

Parish News Update



The Directors would like to thank you for your support of our Parish over the past twelve months, particularly during this insidious pandemic, which has influenced our lives. We pray that through the intercession of our Patron Saints may our Lord continue to bless our community in 2021.

It is important to note that the COVID – 19 pandemic has impacted the financial position of the parish but the Committee has managed to maintain all of the services and regular operations. Planning for the on-going financial security of the Parish has been of paramount importance to the Committee and we are pleased to announce that a tenant has been secured by tender, for the Function Centre. The tenant has commenced renovations and will soon commence operation. We have with great pleasure undertaken many works, some of which we share with you. A number of maintenance issues arose with repairs to the

floor in a classroom after termite damage and the skylights were resealed. Water penetrated a number of our buildings after a severe weather event causing extensive damage to the upstairs classrooms, the Small Hall, Function Centre and Church. The second air conditioner in the small hall was replaced. Maintenance to the Church air-conditioner was undertaken as a major priority. The tiles outside the canteen have been an on-going concern and have been repaired. Regular pest control (termite treatment) and gutter cleaning to all the buildings on site has taken place, the narthex of the church was repainted, and in the nave the chandeliers were cleaned. The old iridescent globes were replaced with LEDs, the carpet has been replaced at the altar, at the Bishop's throne and in the Chanters' area, the red carpet has been shampooed and cleaned. The marble has been cleaned and polished. The air conditioners have been installed in Father's Office and at the altar. All the air-conditioners across the site have been serviced, as well as on-going garden maintenance with tree-logging, grass cutting and gardening. Three large televisions have been installed in the classrooms and three laptop computers have been purchased and issued to the Greek School teachers to assist with teacher delivery and enhancing student learning.

It was a blessing to have His Eminence Archbishop Makarios visit our Parish. The Committee assigned funds to this very important event to cover expenses and we were able to welcome His Eminence and present Him with a beautiful Mitre as a gift to mark His visit, which was made by hand from an experienced master craftsman in Athens, Greece.

The Parish Committee is determined in moving the Parish forward and has secured a \$45,000 grant to build an outdoor kitchen facility and to renovate the toilets which are tired and in desperate need of being modernised. The works will commence shortly. The upstairs seating area in the Church and staircase will be tiled with works to take place soon. School furniture for our students will be replaced. We are at the early discussion stages, but we are also exploring the possibility of having a day school on site and working collaboratively with other parishes in creating facilities for the aged, as well as a secondary school. These are exciting projects and we will keep you informed as these projects progress.

Our Greek Community Languages School continues to provide the Greek language and culture programmes for our children and in 2020 due to COVID – 19 the teachers faced many challenges but they overcame them exceptionally well. Greek Dance Instruction was cancelled but hopefully can recommence in 2021 depending on COVID – 19 guidelines. We continue to seek the community's feedback and cherish the guiding hand of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.

The Very Reverend Fr Prochoros Anastasiadis has continued to contribute positively by serving the spiritual and ecclesiastical needs of our parishioners and offered a number of activities in the evenings. The Parish has continued to provide welfare services for the aged, regular playgroup and Sunday School Catechism lessons. The Philotochos continues to serve our community.

If we are to continue to provide services and explore diversifying our services, we need your on-going support and we look forward to seeing you at our regular Church Liturgies and various events throughout 2021. We welcome your ideas and look forward to hearing from you.

The Directors of the Parish Committee would like to wish you and your family a very blessed 2021, full of joy, peace and prosperity.

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28

God bless,

Directors of the Parish Committee
Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene.