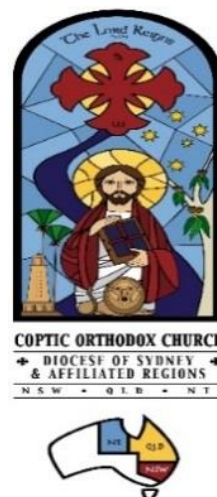


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Friday 26th of July, 2024
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Bishop's Office



The Coptic Orthodox Church, See of Saint Mark, Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions. A sermon about: "Our days", in the funeral of the late Alfie Kozman, Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Arncliffe, Sydney, NSW, Australia, Friday 26th July 2024 at 10:30 am.

1= The days of our life are few, as mentioned by Jacob in **Gen. 47:9:** " ⁹ ***And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few"***, they are few, compared with the eternal life in our eternal home, as mentioned in **Eccl. 12: 5. "For man goes to his eternal home,"**.

2= while we are living the days of our life on earth, we are strangers before God, as King David mentioned in **1 Chron. 29:15:** " ***For we are aliens and pilgrims before You,***". We are pilgrims because our origin citizenship is in heaven, as Saint Paul mentioned in **Phil. 3:20:** " ²⁰ ***For our citizenship is in heaven,***".

3= The days of our life are like a passing shadow, as we read in **Psalms. 144:4:** " ***Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.***

= The meanings of the word : "shadow" are:

3.1= Shadow means: "A dark area or shape produced by a body coming between rays of light and a surface". While we live our days which are like a passing shadow, we need to have two pillars: Cloud pillar and pillar of fire, so that we can always move towards heaven, as we read in **Exodus 13:21:** " ***And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.***

3.2= Shadow means: "An inseparable companion or follower". During the days of our life which are like a passing shadow, it is significant to remember that we are inseparable from God, we are in Him in everything, as we read ***Psalm 34:1: "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."***

3.3= Shadow means: "An imitation of something". In the days of our life which are like a passing shadow, we need to feel the power of God in our weakness, as we read in ***2 Corin. 12: 9: "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."***

4 = Because Saint Peter was moving always towards Heaven, a good follower of Christ, and served Him with His grace, his shadow was healing the sick, as we read in *Acts 5:15: "so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them."*

My deepest condolences to the family, and all their beloved ones.

Glory be to God.



+Bishop Daniel

With the Grace of God

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church – Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions