relations and European affairs and represents the Church of Cyprus in Pan-Orthodox meetings and international scientific conferences.



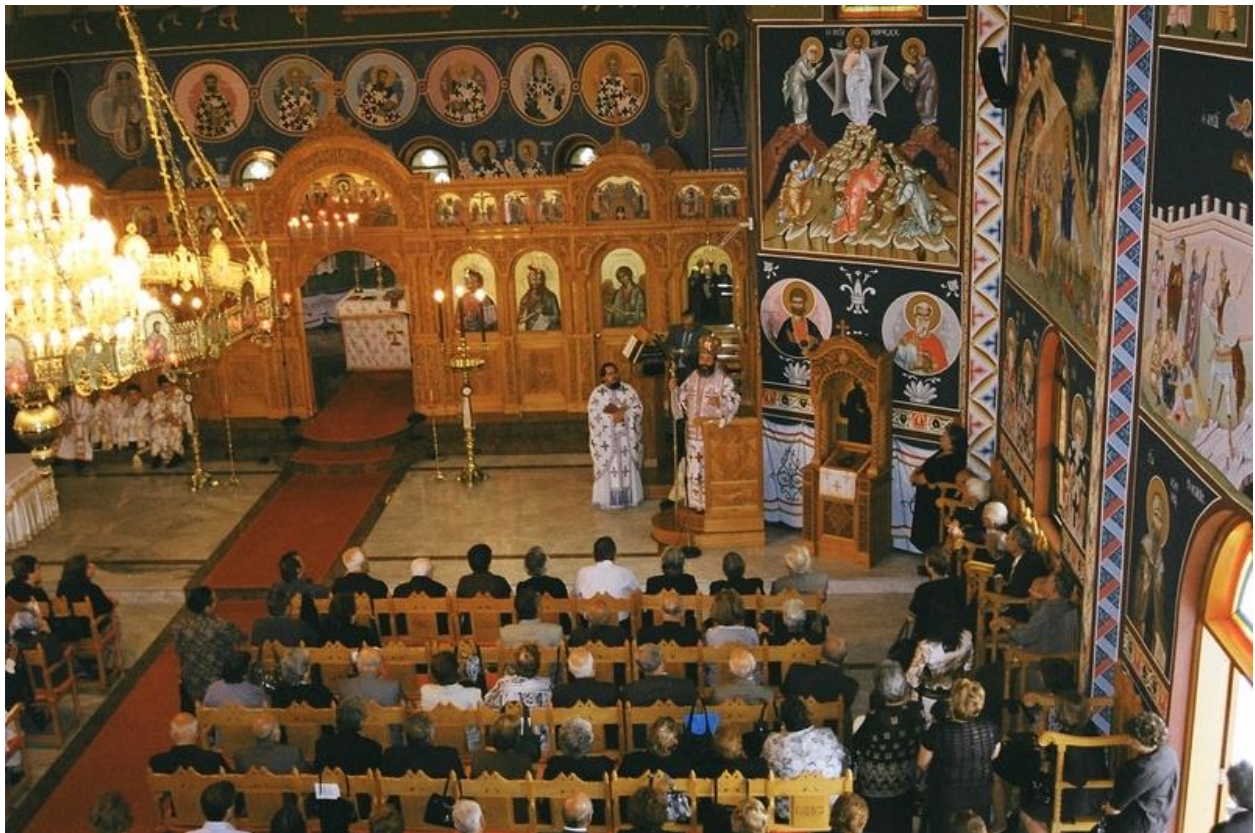
His Grace Bishop Gregorios presided over the Episcopal Divine Liturgy which was celebrated at our Church, and was assisted by Father Athanasios and Father Miltiades.



During his sermon, His Grace Bishop Gregorios thanked His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos for his blessing, and making it possible to partake in the Divine Liturgy. His Grace expressed gratitude for the generosity and for the hospitality extended to him by the Archdiocese and the local Greek Orthodox community in Sydney. He conveyed the blessings of His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II of Cyprus to the congregation. [The Church of Cyprus is one of the oldest Autocephalous Orthodox Churches in the world, which traces its origin back to the Apostles Barnabas and Mark in the first century.]



His Grace Bishop Gregorios highlighted the significance of the Samaritan, the foreigner, in the Gospel reading of the Ten Lepers Cleansed. He made the point how Orthodoxy goes beyond borders and its importance as a bond between people of different nations, facing common and unique challenges. His Grace acknowledged the historically close ties between the communities and people of Cyprus and Australia.



The *naos* was indeed “Paradise on Earth”, glowing in a golden atmosphere, during the Episcopal Divine Liturgy. It was filled to capacity with worshippers, wanting to hear and greet His Grace Bishop Gregorios of Mesaoria, and to receive his blessing. His Grace is in Australia for three weeks.

Photos of the Episcopal Divine Liturgy are also available in the Gallery page of this Website.