

PRESS RELEASE

The first Maronite chapel dedicated to Saint Carlo Acutis consecrated at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral

The Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania has officially opened and consecrated the first Maronite chapel dedicated to Saint Carlo Acutis, marking a significant moment for the Church's youth and wider community. The consecration took place on 12 October 2026, coinciding with the feast day of the young saint.

The ceremony was led by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Bishop of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, assisted by Fr Danny Nouh, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral in Harris Park. Parishioners gathered to witness the dedication of a chapel honouring a saint whose life continues to inspire young Catholics around the world.

In his homily, Bishop Tarabay reflected on Carlo's profound spiritual maturity despite his short life.

"Carlo once said, *'All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies.'*" He highlighted Carlo's devotion to the Eucharist, quoting the young saint's words: *"The Eucharist is my highway to heaven."*

Bishop Tarabay said the new chapel will serve as a spiritual refuge for all who seek peace, prayer, and closeness to Christ.

"Because of what we're celebrating today, they will have somewhere to come, somewhere to pray, and somewhere to return."

The chapel also houses a permanent relic of Saint Carlo Acutis, along with relics of other saints, including Maronite saints. Bishop Tarabay expressed gratitude to all who contributed to the project, offering special thanks to Fr Danny Nouh, who championed the initiative, and Deacon Dominic Altakchy, who "carried this project so deeply in his heart."

Bishop Tarabay concluded with Carlo's guiding principle: *"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan."* He invited all people, young or old, joyful or struggling, to make the new chapel a place they return to again and again.

In September this year, the Maronite Eparchy marked another historic moment, welcoming the major relic of Saint Carlo Acutis to Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral during the Saint Carlo Acutis Major Relic Mission 2026, held from 25–27 September.