



MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA

1 September 2016

**Child Protection Sunday
11 September 2016**

Stronger Communities, Safer Children

Dear Beloved in Christ,

The Australian Catholic Church's ***Child Protection Sunday*** falls on **11 September 2016**, stressing the importance of primary prevention to reduce child abuse and neglect in Australia. The focus this year is: **'Stronger Communities, Safer Children'**.

As pastor of this Eparchy, moved by charity, concern and compassion for all Christ's flock, and most particularly for the children and the vulnerable amongst us, who are so dear to Him, I invite you to observe this day in your parishes and communities.

When we reflect on child protection we need also reflect on the violence that exists in relation to children, and anyone else. Violence, wherever it exists, is an act of de-humanization and de-sanctification. We pray for all children in difficult situations especially those who are sexually, physically and psychologically abused; children in detention centres; children who are homeless; children who are asylum seekers; children who live in settings of domestic violence; children living in poverty and poor health; and children living in war.

In each Maronite Mass on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, the attached prayer of the faithful is to be included among the prayers of intercession, in English or in Arabic.

May we all resolve to foster a culture of safeguarding and nurturing the innocence of children, in order for God's truth, goodness and beauty to reign in our souls and in our Church.

As we enter the Season of the Cross, let us double our efforts to live courageous Christian lives, so that His will may be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Yours in Christ,

**+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay
Maronite Bishop of Australia**

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Prayer of the Faithful
Child Protection Sunday
Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September 2016

On this Child Protection Sunday, we pray for the Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, Bishop Antoine-Charbel, all the clergy and religious, and those entrusted with the care of the Church, that they will continue to help build stronger faith communities that will promote the safety of minors and vulnerable adults.

We pray that true and lasting peace and reconciliation come to all whose lives have been traumatised through abuse that they may have the courage to tell their story and to reach for healing.

We also pray for parents, mentors, teachers and all who work with children and young people that they may look after them with the watchful eye of the shepherd.

For the children in our parishes, may we all work together to ensure the happiness and confidence of every child and create an environment of safety and protection where children may flourish.

We pray to you, O Lord.

نِيةُ القُداس، لأجلِ حمايةِ الاطفال والقاصرين

السبت والأحد ١٠ و ١١ أيلول ٢٠١٦

في هذا الأحد المخصّص "لحماية الاطفال والقاصرين"، نُصَلِّي من أجل رؤساء الكنيسة، بخاصة البابا فرنسيس، وراعي أبرشيتنا المطران أنطون - شربل، وجميع الكهنة والرهبان والراهبات، مع المؤتمنين على الرسالة في الكنيسة، حتى يواصلوا العمل في بناء جماعات مؤمنة وقويّة تُعنى بحماية الأطفال والقاصرين والضعفاء من بين الراشدين.

ونصلي حتى يُعمّ السلام الدائم وتتحقّق المصالحة في حياة كلّ الأشخاص الذين تعرّضوا لصدمة بسبب تحرشٍ أو استغلالٍ ليتشجعوا ويسرّدوا قصّتهم توصلًا الى الشفاء.

ونصلي من أجل الأهالي، والمعلمين والمسؤولين عن التوجيه وكلّ العاملين مع الأطفال والأحداث ليكونَ اهتمامهم بهم اهتمام الراعي الساهر على رعيته.

ونصلي من أجل القاصرين في رعايانا، آمليين أن نعملَ معاً لضمان السعادة وأجواء الثقة لكلّ طفلٍ وقاصرٍ وضعيفٍ فنسعى لخلق بيئةٍ من الأمان والحماية ليتموا ويبرّدهوا.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبِّ نَصَلِّي.