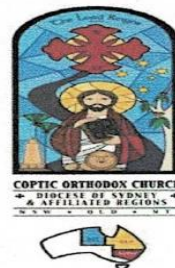


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Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2022  
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Bishop's Office



**Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions**  
**Pastoral Message by His Grace Bishop Daniel**  
**for the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**January 2022**

To the blessed Reverend Fathers and their families, blessed servants and their families, blessed deacons and their families, and all the blessed, Christ loving, congregation of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney, Australia. To all beloveds and friends, **peace and grace to you from Our Lord God the Father, and Our Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself for our sins.**<sup>1</sup>

Today, we celebrate one of the happiest and most beloved occasions of our hearts, the birth of Our God and Saviour Jesus Christ. I've chosen a title for this year's message: **"Our Lord Jesus, reconciler of the world with God"**. The title is based on the verse: **"that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world for Himself."**<sup>2</sup> Our Lord Jesus Christ has reconciled us for God in many ways. In this year's message, we will contemplate on some teachings of Our Lord Jesus, which, if we believe in and abide by them, we will be reconciled with God our Creator.

**"For God created Man, meaning for him to remain in incorruption. However, people have despised and refused contemplation on God."**<sup>3</sup>

Our Lord Jesus taught us many things. This year, we'll contemplate first on His teachings relating to **'The Human Soul'**. Our Lord Jesus teaches that the Soul<sup>4</sup> is the most precious for all human beings. He taught that Man should not lose his soul, as by losing it, he would have lost everything. Jesus also taught, that for Man to not lose his soul, he must enter life through the narrow gate<sup>5</sup>, leading to eternal life. The narrow gate is nothing but living a life of righteousness<sup>6</sup>, which requires one to be in a continuous relationship with God, through a life of continuous prayer<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Galatians 1:3

<sup>2</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:19

<sup>3</sup> *'The Incarnation of the Word'* St. Athanasius the Apostolic, Chapter 4, point 4.

<sup>4</sup> Mark 8: 34.

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 7:13

<sup>6</sup> Hebrews 12:14

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 26:41

**Relationship between humans:** Our Lord Jesus presented his teachings about Man's relationship with his fellow humans, as supplementary to the teachings of the Old Testament: **"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."**<sup>8</sup> Not just that, but Our Lord Jesus also taught that one should look after his fellow humans regardless of their race or beliefs. Jesus told us in the Parable of the Good Samaritan<sup>9</sup>, where a man was travelling down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and was met by thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him and ran away leaving him half dead. The good Samaritan did not only look after the wounded man, but also gave from his own money to complete his act of kindness. Jesus also set the main foundation for conflict resolution, starting with a loving reproach<sup>10</sup>, then intermediation of loved ones, and finally seeking help from religious leaders.

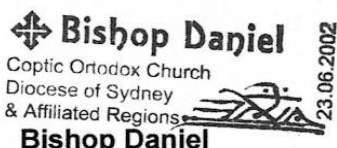
Beloved, let us always be reconciled with God our Creator, through picking ourselves up through our love and service to one another.

We pray to God through the intercessions of our holy Mother St. Mary, the prayers of all the saints, and through the prayers of the father of fathers HH Pope Abba Tawadros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and the See of St. Mark, and HE Anba Angaelos, Archbishop of London, and Papal legate to the Diocese of Sydney, that God may have mercy on our world and grant us peace, love and security.

We ask our Lord God to bless our country Australia, its people and its Government, the whole world, and our beloved homeland Egypt.

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all<sup>11</sup>. Be blessed.<sup>12</sup> and please pray for me**

God bless you all

**Bishop Daniel**  
Coptic Orthodox Church  
Diocese of Sydney  
& Affiliated Regions  
23.06.2002

**Bishop Daniel**

With the Grace of God  
Bishop of the Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions  
Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria.

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 5:21-23

<sup>9</sup> Luke 10:25-27

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 18:15-17

<sup>11</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:14

<sup>12</sup> Acts 15:29