



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA  
HOLY CHURCH OF ST PARASKEVI,  
ST BARBARA & ST JOHN THE MERCIFUL

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ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ  
PROGRAMME OCTOBER



You are as if a spiritual cloud surrounding your people, O Lady

2023

# ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ



**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 1<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Β' Λουκά, Παναγίας Γοργοεπηκόου, Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία και Αγιασμό, 7:30πμ – 11:00πμ

**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 2<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Αγίων Κυπριανού και Ιουστίνης, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 10:00πμ

☞ Σύναξη Ηλικιωμένων, 10:00πμ – 1:00μμ

**ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 4<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Αγίου Ιωάννου Λαμπαδιστή, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 10:00πμ

**ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 5<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Σύναξη Νεολαίας, Παράκληση της Παναγίας και Πνευματική Ομιλία, 7:00μμ – 9:00μμ

**ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 6<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Αγίου Αποστόλου Θωμά, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 10:00πμ

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**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 8<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Γ' Λουκά, Αγίας Πελαγίας, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 11:00πμ

**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 9<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Σύναξη Ηλικιωμένων, 10:00πμ – 1:00μμ

**ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 12<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Σύναξη Νεολαίας, Παράκληση της Παναγίας και Πνευματική Ομιλία, 7:00μμ – 9:00μμ

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**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 15<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Δ' Λουκά, Τῶν Ἁγίων Πατέρων τῆς Ζ' Συνόδου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 11:00πμ

**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 16<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Σύναξη Ηλικιωμένων, 10:00πμ – 1:00μμ

**ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 18<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Αγίου Αποστόλου και Ευαγγελιστοῦ Λουκά, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 10:00πμ

**ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 19<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Σύναξη Νεολαίας, Παράκληση της Παναγίας και Πνευματική Ομιλία, 7:00μμ – 9:00μμ

**ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 20<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Οσίου και θεοφόρου Πατρὸς ἡμῶν Γερασίμου τῆς Κεφαλονιάς, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 10:00πμ

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**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 22<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** ΣΤ' Λουκά, Αγίων ἑπτὰ Παίδων τῶν ἐν Ἐφέσῳ, Ὁρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 11:00πμ

**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 23<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Σύναξη Ηλικιωμένων, 10:00πμ – 1:00μμ

**ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 25<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Μέγας Εσπερινός εις τον πανηγυρίζοντα Ιερό Ναό του Αγίου Δημητρίου, Mooney Ponds

**ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 26<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Ἁγίου Μεγαλομάρτυρος Δημητρίου τοῦ Μυροβλύτου, Ὁρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 10:00πμ

☩ Σύναξη Νεολαίας, 7:00μμ – 9:00μμ

**ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 28<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Ἡ Ἁγία Σκέπη τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Δεσποίνης ἡμῶν Θεοτόκου και Εθνική Επέτειος του ΟΧΙ, Ὁρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 10:00πμ

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**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 29<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Ζ' Λουκά, Ὁσιομάρτυρος Ἀναστασίας τῆς Ῥωμαίας, Ὁρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:30πμ – 11:00πμ

**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 30<sup>η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ:** Σύναξη Ηλικιωμένων, 10:00πμ – 1:00μμ




# PROGRAMME OCTOBER



**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Luke, Panagia Gorgoepikoos, Matins, Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters, 7:30am – 11:00am

**MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER:** St Cyprian the Hieromartyr and St Justina the Virgin, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 10:00am

 Elderly Citizens Gathering and Lunch, 10:00am – 1:00pm

**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** St John Lambathistis, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 10:00am

**THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Fellowship, Paraklesis to our Lady the Theotokos followed by a Spiritual Talk, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** Holy Apostle Thomas, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 10:00am

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**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Luke, Our Devout Mother Pelagia and Pelagia the Virgin, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 11:00am

**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Elderly Citizens Gathering and Lunch, 10:00am – 1:00pm

**THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Fellowship, Paraklesis to our Lady the Theotokos followed by a Spiritual Talk, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

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**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** 4<sup>th</sup> Reading of Luke, The Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 11:00am

**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Elderly Citizens Gathering and Lunch, 10:00am – 1:00pm

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 10:00am

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Fellowship, Paraklesis to our Lady the Theotokos followed by a Spiritual Talk, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Our Holy and God-bearing Father Gerasimos of Kefalonia, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 10:00am

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**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER:** 6<sup>th</sup> Reading of Luke, Holy 7 Youths of Ephesus, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 11:00am

**MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER** Elderly Citizens Gathering and Lunch, 10:00am – 1:00pm

**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Great Vespers at the celebrating patron Church of St Dimitri, Mooney Ponds

**THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Holy Great-Martyr Dimitrios the Myrrh-streamer, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 10:00am

☩ Fellowship, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** The Holy Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and National Day of the OXI, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 10:00am

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**SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** 5<sup>th</sup> Reading of Luke, Venerable Martyr Anastasia the Roman, Matins and Divine Liturgy, 7:30am – 11:00am

**MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** Elderly Citizens Gathering and Lunch, 10:00am – 1:00pm



## ON THE FEAST DAY OF THE PROTECTION OF THE ALL HOLY THEOTOKOS

METROPOLITAN OF PISIDIA SOTIRIOS †

The feast of the Holy Protection of the All Holy Theotokos is known throughout the Orthodox world. It is celebrated on October 1st (October 14th on the Old Calendar), and in the Church of Greece on October 28th, to commemorate the protection of Greece during World War II.

The two words alone, “Holy Protection” bring to our mind the maternal love and shelter that our All Holy Mother gives us in times of danger, as well as the unfailing help that she provides in the difficult moments of our lives.

But how did this feast day come to be established on the 1st of October? The historical event behind it is particularly interesting. At the south side of the St. Mary of Blachernae Church in Constantinople, there was a chapel which possessed a reliquary containing the Gown of the Theotokos. In the beginning of the 10th Century, while an All-night Vigil Service was taking place, a saint named Andrew went to take part. St. Andrew, known as a “Holy Fool for Christ” (because he would act in an unusual and foolish way to hide his sanctity) was accompanied by a young man named Epiphanius, who would later become Patriarch of Constantinople. At midnight, St. Andrew saw the All Holy Theotokos entering the church through the main door towards the Holy Altar. She appeared very tall, and was escorted by a bright company of Angels and Saints, all dressed in white. Among them could be seen St. John the Forerunner and St. John the Theologian, on the right and left side of the Theotokos. Some were leading, and others were following in the procession, chanting hymns.

When the Theotokos and her entourage approached the ambo (the pulpit) that was at the center of the church, St. Andrew said to Epiphanius:

- Can you see the All Holy Mother and Lady of the world?
- Yes, honorable father, replied the young man.

While this was taking place, the Theotokos had fallen to her knees and prayed for a long time. She was pleading with her Son to save the world, wetting her holy face with tears. After her supplication, she entered the Holy Altar, where she prayed for the faithful who were keeping vigil. When the All Holy Theotokos finished her prayer, she modestly removed the bright maphorion (the red shawl that we see in icons of the Theotokos which cover her head and body) and as it was so large, she spread it over the congregation, sheltering them with her precious hands. This is how the two of them saw it, radiating with divine glory like amber. For as long as

the Lady Theotokos was visible, the maphorion was also beaming. When the Theotokos returned to Heaven, the Shawl also started slowly shrinking and then disappeared.

It is this and other miracles associated with the holy Shawl of the Theotokos that resulted in the establishment of the feast of the Holy Skēpe, the Protection that the All Holy Theotokos provides to all who, with faith, invoke her grace.

The miracles of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos are without number. When Constantinople was once surrounded from the sea by enemy ships, it is said that the Patriarch took from the Blachernae church the holy Shawl of the Theotokos, and dipped it into the sea. This immediately caused a great storm to rise, resulting in the sinking of many enemy ships, with the surviving ships fleeing in panic. In more recent years, during the Second World War, Greek soldiers in their trenches saw many times the Theotokos protecting them from enemy fire.

How often has the Theotokos sheltered and protected us in times of danger and need? It is for this reason that Christians should call upon our All Holy Lady, our affectionate Mother, in every moment of pain and want. Seeking her protection with confidence, and filled with gratitude, making our way to Church on her Feast Day, offering thanksgiving as the hymnographer urges us:

Come to honor in all devoutness

The Lord's Mother's holy Protection,

The one that provides safe protection to the faithful,

The one which also discharges us of all sufferings and sorrows.

Let us entreat also our All Holy Lady with the words of the hymnographer:

Cover us, Lady, Queen of the world,

With the Grace of Your Protection, the mighty one,

And save from dangers and painful circumstances

Those who honor You devotedly.

May the Holy Protection of our All holy Lady cover, safeguard and protect all of us, and grant peace to the world. Amen.

