



MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND AND OCEANIA

Memorial Mass Held at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral in Honour of Pope Francis

Sydney, Australia – On Sunday, 27 April 2025, the Maronite community gathered at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral in Harris Park to honour the life and legacy of Pope Francis in a solemn memorial Mass presided over by Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Bishop of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

The passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday marked a profound moment for the Catholic Church worldwide. In his homily, Bishop Tarabay reflected on the Pope's unwavering commitment to faith, humility, and service, stating, "His departure mirrors the very heart of the Christian message of hope, a hope anchored in the Resurrection of Christ, whom he served with faithfulness and humility."

Throughout his twelve-year papacy, Pope Francis championed social justice, interfaith dialogue, environmental stewardship, and pastoral care for families and the marginalised. His leadership inspired millions, emphasising the Church's role as a source of hope and compassion.

The memorial Mass was attended by clergy, faithful, and community leaders, all united in prayer for the repose of Pope Francis' soul. As the Church enters a period of mourning and reflection, Bishop Tarabay urged the faithful to draw strength from the Pope's teachings and unwavering faith. He further remarked, "In life and in death, Pope Francis proclaimed the victory of Christ over sin and evil, and now he returns to the One he dedicated his life to, bearing witness to the eternal promise of salvation."

In keeping with tradition, the Papal Conclave will convene on **7 May 2025** to elect a new pope. The Church remains steadfast in prayer for divine guidance in selecting the next leader of the Catholic Church.

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For more information, please contact us on: media@maronite.org.au