

23/10/2020

## **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia - Archdiocesan District of Perth: Graduation Doxology Service for St Andrew's Grammar Year 12 Students**



On Thursday the 22nd of October, His Grace Bishop Elpidios of Kyaneon, conducted a Doxology Service to mark the graduation of the Year 12 Class from St Andrew's Grammar.

The doxology took place at the Church of Sts Constantine and Helene in Northbridge in the presence of the Year 12 cohort, their families, other students and the school staff.

His Grace was assisted in the Doxology Service by the Parish Priest of the Church of

Saints Constantine and Helene, Fr Terry Gerovasilis, and the Chaplain of the school Fr Milorad Soaktar.

His Grace conveyed to all the Year 12 school leavers the paternal blessing and best wishes of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.

His Grace passed on to the students the paternal words of advice given by His Eminence Archbishop Makarios in His message for all graduating Yr 12 students in 2020:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear... for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. I want to convey these words from the Old Testament to you along with my blessing and best wishes for your final exams that you will be starting very shortly. This has been a very disruptive year with the restrictions imposed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, be mindful that it is our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the One governing our lives as long as we turn to Him and ask for His help. So, do not be afraid. There is no room for fear for the people of God. We have a loving Father and a caring Mother – the Panagia (mother of God). Pray to them and ask them to be with you. Do your best; aim high and study hard. But as your Archbishop and Spiritual Father, I want to remind you that the most important measure of success is how close we are to God. Without Him, all the worldly accomplishments mean nothing. Only what lasts for eternity has substance and can make a difference and can transform our everyday lives and that of those around us. Keep God in the equation of your life and in your relationships. Be courageous and confident in the challenge that is set before you. I, (Archbishop Makarios) wholeheartedly extend my support and my own prayers for your success; success for your exams; but, also, success in the choices that you make regarding your personal relationship with God. Καλή δύναμη. May God strengthen and bless all of you.”

His Grace also provided his own words of advice for the students, saying, “I am sure many of you will be in a leading position in the future; and if you remember to treat everyone with dignity then you can never go wrong. For every human being is a creation of God and we are expected to show respect, understanding and love to all human beings who are the pinnacle of God’s creation. Once we learn to do this then we leave no room for exploitation, subordination and discrimination.”

In particular, His Grace passed on his congratulations and best wishes to the Principal of the school, Mr Craig Monaghan, who will be finishing up in his role with the school at the end of the year.

St Andrew’s Grammar was founded in 1991 by the Hellenic Community of WA and is the only Greek Orthodox Day School in Western Australia.