

Pastoral Visit to Australia and New Zealand

From October 20/November 2 to November 14/27, 2012, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone made a pastoral visit, with synodal approval, to the Holy Diocese of Australia, of which he is *Locum Tenens*.



On Sunday, October 22/November 4, His Grace liturgized at the Greek Church of the Dormition of the *Theotokos*, in Melbourne, assisted by the Church's Rector, Father Stylianos Papadopoulos.

On Tuesday, October 24/November 6, he celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the newly-built Monastery of the Annunciation of the

Theotokos, in Ballarat—which monastery belongs to our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad—together with Hegumen Father John (Smelic) and Father Stylianos.

Bishop Ambrose then flew to New Zealand, where, on Thursday, the commemoration of St. Demetrios (October 26/November 8), he liturgized at the Chapel of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Torbay, together with the Chapel's Rector, Father Paul Vermaak.

After returning to Australia, His Grace liturgized at the Greek Church of the Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian, in Sydney, on Sunday, October 29/ November 11.

On Wednesday, November 1/14, the commemoration of the Holy Unmercenaries, he celebrated the Patronal Feast of the Church in Sydney, liturgizing with its Rector, Archpriest Dragan Saracevic, and Father Styli-





anos from Melbourne.

On Saturday, November 4/17, Bishop Ambrose liturgized in the splendid *Katholikon* of the Serbian Monastery of St. Sava of Serbia (known as “New Kalenic”), in Canberra, together with our Serbian Priests, Fathers Zvonimir Jović and Bojan Vlajic.

On Sunday, November 5/18, His Grace liturgized at the Serbian Church of St. George the Great Martyr, in Canberra, together with the



Church’s Rector, Father Zvonimir Jović and Father Dragan Saracevic.

For the Feasts of the Holy Angels (November 8/21) and of St. Nectarios (November 9/22), Bishop Ambrose once again celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Greek Church of the Holy Unmercenaries, in Sydney.



On Saturday, November 11/24, His Grace liturgized at the Russian Church of St. Eustathios (ROCA), in Melbourne, together with its Rector, Hieromonk Andrew (Erastov), Fathers John Smelic and Stylianos Papadopoulos, and Protodeacon Basil Yakimov.

On Sunday, November 12/25, His Grace liturgized at the Serbian Church of St. Stephen of Dečani, in Melbourne, on the occasion of its Feast Day. He was assisted by the Church’s Rector, Father Bojan Vlajic, Fathers John Smelic and Zvonimir Jović, and Protodeacon Basil.

On the Feast of St. John Chrysostomos, November 13/26, Bishop Ambrose liturgized at the Greek Church of the Dormition of the *Theotokos*, in Melbourne, together with Father Stylianos.



Throughout this pastoral visit, His Grace also visited the homes of Orthodox of various nationalities; presided over a meeting of the Free Serbian Orthodox Church, Diocese of Australia, which took place at the Monastery of St. Sava in Canberra; confessed many of the faithful; met with prospective clergy; settled various administrative matters pertaining to the Diocese; and, in general, attended to the edification, strengthening, and consolation of our flock, and of other Orthodox Christians, in Australia and New Zealand.

