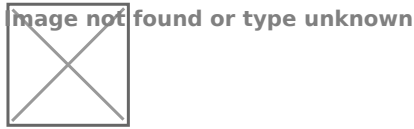


Archbishop Makarios of Australia with the New “young branches” of Sydney’s Greek Community



On Sunday, 7 December, during his visit to the Parish of Saint Nicholas in Marrickville, Sydney, His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia had the joy of participating in a modest yet heartfelt event held in honour of the children completing their attendance in the Early Childhood Groups of the Greek Welfare Centre and preparing to move on to Primary School.

The Early Childhood Groups, fourteen in total, operating in various areas across Sydney, function under the organisation and care of the Greek Welfare Centre of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. The Greek Welfare Centre, which this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding, serves as the welfare arm of the Orthodox Church in Australia. Among its many programmes are the Early Childhood Groups, which currently involve more than 220 children. These groups offer children the opportunity to develop new skills through a variety of creative activities, such as crafts, singing, dancing, storytelling, and excursions. As the programme is bilingual, the children are able to gain a deeper understanding of the Orthodox faith, Greek traditions, and the Greek language.

At the graduation event for the children moving on to the next stage of their schooling, His Eminence Archbishop Makarios awarded the corresponding certificates and, along with his paternal blessings, offered commemorative gifts to the children.



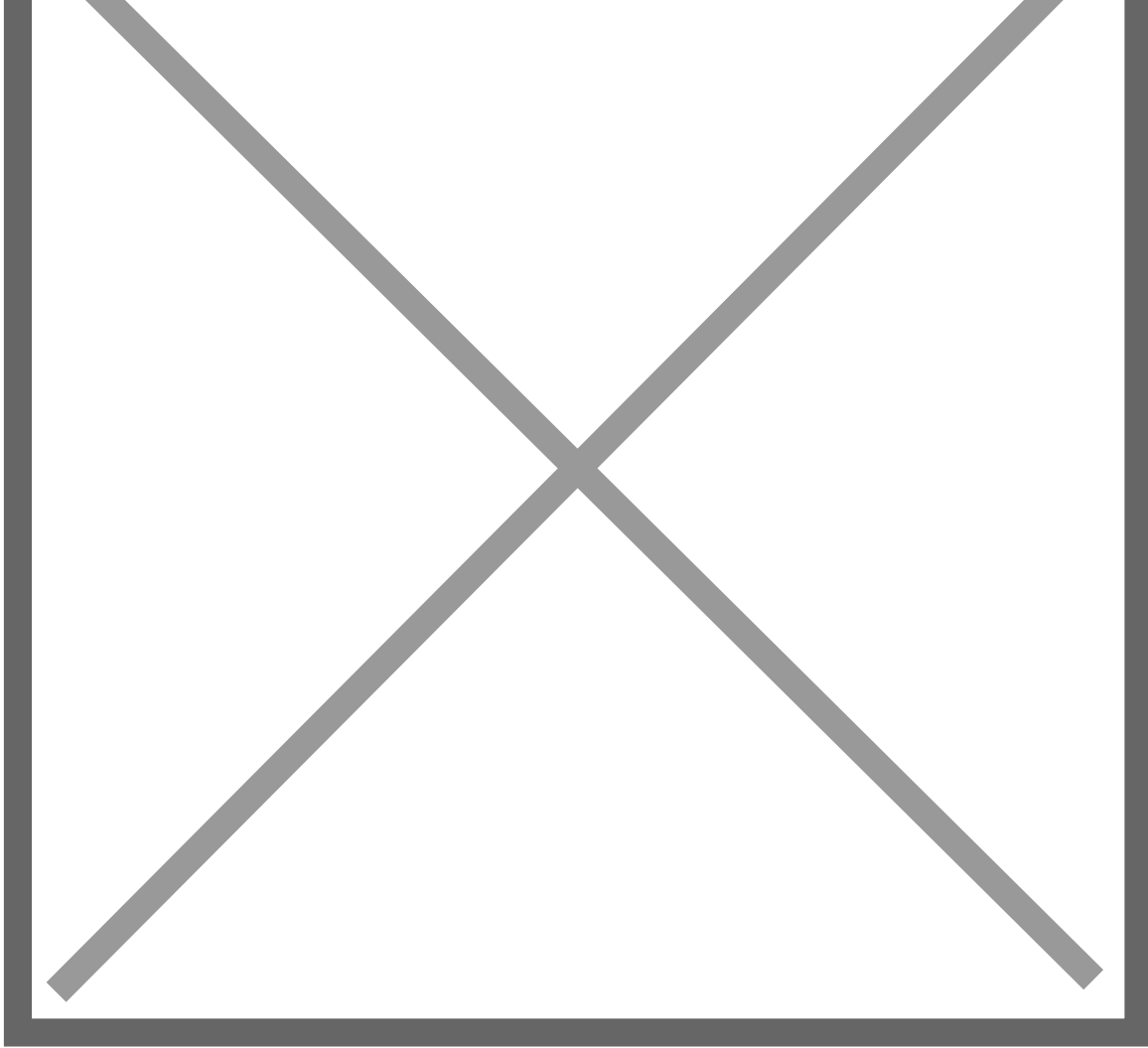
Present at the event were the Director of the Greek Welfare Centre, Mr Steve Magdalopoulos, and members of the Organisation's Board of Directors. The Archbishop expressed to them the gratitude of the local Church for the implementation of this very significant programme, which provides support to families with preschool-aged children.



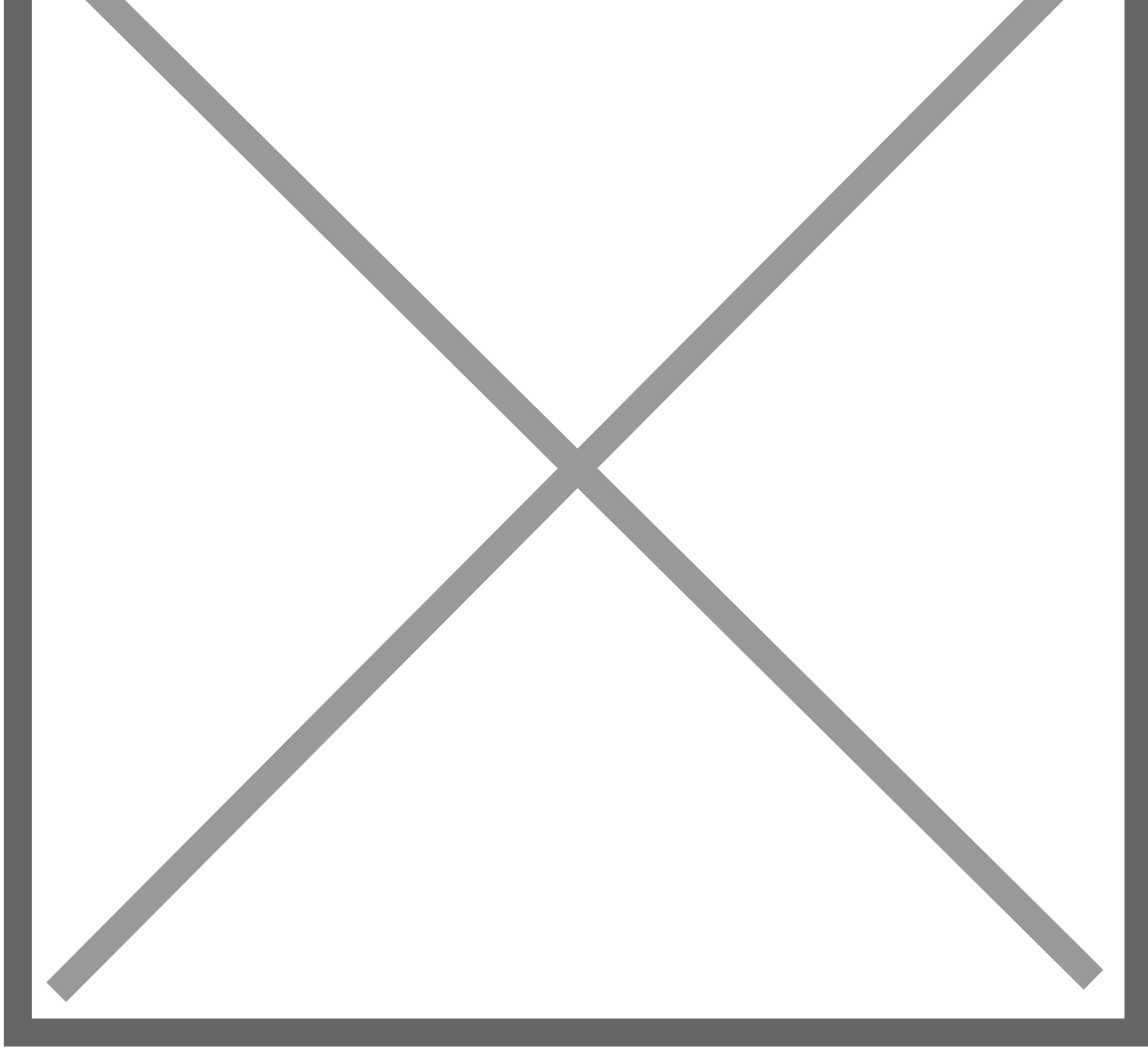












