



# The Young Greek Australian HERMES



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As having just experienced the Feast of Pascha, having eaten copious amounts of meats and flaounes and other delicacies, one must sit back and wonder what it all means to be a young Greek Orthodox Christian living in Australia.

Growing up in this wonderful country many of our Greek-Australian youth have this pre-conceived idea that “church/ekklisia” is this wonderfully decorated building with candles, incense and lots and lots of yeroi (old people), where we attend three times yearly and more if you attend baptisms, weddings and funerals. The more you go the more religious you appear to have ‘become’.

But having said this, why is it that we are all baptised Greek Orthodox youth and yet have no real or healthy relationship with our Church or with God himself?

Is it that it has become “not-cool” to profess a relationship with God and to proudly state that we are Orthodox Christians? To profess a faith in Christ apparently, to fast, pray and confess suggests that you take it all too seriously! But is this in fact the bare minimum we ALL should be doing?

Even in our days the church is reaching out to its youths, especially with the advent of English services for those who don't speak Greek.

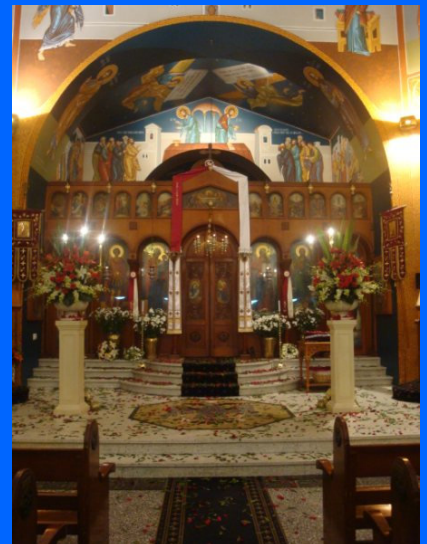
If we look towards our parents and grandparents generations, ‘church’ for them took on a whole different meaning. For them church was a part of the weekly cycle. Sundays and major feast days were dedicated to going to church and participating in the very worship of the church. This often meant fasting during the week, confession and then followed by communion on Sunday.

So why don't we as a body of Greek-Australian Orthodox youth attend church often?

Perhaps it is because we as a generation of young Greeks were never educated about our faith and Orthodox tradition. Perhaps we could blame it on many people, but it seems a great travesty to let our religion slip away into the abyss just because we aren't interested.

We must not forget that Orthodoxy is a major part of your Greek Identity. We have become so passionate about other factors of this idea but Orthodoxy takes a back seat. Let us not forget the gift which was given freely to us all. Χριστός Ανέστη ! 'Αληθώς Ανέστη ! Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen !

Dimitri Mavromatis



**Did this article get you thinking? [Hermes@nugas.org.au](mailto:Hermes@nugas.org.au)**

**Want to write in the next HERMES?**

**The HERMES is open to any and every young Greek Australian who believes he has something to share!**

**Send your submission to [hermes@nugas.org.au](mailto:hermes@nugas.org.au)**

**or call Harry on 0401 937 870**

19 Apr	20 Apr MUnGA AGM	21 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr
26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr AGUA Souvlaki Day	29 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	2 May
3 May	4 May	5 May	6 May	7 May	8 May	9 May
10 May	11 May	12 May	13 May	14 May AGUA Pub Crawl MHSS Grecian Dance	15 May	16 May
17 May	18 May	19 May	20 May	21 May	22 May HYC SEIZMOS	23 May

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