



**Samia Kassis**  
Melkite Eparchy

Samia's journey with her church started in 1987 when she migrated to Australia with her family. In April 1992, the first Melkite Catholic Church was bought in Guildford and was named St Elias the Prophet. Since then Samia's involvement with the Melkite Catholic Church and the Community grew on a weekly basis, including teaching fabric painting and craft at St Elias the Prophet and other churches.

The loss of her brother in 1998 had a major impact on Samia and she stopped all her volunteering involvement with the Church. She mourned her brother and asked God, "What do you want me to do?"

Soon after, Samia was back answering the need for Sunday school and Bible study for the youth of St Elias the Prophet. Her role was to provide social activities and opportunities for the youth, including Bible study, craft and games.

Since 1998 the number of children attending Bible study grew from 6 to over 150 in total. The theme of their Bible study has been "The Family". Instead of leaders, they have 12 big brothers and sisters and Samia is the mum, who leads the children in activities and listens to their concerns.

Some of the other services Samia provides for the Melkite community include:

- A leadership course aimed at preparing the youth to become catechists
- A five day Annual Camp
- A dancing and singing group called "Rock Angels"
- Youth Special Holy Liturgy every month, where they take an active part and sing their own hymns

Samia believes she can only grow through serving God and meeting His challenges. Samia's motto is "Nothing gets done without God".