

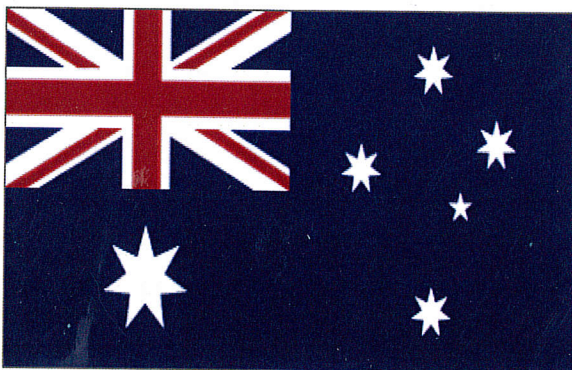


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia



Greek Orthodox Community of NSW

Commemorative Celebrations of
Greek National Independence Day
25th March 1821
and the
Feast of the Annunciation



Sunday 22nd March 2015

Information Booklet

INFORMATION ABOUT GREEK NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY **25TH MARCH 1821 AND THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

On March 25th the Greek National Independence Day is celebrated in Greece and by the Greek Communities throughout the world.

The celebration of Greek Independence Day on March 25th draws inspiration from one of the holiest days for Greek Orthodox Christians, the Annunciation of the Theotokos (Virgin Mary). This is the day that the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear a child. Bishop Germanos of Patras seized the opportunity by raising the banner of revolution, in an act of defiance against the Turks and marked the beginning of the War of Independence. Cries of "Zito H Ellas" and "Eleftheria H Thanatos" can still be heard today. These freedom fighters or klephts as they were called, of Greece sacrificed much for their country. Kolokotronis, Nikitara, Karaiskakis, Bouboulina, and Mpotaris are some of the heroes of the revolution.

After centuries of unsuccessful uprisings and failure of the Ottoman Empire to assimilate and convert the Greeks, The War of Independence began in 1821 rising up against 400 years of occupation and oppression by the Ottoman Turks. The origin of the Turkish occupancy began in 1453 with the fall of Constantinople (currently referred to as Istanbul). All true and faithful Hellenes living in their occupied homeland reacted to the Turkish oppression and resisted the attempts to deprive the Greeks of their heritage, their freedom and their religion. During the dark years of the Ottoman occupation, thousands were killed and tortured for attending church or teaching their children culture, history and language. It was the Greek Orthodox Church that helped to retain their very identity by the institution of Krypha Scholia (Hidden Schools).

For eight years the fighting ensued, until 1829, when the Sultan Mahmud II, facing Soviet troops at the gates of Constantinople, accepted Greek independence with the Treaty of Andrianople.

March 25th has high significance in the calendar of the Orthodox Church, being the feast day of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, as well as being the anniversary of the beginning of the struggle of the Greek people for Independence in 1821 after almost 400 years of Ottoman occupation and the formation of the Modern Greek State. Therefore, ever since 1821, the theme of national liberation has been seen in the broader framework of spiritual liberation.

The flag of Greece has not changed since the revolution against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. The white cross in the upper left hand corner covering one fourth of the flag signifies the important role of the Greek Orthodox Church in the formation of the Hellenic Nation. The blue and white alternating stripes represent the sea and the relentless waves of the Aegean. There are nine stripes representing each letter of the Greek word for freedom, Eleftheria.

This year the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, with its Parishes & Communities in NSW, together with the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW will be celebrating the Greek National Independence Day on Sunday March 22nd, 2015 at 1:30pm.

The Celebrations will commence with a short memorial service and wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, to be followed by a procession from the Cenotaph to the Sydney Opera House Forecourt, where the celebrations will take place, beginning at approximately 2:30pm.

Information about Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia was established as the Metropolis of Australia and New Zealand under the Ecumenical Patriarchate in March 1924.

During the post war period, the steep increase in migration created new needs and problems. In order to deal better with these, new communities were created, new churches build, schools established, Philoptochos Societies organized and special care was given to the youth and the catechesis of children.

In the large cities there are, apart from the Philoptochos Societies, centres which provide for the general philanthropic and social problems of Greeks.

In January 1970 after a decision of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, for practical reasons New Zealand was separated from the Archdiocese of Australia and formed the Metropolis of New Zealand.

On the 3rd February 1975 the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate unanimously elected His Eminence Metropolitan of Miletoupolis Stylianos (Harkianakis), lecturer at the University of Thessaloniki, as the new Archbishop of Australia. Archbishop Stylianos arrived in Sydney on the 15th April 1975 and was officially enthroned on Lazarus Saturday on the 26th April 1975.

The new Archbishop, respecting the work of his predecessors in erecting churches and other benevolent institutions, took on as one of his special concerns the social and cultural development of his flock with the systematic cultivation and promotion of the spiritual treasure of Greek Orthodox Tradition.

The establishment of new churches and other benevolent institutions continue under the inspiration of the new Archbishop, however priority is given to promotion of the spiritual and cultural treasures of the Greek Orthodox tradition.

Information about The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW

The Greek Orthodox Community of Sydney and NSW (GOCS) is the oldest and largest organized Greek community entity in the country. It was established in 1897 to serve the spiritual, cultural and socio-economic needs of the Greek settlers and their children.

These days the GOC comprises of a community Centre in Lakemba, 20 geographically diversified ethnic schools, a Hostel for the care of the elderly, youth club, three Orthodox Churches and its Archival Centre, collecting documents and museum items related to the Greek immigration and settlement history. The Community is also involved in programs disseminating the Hellenic culture and civilization to the broader Australian society, and facilitating welfare activities to its members.

The GOCS employs over 100 full time and part time persons to fulfill its socio-cultural, welfare, and educational role. These employees cater for over 3000 registered members, in addition to an estimated 30,000 affiliated members or families receiving its services.

Program for the Memorial Service at Martin Place

1:00 pm People start arriving at Martin Place (Bands, Schools, Church Parishes etc.).

1:15 pm Official guests start arriving (A special area will be allocated for these guests).

1:30 pm MC to give a warm welcome to the official guests and everyone in attendance.

Australian & Greek National Anthems to be played.

MC to announce the commencement of the Memorial Service, led by His Grace Bishop Seraphim.

MC to call upon the bugler to play the Last Post.

MC to call upon the President of the Greek RSL Sub Branch to recite the Ode in Greek and English followed by a minute's silence.

MC to call upon the bugler to play the Rouse.

MC to announce the groups laying wreaths on the cenotaph.

Formalities are completed and MC announces special thanks to the following:

- Sydney City Council;
- NSW Police Service
- Mr Chris Perrin - Custodian of the Cenotaph

2:00 pm MC thanks everyone for their attendance and asks all groups to stay in their positions until the Official Party takes their position in Pitt Street to view the parade. Once this is completed MC will announce the sequence upon which the groups will depart from Martin Place.

Format of the Procession 2015

	Police Escort & Greek Flag
	MARCHING BAND 1
	Members of the Greek RSL Sub Branch & Greek Scouts of Sydney
	Brotherhoods and Associations.
	St Andrews Theological College
	MARCHING BAND 2
1a	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of All Saints, Belmore.
	MARCHING BAND 3
1	The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW.
2	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St John, Parramatta.
3	Greek Orthodox Parish of Sts Constantine & Helen, Newtown.
4	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Gerasimos, Leichhardt.
5	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Paraskevi, Blacktown.
6	Greek Orthodox Parish of St Stylianos, Sutherland.
7	Greek Orthodox Parish of St Therapon, Thornleigh.
	MARCHING BAND 4
8a	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Euphemia, Bankstown.
	MARCHING BAND 5
8	Greek Orthodox Parish of St Stephanos, Hurlstone Park.
9	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St George, Rose Bay.
10	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of The Resurrection, Kogarah.
11	Greek Orthodox Parish of St Sophia, Darlinghurst
12	Greek Orthodox Parish of St Catherine, Mascot.
13	Greek Orthodox Parish of the Transfiguration, Earlwood.
	MARCHING BAND 6
14a	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Spyridon, Kingsford.
	MARCHING BAND 7
14	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Michael, North Sydney.
15	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Nektarios, Burwood.
16	Greek Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas Marrickville.
17	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Raphael, Liverpool.
18	Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of St Demetrios, St Marys.
19	Greek Orthodox Parish of St Andrew, Gladesville.
20	Hellenic Orthodox Community of Kingsgrove & Bexley North
21	Christian Enosis (Men and Women)
22	Other Community Groups and Associations.

