



MULTICULTURAL E-NEWS

CATHOLIC MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF ADELAIDE



What's inside this issue:

- Vietnamese Lunar New Year 2023
- Feast of St Sebastian
- Feast of St Bakhita
- Feast of the Apostle St Paul
- Feast of St Maroun

Vietnamese Lunar New Year 2023

While for the Chinese this Lunar New Year is the Year of the Rabbit, for the Vietnamese, it is the Year of the Cat. According to one explanation, the Cat represents the qualities of vigilance, wittiness, speediness, acuity, intelligence and honesty.

The Vietnamese Catholic Community was honoured to welcome Archbishop Patrick O'Regan who celebrated the Lunar New Year's Eve Mass. In his homily, the Archbishop invited people in the congregation to put God at the centre of their lives. In this way, they will find long-lasting happiness.

Towards the end of the Mass, the Archbishop blessed the "Tree of Divine Word". On the tree hung red scrolls with biblical verses for people to pick. After the blessing, the Archbishop picked one roll for the Vietnamese Catholic Community. He then picked one for himself.

[Click here to read more](#)



Feast of St Bakhita

The Feast of St Josephine Bakhita of South Sudan was held in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 2.30pm. Approximately 300 people gathered to celebrate this important Feast Day Mass for the Patron Saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking; organized by the African community, and coordinated by Mr Clement Kuek, together with the Events Office of the Archdiocese of Adelaide.

Only just landing in Adelaide at midnight from the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania in Fiji, the Archbishop of Adelaide did not want to miss celebrating this special Mass with the community. Joined by African Priests, Father Paul Mwaura Gicheha and Father Dominick Awiti Okwadha; along with Administrator to the Cathedral Parish, Father Anthoni Adimai with devoted servers, this Mass recognized St Bakhita's life and deep faith.

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan baptised 3 young people at this special celebration and confirmed 9 candidates for confirmation and first Holy Communion, all seeking to take on the charisms of the Saint they were confirmed in.

[Click here to read more](#)



Feast of the Apostle St. Paul.

By Mary Seliba

Every year the Maltese community of South Australia, waits eagerly to celebrate the Feast of the Apostle St. Paul. This is one of the many traditional feasts that is held in Malta on the 10th February.

The Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Community has kept this tradition for many years, and so this year was no exception.

This feast was celebrated on Sunday 12th February. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Alfred Farrugia, at Christ The King Parish Church Lockleys. A choir which is directed by Sister Bonnie Attard, sang throughout the Mass with their lovely singing.

After Mass everyone gathered in the Parish Hall for a cuppa, followed by delicious Maltese Traditional food, including the favourite, Pastizzis .

This is a wonderful time for the community to get together and enjoy eachother's company, including families who we don't get to see very often.

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band, who had been practising weekly, put on a wonderful concert of traditional Maltese songs and Marches. We had a good attendance this year, including families and children..

We thank everyone for attending and look forward to next year's to celebration.



Feast of St Maroun

By Monsignor Saler

Last weekend the Adelaide Maronite Parish of St Maroun celebrated the Feast of St Maroun, also marking the conclusion of its 50-year anniversary since establishment, as well as the official launch of the Golden Jubilee of our Eparchy.

The formation of a Maronite Parish in South Australia took place in 1972 with the appointment of Monsignor Youssef Ndaira as the first parish priest. He served his community spiritually and pastorally for over 50 years, helping lay strong foundations for an active and thriving parish, ministering to the Maronite Catholic faithful in South Australia.

Celebrations began with a gala dinner on the Saturday 18 February, where we were grateful for the presence of The Most Reverend Antoine Charbel Rarabey, Maronite Bishop of Australia New Zealand & Oceania, The Most Reverend Patrick O'Regan, Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Adelaide and Fr Dean Marin, Vicar General, the Honourable Zoe Bettison, Minister for Multicultural Affairs representing the Premier, and many from our beloved St Maroun parish community and guests.

During the gala event, we were pleased to present fifteen Medals of St Maroun and over 50 Certificates of Appreciation and Blessing, in acknowledgement of the generous and selfless contribution of dedicated members of the parish and community.

The weekend was also marked by a special Solemn Mass on the Sunday 19th February, on the occasion of the Feast of St Maroun, and the welcoming of the Relics of our saints in the Jubilee reliquary.



Feast of St Sebastian

By Madhavi Ferera

St. Sebastian is regarded as one of the most powerful heavenly intercessors, especially healing. In Sri Lanka, St Sebastian parish feast is among the most elaborate feasts.

Sri Lankan Catholic community in Adelaide celebrated the feast of St Sebastian at their monthly community mass in January. The Catechism school lesson plan also focused on educating children about St Sebastian. Following the Sri Lankan culture, a traditional food almsgiving was organised after the mass.



Celebrate Together Grants

The CELEBRATE TOGETHER grants assist multicultural organisations to host festivals and events to share their cultures, customs and traditions with all South Australians.

There are two categories of grants under the CELEBRATE TOGETHER Grants:

- Large Grants from \$5,001 to \$30,000 are available for festivals and events that can be delivered within 12 months, commencing in July 2023
- Small Grants (Round 1) of up to \$5,000 are available for festivals and events to be held between 1 July 2023 and 31 December 2023.

[Click here to find out more](#)



Upcoming Events

5/3/2023 - Feast of St Casimir – Lithuanian Community

7/4/2023 – 9/4/2023 - Easter Masses

16/4/2023 – Feast of the Divine Mercy

From the Multicultural Office, Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

Address: 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000

Postal Address: GPO Box 1364, Adelaide, SA, 5001

Phone: (08) 8210 8140

Email: multiculturaloffice@adelaide.catholic.org.au