



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Our Lives on Earth are Our Pathway to Heaven

*"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written:
'Be holy, because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1: 15-16)*

Sunday of the Faithful Departed

Sunday 20th February 2022

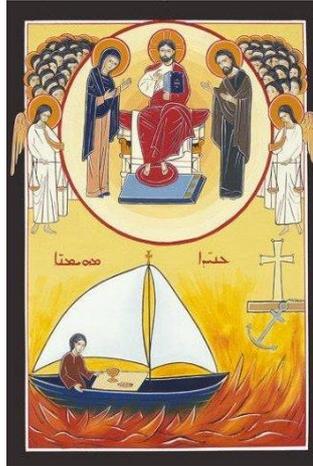
Year 2022, Issue #8

The Gospel

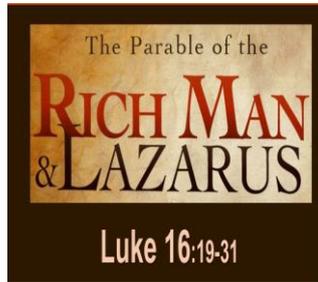
Luke 16: 19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house for I have five brothers that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Weeks of Commemorations



Next Sunday
Cana Sunday:
Entrance into Lent
Epistle
Rom 14: 14-23
Gospel
John 2: 1-11



الإنجيل

لو ١٦ : ١٩ - ٣١

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: «كَانَ رَجُلٌ غَنِيٌّ يَلْبَسُ الْأَرْجُوَانِ وَالْكُتَّانَ النَّاعِمِ، وَيَتَنَعَّمُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ بِأَفْخَرِ الْوَلَائِمِ. وَكَانَ رَجُلٌ مِسْكِينٌ اسْمُهُ لَعَازَرُ مَطْرُوحًا عِنْدَ بَابِهِ، تَكَسُّوهُ الْقُرُوحُ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَشْبَعَ مِنَ الْفَتَاتِ الْمُسَاقِطِ مِنْ مَائِدَةِ الْغَنِيِّ، غَمِيرٌ أَنَّ الْكِلَابَ كَانَتْ تَأْتِي فَتَلْحَسُ قُرُوحَهُ. وَمَاتَ الْمِسْكِينُ فَحَمَلَتْهُ أَمَلَائِكَةُ إِلَى حِضْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. ثُمَّ مَاتَ الْغَنِيُّ وَدُفِنَ. وَرَفَعَ الْغَنِيُّ عَيْنَيْهِ، وَهُوَ فِي الْجَحِيمِ يُقَاسِي الْعَذَابَ، فَرَأَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ مِنْ بَعِيدٍ، وَلَعَازَرَ فِي حِضْنِهِ. فَتَادَى وَقَالَ: يَا أَبَتِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِزْحَمْنِي وَأَرْسِلْ لَعَازَرَ لِيَبْلُ طَرْفَ إِبْصَعِهِ بِمَاءٍ وَيُرِدَّ لِسَانِي، لِأَنِّي مُتَوَجِّعٌ فِي هَذَا اللَّهَيْبِ. فَقَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: يَا أَبْنِي، تَذَكَّرْ أَنَّكَ نَلْتَ خَيْرَاتِكَ فِي حَيَاتِكَ، وَلَعَازَرُ نَالَ الْبَلَايَا. وَالآنَ هُوَ يَتَعَزَّى هُنَا، وَأَنْتَ تَتَوَجَّعُ. وَمَعَ هَذَا كُلِّهِ، فَإِنَّ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ هُوَّةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ ثَابِتَةٌ، حَتَّى إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَجْتَازُوا مِنْ هُنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ، وَلَا مِنْ هُنَاكَ أَنْ يَعْبرُوا إِلَيْنَا. فَقَالَ الْغَنِيُّ: أَسْأَلُكَ إِذَا، يَا أَبَتِ، أَنْ تُرْسِلَ لَعَازَرَ إِلَى بَيْتِ أَبِي، فَإِنَّ لِي خَمْسَةَ إِخْوَةٍ، لِيَشْهَدَ لَهُمْ، كَيْ لَا يَأْتُوا هُمْ أَيْضًا إِلَى مَكَانِ الْعَذَابِ هَذَا. فَقَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: عِنْدَهُمْ مُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءُ، فَلْيَسْمَعُوا لَهُمْ. فَقَالَ: لَا، يَا أَبَتِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، وَلَكِنْ إِذَا مَضَى إِلَيْهِمْ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ يَتُوبُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: إِنْ كَانُوا لَا يَسْمَعُونَ لِمُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، فَإِنَّهُمْ، وَلَوْ قَامَ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لَنْ يُقْتِنَعُوا!..»