Program at the Opera House 2015

2:30 pm	General Welcome and Introduction by Masters of Ceremonies Mrs Amelia Katsogiannis & Mr Stavros Tsilimos.
2:35 pm	Australian and Greek National Anthems <i>Performed by the Combined Choir of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia Day Colleges of St Spyridon, St Euphemia and All Saints</i>
2:40 pm	Recital of a poem – “25 th March” (Η 25 ^η Μαρτίου), by Mirto Georgakopoulou, High School student of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW language school.
	Performance of 2 songs <i>Performed by the Combined Choir of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia Day Colleges of St Spyridon, St Euphemia and All Saints</i>
2:50 pm	The Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos.
2:55 pm	President of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW, Mr Harry Danalis
3:00 pm	The Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic, His Excellency Mr Charalampos Dafaranos
3:05 pm	The Hon Nickolas Varvaris MP, Federal Member for Barton, representing the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia.
3:10 pm	The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Federal Member for Kingsford-Smith, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, representing the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Leader of the Federal Opposition
3:15 pm	The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Member for Lane Cove, Minister for Resources & Energy, representing the Hon Mike Baird MP, Premier of NSW,
3:20 pm	The Hon Luke Foley MLC, Leader of the NSW Opposition.
3:25 pm	Performance of 3 Traditional Greek Dances by the Dancing Schools of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aristotelion Academy (Instructed by Dimitris Papapetros)</i> • <i>Greek Lyceum (Instructed by Dimitris Papapetros)</i> • <i>Greek Orthodox Community of NSW (Instructed by Paroula Thurban)</i> • <i>Sophia Haskas Dancers (Instructed by Sophia Haskas)</i> • <i>Thrasivoulas Dancing Group (Instructed by Vasilis Aligiannis)</i> • <i>Sydney Greek Dancing School (Instructed by Maria Houliaras & Loula Triandafyllou)</i>
3:35 pm	Performance of Traditional Greek Dance by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Cretan Brotherhood of NSW (Instructed by Andreas Parliaros)</i>
3:40 pm	Performance of Traditional Greek Cypriot Dance by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Cyprus Community of NSW (Instructed by Michael Mournehis, Georgia Mournehis, Andrew Christofis & Andriana Thomas)</i>
3:45 pm	Performance of Traditional Greek Dance by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Dancing Groups of the Parishes & Communities of the Archdiocese, and</i> • <i>The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW</i>
3:55 pm	CLOSE OF PROGRAM

