15/01/2026

The Feast Day of the Parish of Saints Basil and George in Newcastle



With due splendour and in an atmosphere of spiritual joy and reverent devotion, the Parish of Saints Basil and George in the suburb of Islington, in the city of Newcastle, celebrated its feast day, with the participation of a large number of parishioners and pilgrims from across Newcastle and from Sydney.

The Festal Divine Liturgy was celebrated in Greek, English, and Ukrainian, highlighting both the parish's rich heritage and its inclusive spirit. Presiding was His Grace Bishop Iakovos of Miletoupolis, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Saint George in Yellow Rock, who represented His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.

His Grace was assisted by the clergy, Fr Nicholas Skordilis and Fr Mark Donnelly from the neighbouring Parish of the Holy Apostles in Hamilton, as well as Fr Savas Pizanias, who is currently serving temporarily at the Parish of Saints Basil and

George, ministering with dedication to the needs of the faithful.

Following the Dismissal of the Divine Liturgy, the customary procession of the holy Icon of Saint Basil took place around the church. Thereafter, His Grace Bishop Iakovos blessed and cut the traditional Vasilopita, distributing its portions as a blessing to all those present.



After the conclusion of the services, parishioners and guests gathered in the parish hall, where light refreshments and food were offered. The hall was soon filled with laughter, warm conversation, and lively discussion, as old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances formed.

On behalf of the Parish Council and its President, Mr Peter Deriashnyj, as well as the devout faithful of the Parish, Fr Savvas Pizanias expressed his sincere gratitude to Bishop Iakovos for the blessing of his presence on such a significant day. He also asked His Grace to convey to His Eminence Archbishop Makarios the Parish's deep respect, love, and steadfast support.

The celebration of the feast of Saint Basil was truly a blessed day, which will remain etched in the memory of all as a testimony of faith, devotion to tradition, and the enduring unity of the Parish.

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