

## Viral Message of Peace to remember young lives lost in Egypt

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When His Grace Bishop Suriel launches a viral message of peace via email, text, Twitter and Facebook at 7.27pm on November 4 at Fed Square, the message will spread around the globe in minutes. Hosted by one of the world's oldest Churches, the Coptic Orthodox Church, founded in 55AD, the Vigil 4 Peace takes the spirit of Christianity into the social media scope with a viral campaign.

Commemorating the young lives lost on October 9 in Egypt when at least 27 young people were killed during a peaceful protest against the persecution and the burning of the Coptic Churches, the vigil is being held across Australia and New Zealand with parallel memorials in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

His Grace or @BishopSuriel has embraced new technology, regularly blogging and tweeting, as well as utilising the #4peace hashtag for the Vigil 4 Peace online promotion. The events in all states are being promoted to the Coptic and other Christian communities via Facebook. "I believe it is vital that Christianity is incorporated into our daily lives, making it more accessible by utilising the latest technological advancements. Utilising social networking sites and multimedia is a way of enabling Christians around the world to connect through their faith," said His Grace Bishop Suriel, Head of the Diocese of Melbourne and Affiliated Regions.

What: Prayer vigil against persecution of Egyptian Christians

Where: Federation Square, Melbourne

When 5.30 to 7.30pm, November 4 2011

In addition to the viral elements, the vigils will incorporate traditional hymns, prayers and symbolic gestures to help Christians in the region show their solidarity for brethren abroad. This united event will pray for peace and justice alongside federal and state government MPs, heads of churches and World Vision. To symbolise the peace and purity of the vigil, the congregation will be dressed in white. Flower buds will be handed out and used in the service to represent the youth who were killed before they had the chance to bloom.

### About Coptic Orthodox Church

The Coptic Orthodox Church is the largest Christian church in Egypt and the Middle East. It is one of the oldest Christian churches in the world; the Coptic Orthodox Church began in 55AD when Saint Mark the apostle arrived in Egypt. Today there are 12 million Copts worldwide. The word 'Copt' basically meaning 'Egyptian', as derived from the Greek word 'Aigyptos'.

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