



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA

Ιερα Αρχιεπισκοπή Αυστραλίας

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To the Reverend Clergy
and the esteemed Committees and Boards
of the Parishes-Communities
of our Holy Archdiocese

ENCYCLICAL

Beloved Brothers and Sisters

The Federal Government of Australia, as publicized widely a few days ago, has announced that Legislation regarding the redefinition of the meaning of Marriage, in order to include individuals of the same gender, will finally be determined by the citizens of this Land through a Postal Survey.

Postal Survey Forms will begin to be mailed out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from 12th September. These must be completed and returned by 7th November 2017.

Although the exact wording of the question on the Postal Survey Form is not yet known, we are called to strenuously oppose the alteration of Legislation which would seek to redefine Marriage to include the marriage of homosexual people, because such an alteration would impact on the sacredness of Marriage and the Family, as has been taught to us from centuries ago by our Holy Faith and by the Fathers of the Church.

It, therefore, constitutes a sacred and inviolable obligation for all of us, excluding no one, to record 'NO' on the relative Postal Survey Form, and to express "with one mouth and one heart" our absolute **objection** to such an unholy Legislation, which would put at risk the interests of the Family and Marriage for the whole of society.

We are called upon, also, to unite our prayers to our All-Merciful God and, in particular, to our Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary whose Dormition we have just celebrated, in order to protect the People from such an aberration.

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Hoping that none of us will show indifference towards this imperative Postal Survey, I thank you for your co-operation and pray for the abundant blessings and mercies of God.

Sydney, 21st August 2017

With fervent prayers to the Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stylianos', written in a cursive style.

Archbishop STYLIANOS

PS:

This Encyclical is to be read at the end of the Divine Liturgy on the Sundays of 10th September, 17th September and 24th September 2017.