



## HG Bishop Botros.

St Mark's was blessed by a visit from HG Bishop Botros on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. HG is the General Bishop in charge of media productions for the Church, as well as the *Patmos Centre*, about 20km east of Cairo.

It was of course Bishop Botros who founded *Aghapy TV*, the Coptic Orthodox satellite TV station that broadcasts throughout the world. It is no exaggeration to say that *Aghapy TV* has had a huge impact on the lives of Copts since it began, bringing the Orthodox faith, Coptic culture and Christian values right into so many family homes. It also acts as a kind of social 'glue', uniting Copts from many different countries in a shared experience.

At *Patmos*, a compound of about 100 acres, HG has established and is working to establish some remarkable and much needed services. These include a hospital, a medical school for training doctors and nurses, a school for children with disabilities, a publishing house and a centre for training economically disadvantaged young men and women in a trade and getting them their first job.



Most exciting for us at St Mark's, we learned that HG has also established a comprehensive school which runs from Kindergarten to Year 11 at the moment, progressing into Year 12 next year. *St John the Beloved College* at Patmos currently has about 600 students, but has the potential to grow up to about 1,800 in the future. It is run according to a teaching program from the USA. HG was pleased with the idea of establishing some lines of communication between St Mark's and St John's, and we hope to see a fruitful relationship develop, especially in this age when technology makes such international communication so much easier!

**Contact the school for information on how to enrol: 9825-6768.**

More news and information at [www.stmarks.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stmarks.nsw.edu.au)