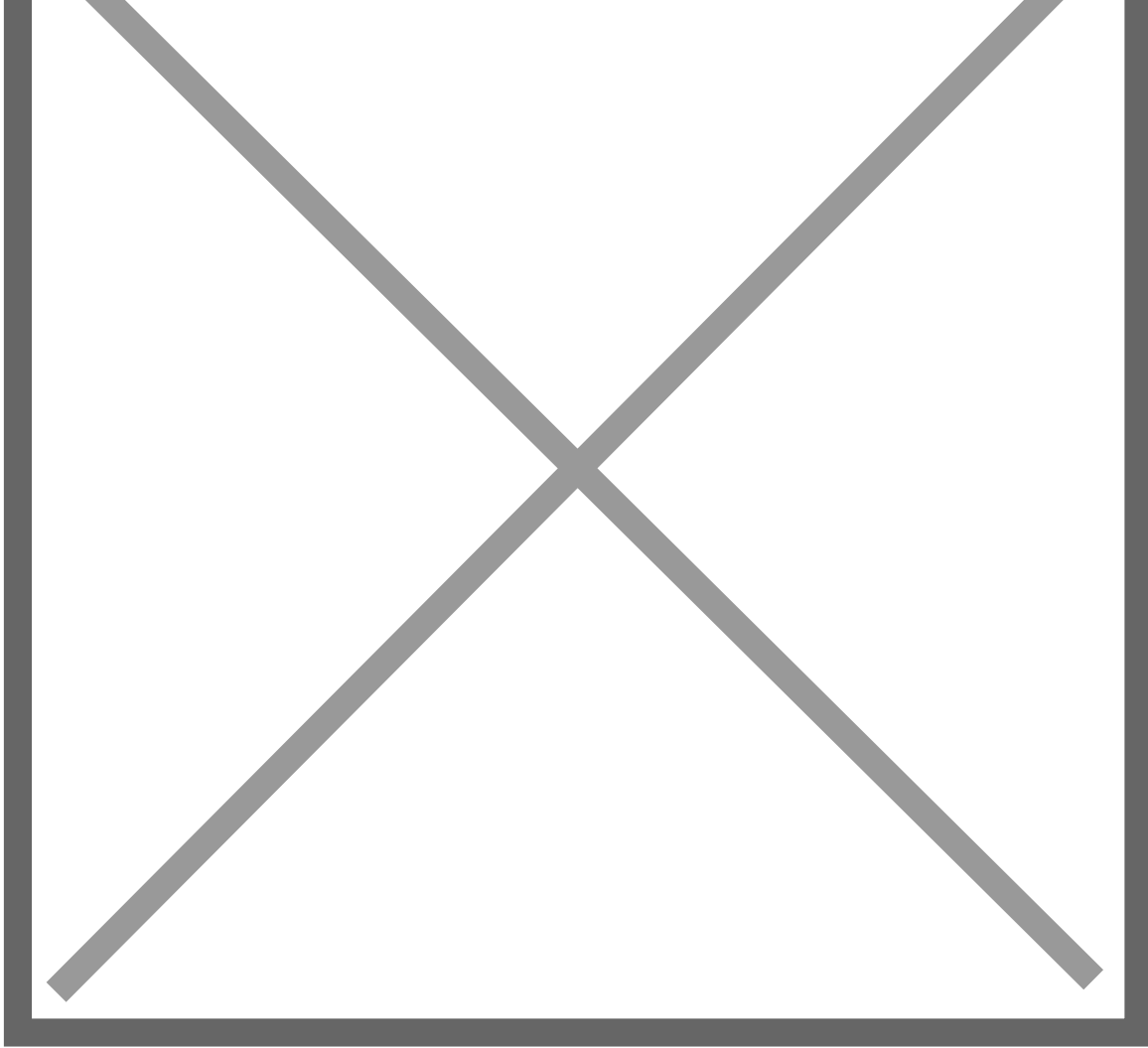
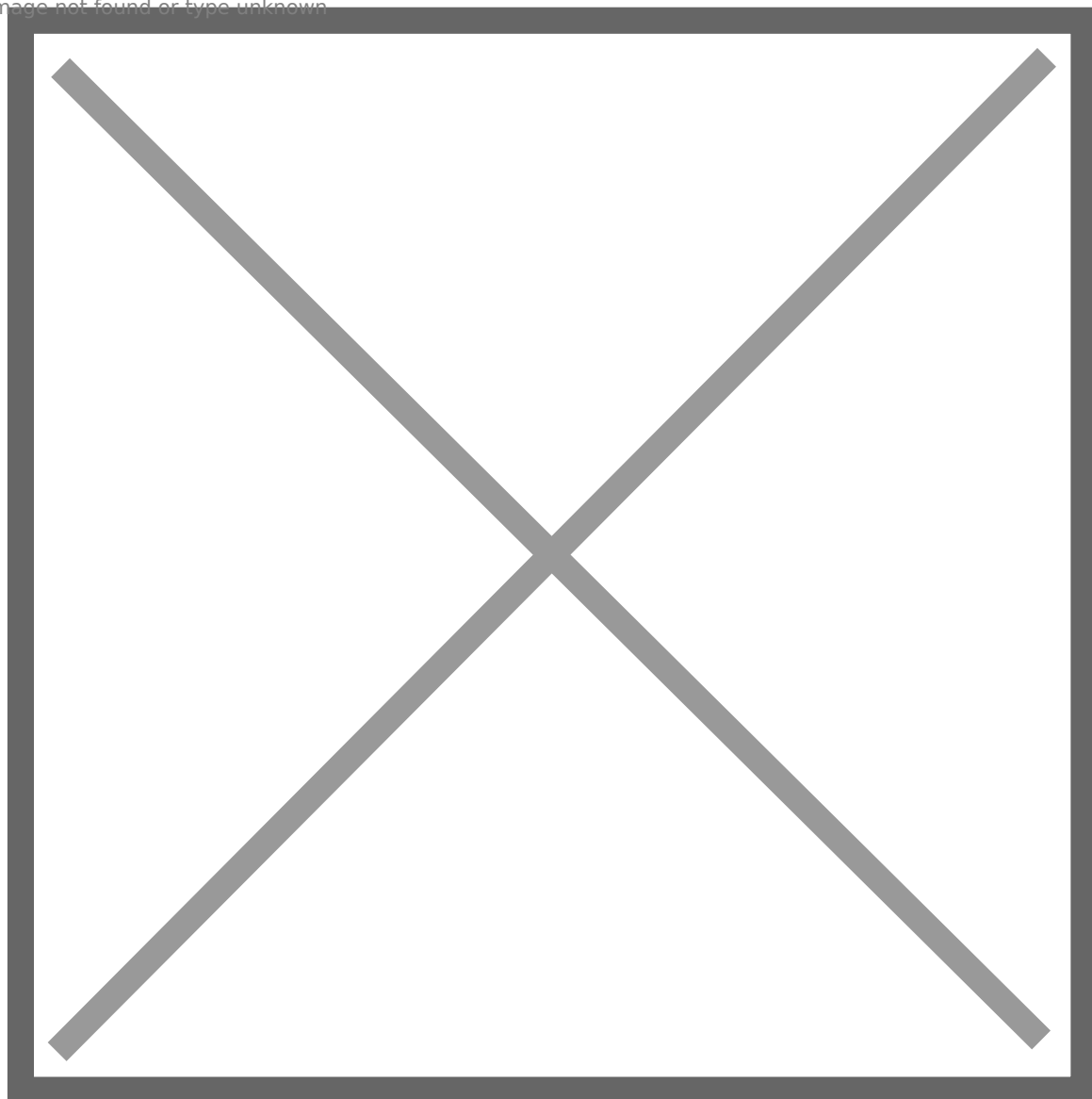




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