

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

- 1. Please provide a list of Catholic churches in Kiev.**
- 2. Please obtain contact details for Father Michael Safari, who is connected with the Persian Speaking Iranian Church in Parramatta, which is connected with St John Anglican Church and Parramatta Anglican Church.**

RESPONSE

- 1. Please provide a list of Catholic churches in Kiev.**

The Ukrainian Information Project website lists two Catholic churches in Kiev which hold regular services. The pertinent extracts follow:

Catholic

St. Alexander’s – (The church with the scaffolding near the Ukraine House.)

Vul. Kostel’na 17.

English – 6:00 pm Sunday

Polish – 8:00 am, 12:00 noon

Ukrainian – 9:30 am, 7:00 pm

Russian – 5:00 pm

St. Nicholas – (Sunday)

Vul. Chervonoarmiyska 77. (Tel: 269-5678)

Ukrainian – 9:00 am, 3:00

(‘Church Services in Kyiv’ (undated), The Ukrainian Information Project website

http://www.uazone.net/Kiev_Services.html – Accessed 18 March 2008 – Attachment 1).

A Canadian-based website, Information Resource on Ukraine and Ukrainians, provides photos of the two churches in Kiev listed above (for St Alexander see: ‘Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Alexander (19th cent.), Kyiv’ (undated), Information Resource on Ukraine and Ukrainians website <http://www.infoukes.com/ukremb/slideshow/kyiv10tn/kyiv69.htm> – Accessed 18 March 2008 – Attachment 2; for St. Nicholas see: ‘St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church (1899-1909), Kyiv, building of the Chamber and Organ Concert Hall’ (undated), Information Resource on Ukraine and Ukrainians website <http://www.infoukes.com/ukremb/slideshow/kyiv10tn/kyiv68.htm> – Accessed 18 March 2008 – Attachment 3).

According to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC; also referred to as The Ukrainian Catholic Church) official website, Catholics in Ukraine are either Catholics of the Byzantine rite, known as Greek Catholics; or Catholics of the Latin rite, known as Roman Catholics. Both churches reportedly “share full communion with the Pope of Rome and with each other”. However, their historical, theological and liturgical traditions reportedly differ greatly. The pertinent extracts follow:

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Catholics of the Byzantine rite, known as Greek Catholics, are heirs of the Union of Brest of 1596, which the hierarchy of the Kyivan Metropolia established with the Church of Rome. They belong to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC). The Twentieth century was a stormy one for this Church, and she was led through it by some of her greatest leaders. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was liquidated by Stalin’s regime and forcibly “re-united” with the Russian Orthodox Church after World War Two. Regardless of the fact that it was officially forbidden and harshly persecuted, this Church preserved its hierarchical structures in the underground and diaspora, and in December 1989 it requested official legalization.

In spring of 1991 the late His Beatitude Myroslav Ivan Cardinal Lubachivskyi, the head of the Church at that time, returned from emigration to his see in Lviv. With 3317, the UGCC now has the second largest number of religious communities of the Churches in Ukraine. Major Archbishop [sic] His Beatitude Lubomyr Cardinal Husar is the present head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

- 3317 communities
- 79 monasteries
- 1168 monks and nuns
- 1872 priests
- 2777 churches
- 305 churches are being built

The Roman Catholic Church

Catholics of the Latin rite are members of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) in Ukraine, whose hierarchical structures in the past were spread over those Ukrainian lands which became incorporated into neighboring Catholic nations. After these territories were joined to the USSR, the Soviet power liquidated the diocesan network of the Roman Catholics, deporting and repressing a significant portion of its clergy and faithful. Only about one hundred parishes remained under the severe government control. Since Ukrainian independence many parishes have re-opened and new parishes have been formed. His Eminence Marian Cardinal Javorski, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Lviv, is the primate of Roman Catholics in Ukraine.

- 807 communities
- 50 monasteries

- 309 monks and nuns
- 431 priests
- 713 churches
- 74 churches are being built ('Catholic Churches' (undated), The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Official Website <http://www.ugcc.org.ua/eng/church/catholics/> – Accessed 18 March 2008 – Attachment 4).

In August 2005, *BBC News* reported that the UGCC had moved the church headquarters to Kiev “amid protests by some 300 mainly Orthodox believers”. The decision to move from the western city of Lviv to the capital was said to anger members of the Russian Orthodox Church. However, members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kiev Patriarchate) – not recognised by the Russian Orthodox Church – attended the UGCC’s mass in Kiev ('Church move to Kiev fuels rivalry' 2005, *BBC News*, 21 August <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4171190.stm> – Accessed 18 March 2008 – Attachment 5).

2. Please obtain contact details for Father Michael Safari, who is connected with the Persian Speaking Iranian Church in Parramatta, which is connected with St John Anglican Church and Parramatta Anglican Church.

Information was found to indicate that the church referred to above is St. John’s Anglican Cathedral in Parramatta. Several sources confirm that the cathedral is located on Hunter St. Parramatta. The cathedral office receptionist confirmed that Father Michael Safari is associated with St. John’s Anglican Cathedral in Parramatta and can be contacted via the office phone number set out below. The cathedral has an official website which is currently under construction. However, a search using Internet Archive website produced a webpage containing contact details and service information as at August 2006. The pertinent extracts follow.

Office Contact Details

9.00am – 1.00pm Mon – Fri

Phone – 9635 5904

Fax – 9635 9710

e-mail – reception@stjohnscathedral.org.au

Postal Address – St. John’s Anglican Cathedral

Postal Address – PO Box 1443 Parramatta 2124 ('St. John’s Anglican Cathedral. Parramatta' 2006, Internet Archive website, 20 August

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060820025613/http://www.stjohnscathedral.org.au/> – Accessed 18 March 2008 – Attachment 6).

A search of Parramatta City Council’s website confirmed the contact details listed above; the only difference being the Email address:

St. Johns Cathedral

Hunter Street, Parramatta

telephone 9635 5904

fax 9635 9710

email stjohns@swavley.com.au ('St. John’s Cathedral' (undated), Parramatta City Council website <http://legacy.parracity.nsw.gov.au/publications/teachers-guide/stjohns.shtml> –

Accessed 18 March 2008 – Attachment 7).

A December 2004 article posted on Sydney Anglican Network website commends St John’s Cathedral in establishing multi-ethnic ministries to cater for the cathedral’s diverse

congregation. Michael Safari is described as the cathedral's full-time minister for the Persian congregation. The pertinent extracts follow:

Now the church has increased its commitment to these ministries through two appointments – Ken Tang, who has led Chinese ministry full time since July and **Michael Safari**, who started as a full time minister for the Persian congregation in September. [Researcher emphasis]

...Mr Safari was born in Iran, and educated and converted in India, where he and his wife, Ulrike, worked for world mission agency Operation Mobilisation. They have been working as missionaries in Australia among Iranian and Afghan people for the last eight years.

St John's Persian congregation is the only one in Sydney with a full time Persian-speaking pastor. The central location means people come to church there from all over Sydney (Barnett, S. 2004, 'Boost for the West's multicultural ministry', Sydney Anglican Network website, 10 December

http://your.sydneyanglicans.net/southerncross/articles/boost_for_the_wests_multicultural_ministry/ – Accessed 18 March – Attachment 8).

List of Sources Consulted

Search Engines

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information Services database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. 'Church Services in Kyiv' (undated), The Ukrainian Information Project website http://www.uazone.net/Kiev_Services.html – Accessed 18 March 2008.
2. 'Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Alexander (19th cent.), Kyiv' (undated), Information Resource on Ukraine and Ukrainians website <http://www.infoukes.com/ukremb/slideshow/kyiv10tn/kyiv69.htm> – Accessed 18 March 2008.
3. 'St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church (1899-1909), Kyiv, building of the Chamber and Organ Concert Hall' (undated), Information Resource on Ukraine and Ukrainians website <http://www.infoukes.com/ukremb/slideshow/kyiv10tn/kyiv68.htm> – Accessed 18 March 2008.
4. 'Catholic Churches' (undated), The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Official Website <http://www.ugcc.org.ua/eng/church/catholics/> – Accessed 18 March 2008.

5. 'Church move to Kiev fuels rivalry' 2005, *BBC News*, 21 August
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4171190.stm> – Accessed 18 March 2008.
6. 'St. John's Anglican Cathedral. Parramatta' 2006, Internet Archive website, 20 August
<http://web.archive.org/web/20060820025613/http://www.stjohnscathedral.org.au/> – Accessed 18 March 2008.
7. 'St. John's Cathedral' (undated), Parramatta City Council website
<http://legacy.parracity.nsw.gov.au/publications/teachers-guide/stjohns.shtml> – Accessed 18 March 2008.
8. Barnett, S. 2004, 'Boost for the West's multicultural ministry', Sydney Anglican Network website, 10 December
http://your.sydneyanglicans.net/southerncross/articles/boost_for_the_wests_multicultural_ministry/ – Accessed 18 March.