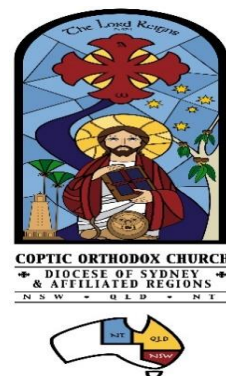


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**The Coptic Orthodox Church- See of Saint Mark- Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions. Sermon about:” Our Fathers “in the Divine Liturgy in Saint Mary and Saint Marina, Sydney, NSW, Australia, from 8:00 to 10:30 am, dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 on the Father’s Day.**

To the priests, deacons, servants, congregation of the Diocese of Sydney, and all, I would like to congratulate all of you today on the occasion of the Father’s Day, praying to God, through the intercession of Saint Mary and all the saint to keep the life of the father of the fathers **His Holiness Pope Tawadros II for many peaceful years to come.**

I would like to share with you today, some points about the topic above, as follows:

We have six Fathers in our life, we need to learn a lesson from each one of them:

**1= We have our Heavenly Father**, Who created all of us, and we need to be perfect as our Heavenly Father Is, as it is written in ***Matt. 5: 48:” 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”***

1.1= We need to be perfect in our forgiveness to our brothers, as we read in ***Matt. 6:14:” 14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”*** However forgiveness must be from our heart, as it is written in ***Matt. 18: 35:” 35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”***

**2 = Adam the biological father of humanity**, Adam who was created by the Heavenly Father from dust, as it is written in ***Gen. 2:7:” 7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”***, the lesson we need to learn is that we are made of dust, we need to be humble, and also, we need to know that one day we will die and return to dust, however we do believe in the Resurrection of the bodies to be rewarded either good or bad.

**3 = Our fathers the leaders of the Church**, as it is written in ***Heb. 13:17:” 17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”*** The lesson we need to know is that we need to be obedient to our church leaders, as they watch over our souls.

**4 = Our Biological father**, as it is written in **Gen. 22: 7:" 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the *lamb* for a burnt offering?"**. The lesson here is that we need to be obedient to our biological father even if what he says is not understandable, you will understand later.

**5 = Our Confession father**, as it is written in **James 5:16:" 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** The lesson we learn is that each one of us must have a father of confession and take his blessings through obedience.

**6 = The father of the Nation**, as it is written in **Rom. 13: 4:" 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.**". The lesson is that we need to be loyal citizens and do the good to our country.

Happy Father's Day.

Please pray for me.



**+Bishop Daniel,**

By the grace of God,

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions,  
Australia.