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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Առաջնորդ՝
ՀԱՅԿԱԶՈՒՆ ԱՐՔԵՂՈՍ ՆԱՃԱՐԵԱՆ

Primate
ARCHBISHOP HAIGAZOUN NAJARIAN

Media Release

With this announcement, we inform the Armenian community of Australia and New Zealand that His Holiness Karekin II Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians had presented a list of three candidates to the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Diocese of Australia and New Zealand upon which it was to elect the new Primate. The list included the following clergy:

- His Grace Bishop Nareg Berberian - Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Brazil
- His Grace Bishop Vardan Navasardyan - Primate of the Armenian Diocese of the Baltic States
- Very Reverend Father Zacharia Baghumyan - Holy Etchmiadzin

Following the recommendation of His Holiness, the Diocesan Council in November and December 2024 invited the three candidates to Australia for an introduction. They celebrated the Divine Liturgy and held meetings with the Parish Pastors, members of the Parish Councils, youth, and the Armenian community of Australia.

The Diocesan Council also held official meetings and consultations with the three candidates, considered the opinions and impressions of the Parish Pastors and the Chairpersons of the four Parish Councils, and during its extraordinary session on 23 December 2024, conducted a secret ballot. By unanimous decision, His Grace Bishop Vardan Navasardyan was elected as the new Primate of the Diocese. The election results were immediately conveyed to His Holiness.

On 31 January 2025, in a letter of blessing, His Holiness officially confirmed and appointed His Grace Bishop Vardan Navasardyan as the Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Australia and New Zealand.

Further details regarding Bishop Vardan's arrival in Australia and other related information will be provided in a future announcement.

Office of the Diocese of the
Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand

1 February 2025