Official Guests in Attendance

1.	The Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos.
2.	His Grace Bishop Seraphim of Apollonia, assistant Bishop to His Eminence.
3.	His Excellency Mr Charalampos Dafaranos, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic.
4.	Mr Stavros Kyrimis, Consul General for Greece in Sydney
5.	The Hon Nickolas Varvaris MP, Federal Member for Barton, representing the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia
6.	The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Member for Lane Cove, representing the Hon Mike Baird MP, Premier of NSW.
7.	The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Member for Kingsford Smith, representing the Hon Bill Shorten, Leader of the Federal Opposition.
8.	The Hon Luke Foley MLC, Leader of the NSW Opposition
9.	Mr Harry Danalis, President of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW
10.	Mr Peter Theo OAM, President of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia Inter-Communities Council of NSW.
11.	Senator the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO, Senator for NSW
12.	The Hon Tony Burke MP, Member for Watson, Manager of Opposition Business & Shadow Minister for Finance.
13.	The Hon George Souris MP, Member for Upper Hunter, and Mrs Souris
14.	The Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Housing, Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Shadow Minister for the Status of Women
15.	The Hon Michael Daley MP, Member for Maroubra, Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Roads & Freight
16.	The Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC
17.	His Honour Judge John Hatzistergos, Judge District Court of NSW
18.	Cr Angela Vithoukas, City of Sydney Council
19.	Cr Brian Robson, Mayor of Canterbury Council and Crs Esta Paschalidis-Chilas & Michael Hawatt
20.	Cr Anthony Andrews Deputy Mayor of Randwick City Council and Cr Harry Stavrinou
21.	Cr Daniel Barbar, Cr Jo Haylen & Cr Rosana Tyler, Marrickville Council
22.	Cr George Katsabaris, Kogarah City Council
23.	Cr Bill Mouroukas, Waverley Council
24.	Cr Stan Kondilios, Botany Bay City Council
25.	Cr Nick Aroney, Kogarah City Council & Liberal Candidate for Kogarah
26.	Cr Andrew Soulos, Deputy Mayor Strathfield Council
27.	Other Local Government Representatives
28.	Dr Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chair of Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW,
29.	Mr Felice Montrone, Deputy Chair Multicultural NSW Advisory Board, representing Chair Dr Hari Harinath
30.	Superintendent Arthur Katsogiannis, representing the NSW Police Force
31.	Mr Jack Passaris OAM, Honorary Chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
	Parish Priests, Parish Presidents and representatives of the Parishes and Communities of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia
	Representatives from the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW and other Greek organisations, brotherhoods and associations and members of mainstream and Greek media & press.



MEDIA RELEASE

Greek National Day Celebrations

Sunday 22nd March 2015

25th March is a day of celebration, commemorating Greece's historic struggle for national independence in the 1821.

Once again, this year there will be a joint celebration held by The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, its Parishes-Communities of NSW, as well as the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW. The day, celebrated on 25th March every year, commemorates the start of Greece's struggle for liberation from the Ottoman Empire in 1821 and marks the establishment of the modern Greek state.

Greek National Independence Day will be celebrated with an official ceremony on Sunday 22nd March in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, Federal, State and Local Government representatives and Greek Diplomatic officials, as well as numerous community representatives.

Celebrations will commence at 1.30pm with a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, followed by a procession led by students down Pitt Street to the Sydney Opera House Forecourt. The festivities will continue with a brief concert at the Sydney Opera House to include poetry readings, songs and traditional dancing.

Media Contact: Nia Karteris 0418 861 116

Greek National Day 2015 KEY PERSONNEL – OPERATIONAL

NAME	ORGANISATION	CONTACT	ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Fr Stavros Ivanos	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	0418 470 539	Event Administrator
Jack Passaris	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	0418 284 773	Event Coordination
Elia Economou	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	0414 889 111	Event Coordination
Nia Karteris	Greek Orthodox Community of NSW	0418 861 116	Event Coordination & Media Contact
Kosta Katsoulas	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	0403 329 327	Assistant Event Coordination
Olympia Houliaras	Greek Orthodox Community of NSW	0410 501 616	Assistant Event Coordination
Garry Lewis	Patti's Hire	0419 258 475	Hire of equipment for Opera House
Shayne Kemp	L & W Technical Support Systems	0411 745 559	Sound systems
Michael Hammond	EMS First Response	0415 100 089	Key Paramedic
Amelia Katsogiannis	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	0418 455 443	Master of Ceremonies Sydney Opera House
Stavros Tsilimos	Greek Orthodox Community of NSW	0408 088 008	Master of Ceremonies Cenotaph & Sydney Opera House
James Jordan	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	0419 401 783	Master of Ceremonies Cenotaph Martin Place