

## **Patriarch Mar Awa III Royel Speech at the Chaldean Catholic Eparchy of Saint Thomas the Apostle in Sydney, Australia**

Fred Aprim  
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On May 3, 2022, Mar Awa III Royel, Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East (ACOE), visited the Chaldean Catholic Eparchy of Saint Thomas the Apostle in Sydney, Australia. His Holiness was accompanied by Mar Meelis Zaia, the Archbishop of ACOE for Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon.

Patriarch Mar Awa III addressed the congregation by saying that we are gathered here not only as brothers, but as sisters and brothers who are the sons and daughters of one holly Apostolic universal Church of the East. Our mother church is the Church of the East. I feel the brotherly love here from Sayidna (turning his head towards the Chaldean Archbishop Mar Amel Nona), clergy and all of the gathered. I am not here as a foreigner rather as a brother. We are brothers both religiously and nationally. Mar Toma, Mar Addai and Mar Mari proselytized to all our collective ancestors 2000 years ago. These gatherings are important in order to preserve our valuable heritage of the Church of the East and protect our identity specially of those of us in the Diaspora who are away from the roots of our forefathers.

Mar Awa Royel was wearing the Catholic ecclesiastical vestment that has mother Mary embroiled on it during his visit.

