



# MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND AND OCEANIA

ED 2023/008

## EPISCOPAL DECREE

### Holy Days of Obligation and Feast Days in the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

(REVISED)

On Holy Days of Obligation, the faithful are required to attend the Divine Liturgy of the Eucharist. These are special occasions when the parish comes together as one, in sacred time, in order to worship and thank God for His graces to us. Accordingly, with pastoral care for the faithful, and in response to requests for an authoritative episcopal statement on Holy Days of Obligation in the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, I promulgate the following rules and exhortations:

#### 1. Each Sunday is a Holy Day of Obligation

**All Maronites are required to attend the Sunday celebration of the Divine Liturgy.**

***Note:** The liturgical day commences the evening before the calendar day; therefore, attending a Saturday Vigil (that is, a Saturday evening Liturgy at which the liturgy for Sunday is celebrated), is counted as attendance at the Sunday celebration of the Divine Liturgy.*

#### 2. Immovable Holy Days of Obligation

Attendance at the Divine Liturgy is obligatory for all Maronites on the following feast days (or corresponding vigil). These Holy Days of Obligation are to be observed on the day they fall, regardless of what day of the week, and hence are described as “immovable.”

**6 January**

**9 February**

**15 August**

**14 September**

**25 December**

**The Epiphany**

**Saint Maroun**

**The Assumption of the Virgin Mary**

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day**

### 3. Movable Holy Days of Obligation

Maronites who are unable to conveniently attend the Divine Liturgy on the day of the feast may satisfy their obligation by attending on the Sunday which follows:

**(The Thursday 40 days after Easter)**

**29 June**

**6 August**

**The Ascension**

**Saints Peter and Paul**

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

### 4. Local Holy Days of Obligation

Maronites living within a parish named after one of the following saints or feasts, are obliged to attend the Divine Liturgy on the relevant day (or corresponding vigil). If the relevant parish is holding its major celebration of that feast on the following Sunday, then those faithful may satisfy their obligation by attending on that Sunday. Only the relevant parish is allowed to celebrate the feast on the Sunday following.

**19 March**

**23 March**

**23 April**

**3rd Sunday of July**

**14 September**

**24 September**

**26 September**

**22 October**

**18 November**

**14 December**

**St Joseph**

**St Rafqa**

**St George**

**St Charbel**

**Christ the Redeemer (*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*)**

**Our Lady of Mercy**

**St John the Beloved**

**St John-Paul II**

**St Raymond**

**St Nehmetallah**

All Maronites, wherever they may live, are encouraged, but not obliged, to sanctify the above feasts by attending the Divine Liturgy at the pertinent church.

**Note:** *As further parishes are opened, this list shall be expanded.*

## 5. Liturgical Celebrations at which Attendance is Highly Encouraged

We highly encourage the faithful to attend the Divine Liturgy and/or liturgical celebrations on the following days:

1 January	World Day of Peace / The Circumcision of the Lord
2 February	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
2 March	Saint John Maroun
25 March	The Annunciation
Ash Monday	<i>Rite of the Blessing of the Ashes</i>
Fridays in Great Lent	<i>Evening Prayer and Adoration of the Cross</i>
Hosanna (Palm) Sunday Evening	<i>Arrival to the Harbour</i>
Passion Wednesday	<i>Rite of the Lamp</i>
(Holy) Thursday of the Mysteries	<i>Rite of the Washing of the Feet &amp; Mass</i>
Great (Good) Friday Morning	<i>Signing of the Chalice</i>
Great (Good) Friday	<i>Rite of Adoration of the Cross</i>
Saturday of the Light	<i>Rite of Forgiveness</i>
Easter Monday	
Thursday after Trinity Sunday	Corpus Christi
10 July	The Massabki Martyrs
31 July	The 350 Martyrs
8 December	The Immaculate Conception
15 – 23 December	The Christmas Novena
26 December	Praises of the Mother of God

This Decree commences effective immediately as *Ad experimentum* for four years.

Given at Harris Park, NSW,  
this Twentieth Day of December 2023



+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay  
Maronite Eparch of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania