2023

St. Elias Community Business Booklet of South Australia

INTRODUCTION

The Antiochian Orthodox who are Byzantine Christians from the Middle East, come from the blessed Christian Churches, having contributed much to Christianity:

The Church of the Martyrs - The Antiochian Orthodox Church has been a persecuted Church since the beginning of the Church.

The Church of Monasticism - St. Basil, the founder of Eastern Christian monasticism, and whom was the one of the early fathers of the churches to establish this form of Christian devotion in the early centuries of the Byzantine empire.

The Church of Theological Fathers - Prominent figures in early Christian history who followed St. Athanasius, St. Basil, St. Gregory, and many other theologians of the church. These prominent fathers were early Christians who contributed greatly to the early theological thought of the Christian Church. For example, St. Athanasius was one of the main contributors to the Nicene Creed; a document that greatly assisted the proper understanding of the Christian faith.

In Australia, the Antiochian Orthodox Church was first established in ? in Sydney, New South Wales. We thank His Eminence, Metropolitan Basilios, the Bishop of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines who has supported this publication with his prayers and continuous encouragement. We pray that God blesses all those involved and rewards them for their labour of love also through the prayers of our Antiochian Orthodox Patriarch, His Holiness Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East and the Antiochian Hierarchs.

We offer the St. Elias Community to list your business, consulting or services and thank everyone who contributed to this booklet.

The St. Elias Business Community Booklet has been made possible by the support of State Government, Local Council and the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia.

Supported by
Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

City of Charles Sturt

MCCSA
Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia

Yours In Christ,

V. Rev. Fr. Georges El Tahan, Parish Priest
St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church of South Australia

David Moukachar, Chairperson
St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Parish Association Incorporated

Antiochian Orthodox Community in South Australia

The Antiochian Orthodox Community in South Australia has been present from the early 1900s, with individual members of Antiochian Orthodox background arriving to Australia between the late last century of the 1800s.

In more recent times within the last 30 years, the Antiochian Orthodox Community established with approximately ?? families. This was during the early years of the establishment of the Adelaide Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Church, and Former Bishop who would come once a year to visit the Adelaide community, known as the St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church during this time.

The original committee consisted of the following members:

The first years of the community was initially held at ? Street. The members of the committee would donate to the ongoing costs of the Church services and the priest's wages.

As time progressed, Rev. Fr. John Abdel-Karim, who originally came from Lebanon, first became the parish priest for the Antiochian Orthodox Community in Adelaide.

The growth of the Antiochian Orthodox Church in recent years in South Australia, and in Australia in general, can be partly attributed to the many wars and economic hardships that were taking place in the Middle East.

The migration of Syrian, Iraqi, Armenian, Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian, as well as many other nationalities has directly contributed to the large increase of parishioners to the Antiochian Orthodox Community, that is based in West Croydon.

The members of the current Antiochian Orthodox Community who attend the Holy Divine Liturgy Services come from cultural and diverse religious denominations from many Middle Eastern backgrounds.

The Reverend Fathers: Rev. Fr. John Abdel-Karim, Rev. Fr. Antoun Abou-Rgeili, Rev. Fr. Nicolas Haddad faithfully served the community for many years. The V. Rev. Fr. Georges El Tahan, is the current parish priest of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Attending Antiochian Orthodox Priests to Adelaide	
Metropolitan Gibran Remlawi	Former Bishop
Metropolitan Paul Saliba	Former Bishop
Metropolitan Basilios Kodsee	Current Bishop
Rev. Fr. John Abdel-Karim	Former Priest
Rev. Fr. Antoun Abou-Rgeili	Former Priest
Rev. Fr. Nicolas Haddad	Former Priest
V. Rev. Fr. Georges El Tahan	Current Priest

Churches used as places of Worship	***Location***
St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church	17 Herbert Rd. WEST CROYDON

THE HON STEVEN MARSHALL MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Congratulations

to

St Elias Antiochian Orthodox Parish Association

on celebrating its

40th Anniversary

~ 1981 – 2021 ~

We acknowledge 2021 marks a special milestone for your organisation. We thank you for supporting the communities in South Australia by providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for new migrants and promoting educational, social and cultural activities for your members.

The hard work and dedication of the founding members has enabled St Elias Antiochian Orthodox Parish Association to become a respected organisation in our State. We commend you for the many positive contributions you have made in the service of our vibrant communities in South Australian.

Congratulations on your 40 years of achievement and thank you for your commitment to enriching South Australia as a proud multicultural State.

Hon Steven Marshall MP
Premier of South Australia

Hon Jing Lee MLC
Assistant Minister to the Premier

BUILDING A
STRONGER COMMUNITY
BUILDING A
BETTER FUTURE

A Century of Antiochian Orthodox History

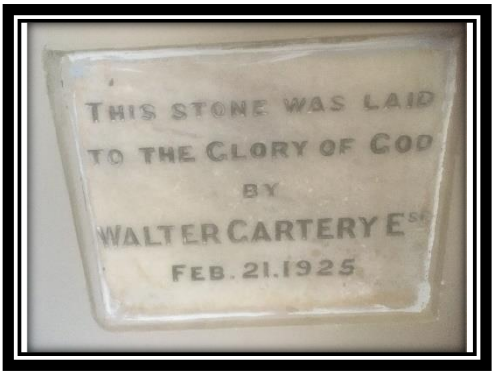
In 1913, V. Rev. Exarch Nicholas Shehade arrived in New South Wales to cater for the Arabic speaking Orthodox Community. Both his sons became priests in the Antiochian Orthodox Church.

In February 1920, V. Reverend Nicholas Shehadie of the Antiochian Orthodox Church, who originates from the region of El Koura in Lebanon, came to Adelaide to perform a wedding mass service for a Parkside lady and a well-known merchant from Sydney.

According to the article in the Chronicle newspaper, Saturday 16 Jan 1904, the earliest first Syrian wedding in SA was held at Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral. Mr. A. Habib was married to Miss Emiline Joseph living in Sydney NSW. Mr. J. R. Coorey was presiding at the banquet, Mr. J. E. Stevens was the best man, Mrs. J. T. Malouf was principal bridesmaid. Many marriages occoured between the Antiochian Orthodox faithful and denominations from both the Middle Eastern and Australian community.

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church

The St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church was originally built as the West Croydon Methodist Church nearly 100 years ago. The Foundation stone was placed on Saturday 21 February 1925, the mission hall behind the Church opened Saturday 4 April 1925.



The Methodist Church opened 1955 and celebrated the Church's 70th anniversary in 1995, but later closed because the surrounding suburbs were included to be part of West Croydon. The original priest indicated that "For some time the need has been felt for a building to serve as a religious and social centre for the returned soldiers ...". The Archdiocese of the Antiochian Orthodox then purchased the Church and hall in 1997 to serve the local parish.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
THIS CHURCH WAS PRESENTED
BY HIS GRACE BISHOP
GIBRAN RAMLAWI AND THE
FAITHFUL OF THIS PARISH
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
THEIR LOVED ONES.
ADELAIDE
30. 8. 1997

ST. ELIAS
ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX
Church of
South Australia
كنيسة القديس
النبي الياس
الإ نطا كية
الأرثوذ كسية
في جنوب أوستراليا
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED ON 29. 11. 1987 BY HIS GRACE
BISHOP GIBRAN REMLAWI
AND RENEWED ON 30. 8. 1997

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church of South Australia

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