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Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand & Lebanon  
Archbishopric: 25 Edinburgh Circuit, Cecil Hills NSW 2171 Australia  
(t) +61 2 9822 1134 (f) +61 2 9822 1132 (e) archbishop@assyrianchurch.org.au

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*Faithful children of the Assyrian Church of the East,  
Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon:  
The greetings of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour be with you all!*

In these days, and especially this week which is dedicated to the Resurrection of our Lord and called by the spiritual fathers, teachers and theologians of the Church; the Week of Weeks, we are still living in the happiness of our Lord's resurrection; He who conquered death and all sorrow of Adam's nature.

As such, it is completely improper (incorrect) that fasting should occur during this period as this is in opposition to (against) the joy of resurrection. The sorrow of fasting is in opposition to the happiness of the resurrection.

Therefore, every request of the children of the church that they fast during this Week of Weeks is not correct and does not conform to the spirituality, teachings, order and canons of the Holy Church of the East.

The Week of Weeks includes Sunday of the Resurrection is the bridge that leads us to New Sunday and new beginning in the resurrection of our Lord.

Not only this, but from Monday of the Resurrection (i.e. Monday of the Good Robber) and until Friday of the Confessors, the order of prayers is unique and conforms to the order of the Resurrection and is composed of daily celebration of the Holy Qurbana.

It is required that the Church celebrates Friday of the Confessors as a Feast (Eeda).

In all the prayers of the week, the church must celebrate in joy and not sorrow, Resurrection and not demise; victory and not defeat.

The Holy Church does not mandate fasting on Feast days and not during the Week of Weeks as this equates to reducing the meaning and triumph of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast (Matthew 9:15).

But righteous (correct) that we always pray, for prayer is the key to the treasury of compassion and mercy; that from Him we take and gain cure and comfort for all our illnesses and the fate of each situation at all times and in every place.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:24).

The joy, victory and peace of the Resurrection be with you all.

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+ Mar Meelis Zaia AM  
Metropolitan and Patriarchal Representative  
Assyrian Church of the East  
Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon