

## **Archbishop Makarios of Australia presides at the Feast of the Church of St Sophia (Holy Wisdom of God) in Sydney**



On the Sunday of Pentecost, 31 May, His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the celebrating Church of Saint Sophia (The Holy Wisdom of God) in Paddington, Sydney.

This marked the Archbishop's first visit to the historic church, which served as the first Cathedral of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. In 2020, the church was officially recognised as a site of national heritage significance by the relevant Australian authority.

In his address at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Makarios spoke with emotion about the historic significance of the church, reflecting on the fact that it had served as the "heart" of the local Church for many decades and had witnessed some of the most important moments in its history.

His Eminence also welcomed the President of the Greek Orthodox Community of Sydney and New South Wales, Mr Con Apoifis, together with members of the Community's Board of Directors. He expressed confidence that the new administration, which assumed office at the end of last year, would enjoy a blessed and fruitful term of service. At the same time, he delivered a message of unity, stating: "I will be at your disposal and by your side whenever you need me, and I know that you, too, will stand by our Archdiocese, and together we shall move forward in unity."

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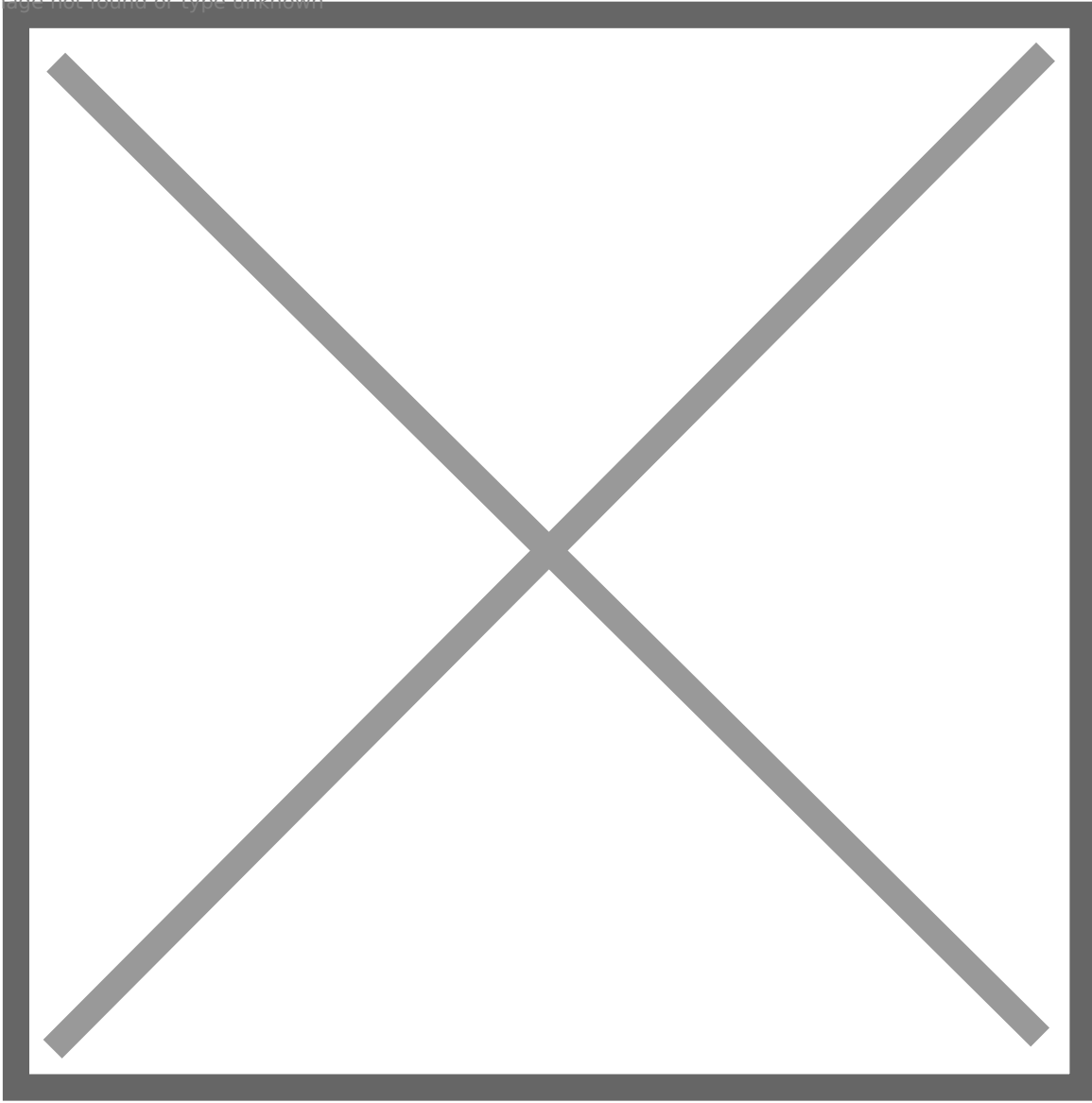
The Archbishop connected this spirit of cooperation and unity for the common good with the Feast of Pentecost, noting that the descent of the Holy Spirit united the Apostles in a common purpose and mission: to proclaim the word of God to society and to the entire world. Addressing the President and members of the Board of the Greek Orthodox Community, he concluded with the prayerful wish: “May everything you do be guided by the illumination of the All-Holy Spirit.” He also expressed his gratitude to Fr Stavros Agoroudis, Parish Priest of the Church of St Sophia in Paddington, for his devoted ministry.

Finally, Archbishop Makarios welcomed to Sydney the Honorary Consul-General of Greece in Brisbane, Mr George Mastrocostas, and his wife Ermioni, thanking them for their honoured presence at the feast of the Church of St Sophia (Holy Wisdom of God).





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