

Great Hierarchical Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos at Panagia Kamariani, Red Hill



With particular splendour and reverence, the Great Festal Hierarchical Vespers was celebrated on the evening of Monday, 7 September, for the great Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos, at the Holy Pilgrimage Church of Panagia Kamariani in Red Hill, Victoria.

His Grace Bishop Athinagoras of Canberra presided over the sacred service as the representative of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.

Joining His Grace were His Eminence Metropolitan Ezekiel of Dervis, His Grace Bishop Evmenios of Chora, as well as clergy from various parishes throughout Victoria, while a large gathering of devout faithful and pilgrims came to honour Panagia Kamariani and celebrate the Nativity of the Mother of God.

The homily was delivered by His Grace Bishop Athinagoras of Canberra, who

reflected at length upon the deeper theological significance of the feast.

His Grace made particular reference to the righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and to the unwavering trust with which they entrusted their lives and their hopes to the will of God. Despite their trials, their many years of childlessness and their human sorrow, they did not turn away from God, but persevered in prayer, patience and hope, entrusting both the time and the manner of the fulfilment of their expectations to Divine Providence.



On behalf of the Parish, the Proistamenos of the Pilgrimage Church of Panagia Kamariani, Archimandrite Irinaios Koikas, warmly welcomed His Grace Bishop Athinagoras of Canberra, noting that his presence held particular significance as it marked his first visit to the State of Victoria in his episcopal capacity.

Addressing His Grace, Fr Irinaios emphasised that all those present knew and

recognised his many years of service to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, as well as the significant role he continues to fulfil in the life and ministry of the local Church.

At the same time, he expressed the Parish's heartfelt and filial gratitude to His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia for his paternal care and love for Panagia Kamariani, and for sending His Grace Bishop Athinagoras of Canberra as his representative for the festal liturgical celebrations of the Pilgrimage Church.

At the conclusion of the sacred service, His Eminence Metropolitan Ezekiel of Dervis presented His Grace Bishop Athinagoras of Canberra with an episcopal engolpion as an expression of love and honour. He prayed that God would strengthen and bless His Grace in his episcopal ministry and grant him many years of fruitful and God-pleasing pastoral service, to the glory of God and the edification of His people.



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