

## Tasmania: Vespers of Forgiveness in Hobart



With the Blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia, His Grace Bishop Bartholomew of Charioupolis, the Archiepiscopal Vicar of Canberra visited Hobart, Tasmania and conducted the Vespers of Forgiveness at the church of St George. Assisting His Grace were the Reverend Fathers of Tasmania, Irinaios Kiokas and Dimitrios Katsis.

In his sermon His Grace spoke about the opportunities that Great Lent provides each individual to come to Christ and that we should make an attempt to take advantage of these opportunities.

In particular His Grace emphasised four opportunities. Firstly the desire to want to be with Christ, the desire to want to have a closer relationship with Him. Secondly the importance of love and forgiveness. This sacred period of Holy and Great Lent must be for each individual an opportunity to neglect our egotism and seek love and forgiveness from our fellow brethren. Thirdly Holy and Great Lent provides us the opportunity to acquire virtues, virtues that are given by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, humility, mercy, chastity, generosity, gratitude, and diligence.

Moreover prayer and fasting. The Church provides us with extra services during

Great Lent, the Compline services, the lityrgy of the Presanctified gifts, the Salutations to the Theotokos, the Great Canon of St Andrew, the Vespers services on Sunday evenings and off course our Sunday services. All these services have as a goal for us to pray more thus placing Christ as a priority with a closer relationship to Him.

In addition we fast from certain foods in order for the church to teach us discipline. If we are unable to show discipline with the abstaining from certain foods how are we to learn how to decrease our passions that lead us to sin. Furthermore Adam and Eve were exiled from paradise because they did not fast, through fasting we have the opportunity to return to the original beauty. His Grace emphasised that fasting is not only about what we consume in our bodies, however we must learn to fast from hatred, jealousy, cunningness, lies, injustices, gossiping and our egotistic selves.

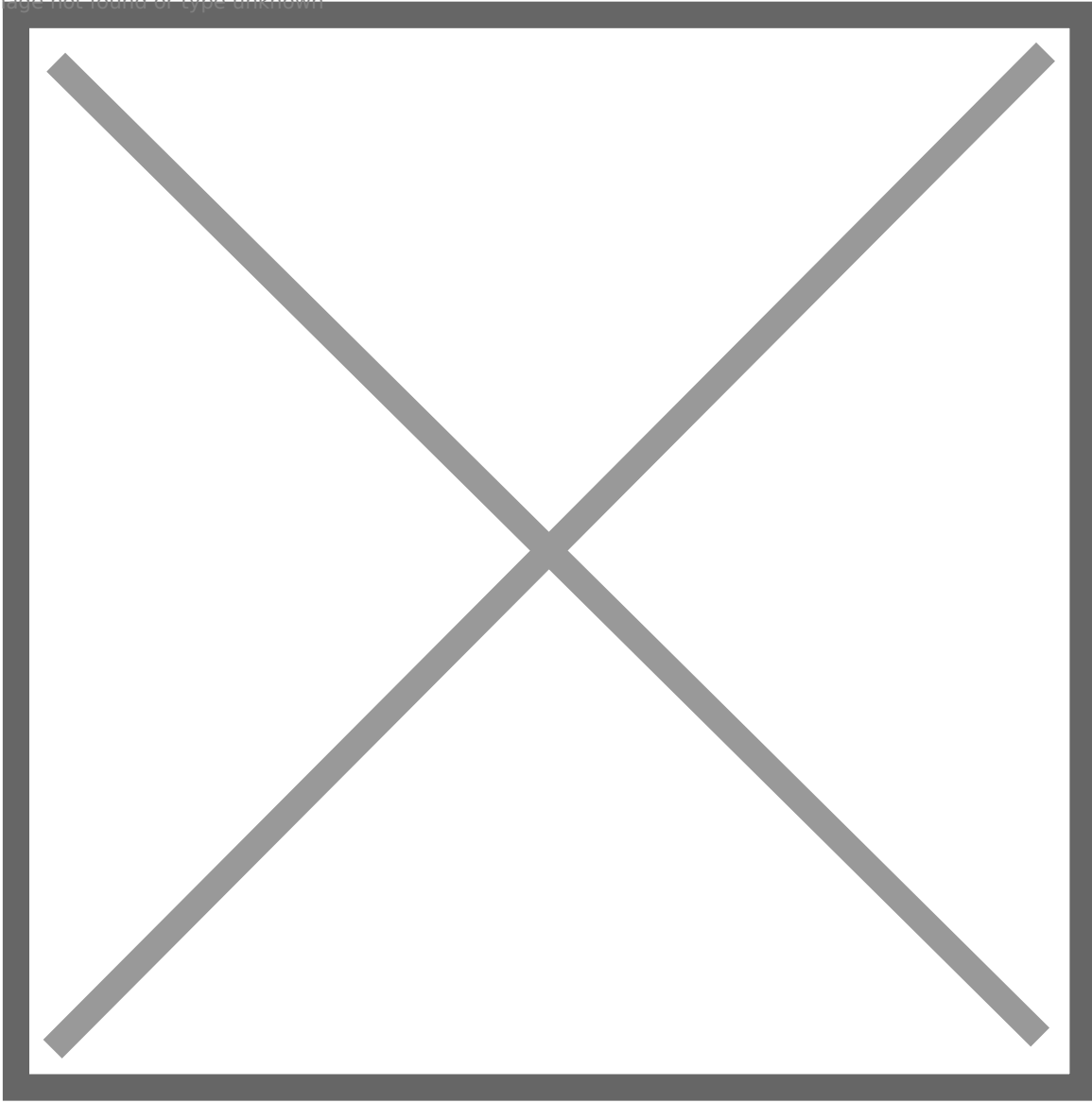
At the end His Grace Bishop Bartholomew conveyed to both the clergy and laity of Hobart on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios all the very best for a blessed Lent, as we prepare to venerate the Holy Cross and celebrate the Holy and Glorious Third Day Resurrection of our Lord.

In addition on behalf of the clergy of Tasmania His Grace asked forgiveness from for their





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