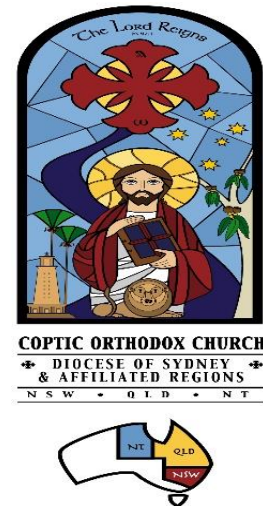


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The Coptic Orthodox Church- See of Saint Mark- Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions. Sermon about: "The Birth of Christ is the Greatest in the history of humanity" to the believers in the Diocese of Sydney and all our beloved ones on the occasion of the Birth of Christ 2025.

To the priests, deacons, servants, congregation, and all, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, through the intercessions of Saint Mary, the supplications of all the Saints and the prayers of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II.

By the grace of God, we are going to share some points about the topic above as follows:

1= The Birth of Christ and the prophecies of the prophets:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as it fulfills many prophecies – 84 prophecies - about it, I will mention only two as follows:

1.1= When our forefathers fell in sin, the Almighty Lord said in the Book of Genesis that the seed of woman will bruise the head of the serpent, the Seed of the woman is Christ, and the serpent is the devil:"
Genesis 3:15 He shall bruise your head"

1.2= Isaiah the prophet who was before the Birth of Christ by many centuries, prophesied about Christ saying that He will be called Mighty God, and Everlasting Father, as mentioned in **The Book of Isaiah 9:6:" And His name will be called, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father"**.

2= The Birth of Christ Jesus and the plan of God for our salvation:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as it linked to the time that God appointed His Son to redeem us from sin, corruption and death, as we read in **The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Galatians 4:4:" 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."**

3= The Angels of Heaven announced the Birth of Christ:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as the Angel of Almighty God announced the news of His Birth to Saint Mary the Virgin, and described the Nature of this Son as: "The Son of the highest" and also described His kingdom as Everlasting Kingdom, as we read in *The Gospel of Luke 1: 26-27, 31-33:* "26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary... 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end".

4= The Birth of Christ is a Great Secret:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as it is a secret of Goodliness, as this Baby is the God, - The Logos of God, the Son of God, Who was Incarnate for our salvation-, as we read in the *First Epistle of Saint Paul to Saint Timothy 3: 16:* "16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifested in the flesh".

5= Jesus Christ founded the Seven Sacraments of the Holy Church:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as Christ our Lord and His disciples founded the Seven Church Sacraments, without which no one will enter His Kingdom, I would like to mention these Sacraments as follows:

5.1= The Sacrament of the Priesthood, as the Lord Christ appointed 12 disciples and gave them the grace of Priesthood of the New Testament, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint John 20: 22-23:* "He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

5.2 = The Sacrament of Baptism, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Mark 16:16:* "16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned".

5.3= The Sacrament of Anointing by the Oil of the Holy Myron, Chrismation-, as we read in *1 John 2: 20:* "But you have an anointing from the Holy One".

5.4= The Sacrament of The Holy Eucharist, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint John 6: 54:* "54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day".

5.5= The Sacrament of Marriage, as Christ the Lord Himself attended the Wedding of Cana of Galilee as we read in *The Gospel of Saint John 2: 1-2:* "2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

5.6= The Sacrament of Confession and Repentance, as we read the *First Epistle of Saint John 1: 9:* "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

5.7= the Sacrament of healing the Sick, as we read in *Epistle of Saint James 5:14-15:* "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven".

6= Heaven, Earth and Man participated in His Birth:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as in it, The Heaven participated with Earth and Man, let us mention the details as follows:

6.1= The **Heaven** participated with the Star, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Matthew 2:2:* "2 and asked, - The Wise men- "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him". The **Humans** – the rich ones - participated through the wise men as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Matthew 2: 1:* "2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem".

6.2= The **Heaven** participated with the Angels, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Luke 2: 15:* "15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." The **Humans** – the poor ones- participated through the Shepherds.

6.3= The **Earth** through the small village of Bethlehem, as we read in *The Book of Micah 5: 2:* "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me, One who will Be Ruler over Israel, whose Origins are from of Old from ancient times."". The **Humans**- through the prophets like prophet Micah.

6.4= The **Earth** through the manger as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Luke 2: 12:* "12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." The **Humans**- the righteous ones- the Holy Family: Saint Mary, Saint Joseph, and the Baby Jesus.

6.5= The **substance**, the Magi presented some gifts to the Baby Jesus as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Matthew 2: 11:* "11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The **Humans** – both rich and righteous- the Magi and the Holy Family.

6.6= The **men** – Saint Joseph the Carpenter, Saint Simon the priest,- who said about the Baby Jesus that He will be the Light for revelation to the Gentiles and Glory of the people of Israel, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Luke 2: 32:* "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." The **women** like Prophet Anna, who prophesied that Christ would redeem us, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Luke 2: 38:* "36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem".

7= The Whole world Calendar was adjusted on His Birth:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as the calendar of the whole world is associated with His blessed Birth.

8= Christ is over all and the Eternally blessed God:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as He is over all, and the Eternally blessed God, as Saint Paul mentioned in his *Epistle to Romans 9: 5:* "5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen".

9= No one did the miracles that Jesus did:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as no one on earth did the miracles He did, nor its numbers, let me mention some, as follows:

9.1= Jesus Christ our Lord raised the dead, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint John 11: 43-44:* "43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

9.2= Jesus Christ our Lord healed the impossible diseases, He healed the paralytic person, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Mark 2:11:* "11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

9.3= Jesus Christ rebuked the winds and the sea, as we read in the *Gospel of Saint Matthew 8: 26:* "26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm".

9.4= Jesus Christ our Lord established a very high standard spiritual teachings, He mentioned in *The Gospel of Saint Matthew 5: 44:* "44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you".

9.5= Jesus Christ our Lord cast seven demons from Saint Mary the Magdalene, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Mark 16:9:* "9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons".

9.6= Jesus Christ did many miracles, if all of them were written the world itself can not contain the books of His miracles, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint John 21: 25:* "25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen".

10= Jesus Christ is The One Who will conduct the Final Judgement for Humanity:

The Birth of Christ is the Greatest, as He is the One Who will Judge the dead and the living as well, as we read in *The Book of Acts 10:42:* "42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

11= The Christian Religion was spread by very simple people- the disciples of Christ:

Most of the disciples of Christ were fishermen, but they became fishers of men, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Matthew 1:17:*” *Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”*

12= Christianity was spread by peace not by sword or by force:

Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His disciples not to force anyone to believe in Him, as we read in *The Gospel of Saint Matthew 10:14:*” *And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet”.*

13= The Christian Martyrs:

Christians out of their true love for Christ, hundreds and thousands became Martyrs, in the Coptic Orthodox Church only at the end of the second century 800 thousands Christians were killed by the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

14= Christianity is the Largest Religion in the whole world now:

The number of the Christians in the whole world now is **2,397,753,551** believers¹.

Glory be to God as always.

Please pray for me.



+Bishop Daniel

With the Grace of God

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church - Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions

¹ <https://worldstatistics.net/the-largest-religions-in-the-world-2024/>