Divine Liturgy and Services

Sundays: 9:00am (Arabic), 11:00am (Arabic/English), 6:00pm (English)

Mondays and Tuesdays: 9:00am

Wednesdays – Fridays: 6:00pm

Saturdays: 9:00am and 6:00pm

Confessions: By Appointment

Sick Visits: Contact Clergy or the Parish Office (contact details below)

Parish and Ministry Team and Contact Details

Parish Priest: Monsignor Shora Maree 0418 969 844

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Claude Rizk 0422 819 277

Deacons: Nagi Dimian 0403 750 613 and Joseph Maatouk 0413 245501

Parish Secretary: Debrah Habkook 0422 275 199

Office Hours: Tuesdays – Fridays 9:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Margaret Simpson 0408 895 798, Jessica Georges 0426 114 696, George Takchi 0419 651 229

Parish Address: 2 Yarrara Road (Corner Wells Street), Thornleigh, NSW, 2120

Phone: (02) 9481 7388

Website: www.stgeorgemcc.org.au

Email: info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



Bishop's Corner:

Sunday of the Faithful Departed



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, on the last Sunday of the Sundays of Commemorations, we pray for our faithful departed. We remember all those people who have finished their earthly pilgrimage and pray for them to enter the eternal dwellings of light.

The Word of God teaches us that not everything ends in the grave with death. After this brief life on earth, God awaits us for a life of eternity and desires happiness for us. The Gospel of this Sunday with the parable of the rich man and Lazarus reminds us that by using our freedom we can refuse this happiness and choose hell and this becomes irreversible with death.

In the parable, Abraham says to the rich man that there is a "great gulf fixed," so that those in heaven cannot pass to hell, and those in hell cannot rise to heaven. The rich man had in effect denied his common covenant with Lazarus, and now there was no bond between them. If we renounce God, in other words, we must live with the results and consequences. As Pope Benedict XVI points out in his encyclical *Spe Salvi*, "With death, our life-choice becomes definitive—our life stands before the judge." We have chosen and we get what we have chosen.

Brothers and sisters, just as it is important for us to think of all those people who are dear to us, to think of the moments that we have lived with them, it is also important that we pray for them. Our solidarity with those we love and who are gone cannot be stopped by death. We can and must continue to support them with our fervent prayers. Let us on this Sunday ask the Heavenly Father to have mercy on all our faithful departed for whom His Son Jesus suffered and died on the cross and grant us to live holy lives so, on the day of judgment, we will be standing on Lazarus' side of the gulf with the Lord and His saints.



Lenten Appeal for Lebanon



We will soon enter the Season of Great Lent. Lent is a time of almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Our brothers and sisters in Lebanon need our help today. You will find in your parish churches charity boxes that you can take home to collect spare change during the weeks of Lent. All money donated will go towards the Lebanese Family Appeal to provide basic food necessities for as many families as possible in Lebanon.

Your small change can make a difference for these families. I thank you for taking the boxes to your homes and returning them to your local parish at the end of Lent.

I wish you a Blessed Sunday as we pray that the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Shepherd Shares

Dear Parishioners,

WELCOMING BACK AND RENEWAL IN THIS SACRED TIME

We are well and truly into the new Year and coming up to a time of renewal with the Season of Great Lent less than a week away. We pray to Our Lord that with this special Season the effects of the Covid Pandemic can be behind us, and more and more Parishioners can be returning to attending Church face to face to be nourished and strengthened by the Sacraments.

At our Pastoral Council Meeting on Wednesday Night representatives of our different Committees with the Clergy began the planning work for our upcoming Community and Faith Events including the Feast of St George in April with great enthusiasm and hope. Keep watch out on coming events in the Newsletter and our Social Media.

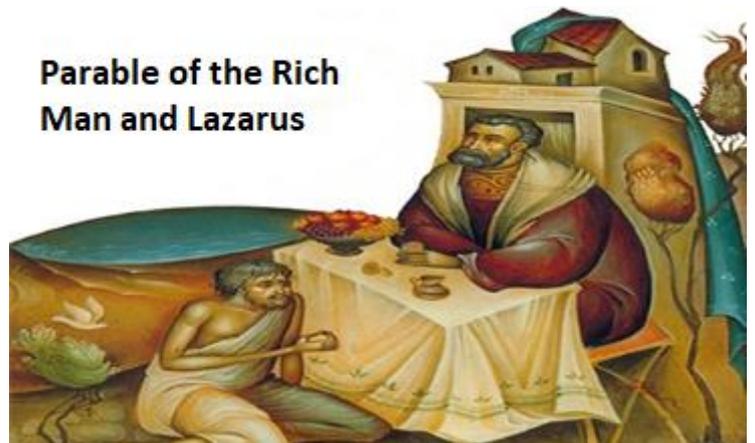
FR CLAUDE RIZK TO BE APPOINTED AS PARISH ADMINISTRATOR OF ST GEORGE PARISH

At the Pastoral Council I also mentioned that His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay announced at our most recent Clergy Meeting that from Ash Monday 28 February I will be finishing up as Parish Priest of St George Parish to focus on the next stage of work in Christ the Redeemer Parish and that Fr Claude will be appointed as Parish Administrator. My congratulations to Fr Claude in this appointment and my prayers for him in this next important stage of priestly responsibility and ministry. His Excellency announced that Deacon Robert El Bayeh will be appointed to the Parish joining Deacon Nagi and Deacon Joseph Maatouk who will continue their respective ministry and roles working with Fr Claude as Parish Administrator.

As I said to the Pastoral Council Members, I will continue to be available to offer my support and advice to Fr Claude and the Deacons and will be blessed to be able to attend where I can, different celebrations and Parish Events as neighboring and former parish priest. My two years of serving at St George while a little stifled by the Covid Pandemic and restrictions did not stop me feeling blessed by the faith and dedication of so many of the Parish Committee members and volunteers. I look forward to the remaining week and specially to celebrate on this Saturday, the First Holy Communion for 22 Children of the Parish from last Year's Holy Communion Group and will have a final Shepherd Shares with my words of Gratitude in next week's Newsletter.

Msgr Shora Maree PP

Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus



Parish News and Upcoming Events

St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Friday's in Lent Program

9:00am - Mass

4:30pm - Children's Station of the Cross (followed by Fish and Chips)

6:30pm - Stations of the Cross (Arabic) with Homily led by Fr Claude

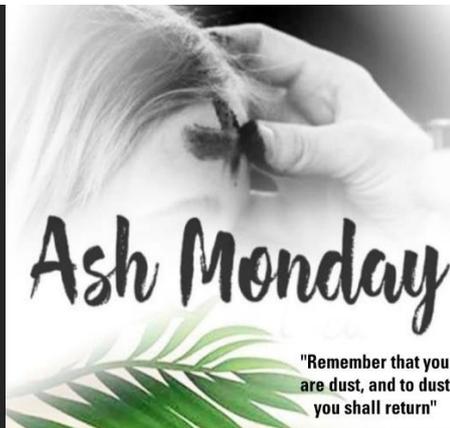
8:30pm - Stations of the Cross (English), followed by Sorrowful Mystery Rosary and serving of hot potatoes



ASH MONDAY
28TH FEBRUARY 2022

MASS TIMES
7:30AM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM

Plan to spend at least 30 mins at church to participate in the full Rite, the Service of the Word, Blessing and Giving of the Ashes.



"From the Eucharist comes the strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others."
- St Pope John Paul II

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday 7:30 pm
at St George Maronite Catholic Church

'Mary, Queen of Interior Peace'
Youth Lent Retreat
Led by Mona Shora & Deacon Joe

Fri 25th - Sun 27th
March 2022
Benedict XVI Retreat Centre

Cost \$230
Students \$210
Includes accommodation & meals

Book via link on socials

Enquiries:
(STG) - Jessica Georges
0426 114 696

First Holy Communion

Please contact the Parish Office to register your child for this year's First Holy Communion.

02 9481 7388
info@stgeorgemcc.org.au

Bible Studies in Your Home!

St George Bible Study is returning in the first week of March and is moving "in-house". This means the Bible Study leaders will be offering Bible Study nights at your homes. This is a great opportunity for your family to take part, and of course, for friends whom you may wish to invite. The Bible Study group is flexible with nights - generally, it is best to start at 7.30pm and usually conclude by 8.30pm. There is no preparation required on your behalf other than to open your home and invite whomever you would like to attend. The session can be given in Arabic, English or both! Please contact Fr Claude, Deacon Naji or Michael Azzi if you would like to host a Bible Study.

JOIN US FOR
BIBLE STUDY

St George Teens Returns!

We are excited to announce the return of the St George Teens at 7pm every Wednesday night. We have missed you all. We will be starting on Wednesday 2nd March 2022, just in time for the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is open to everyone aged 13-18. Also, Stations of the Cross will be held in English on Fridays at 8:30pm during the Season of Lent led by our teens, followed by a small reflection. Commencing on 4th March 2022 and will continue throughout the Season of Lent. Finally, we are seeking new leaders to join our dedicated and friendly team. If you are interested, please see Fr Claude. We look forward to seeing you all.

SMT
SAINT GEORGE MARONITE TEENS

The Lenten Season

Sessions commencing:
7:00 pm Wednesday, 2nd March

SMT
SAINT GEORGE MARONITE TEENS

Stations of the Cross
In English

8:30 pm every Friday
Starting 4th March

Memorial Masses

نوايا القديسات

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|---|---|-------|--------------------|
| Sunday 20 th Feb 2022 | 11am | 1 Year Mass for Late Hind Antonios Zeaiter | قديسة السنة المرحومة هند انطونيوس زعيتير | 11:00 | الاحد شباط 2022 |
| Saturday 26 th Feb 2022 | 6pm | 40 Day Mass for Late Watfa Sassine Mouakkassa | قديسة 40 المرحومة وطفي ساسين معقصة | 6:00 | السبت شباط 2022 |



United with Lebanon
Caritas Australia – Caritas Lebanon Crisis Appeal

DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/lebanon

Give now to help Lebanese families with healthcare, education support and cash grants for small business owners.
All donations made through Caritas Australia are tax deductible and go to support the efforts of Caritas Lebanon.

Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

The NSW Legislative Council is currently considering the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021*. In response to this Bill, an ePetition has been generated by The Hon. Gregory Donnelly MP on the Parliament of NSW website requesting the Members of the Legislative Council to reject the passage of this Bill. As the ePetition states, "A cornerstone of our legal system is that ALL human life has inherent value and must be treated with dignity and respect." Given the above, please find the link to the ePetition below:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/pages/epetition-details.aspx?q=apWMtQo6WVdu1NOOVqOtYA>

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Joseph Hallal & Anthony Tadrosse

First Holy Communion

On Saturday 19th February 2022, children of our Parish celebrate their First Holy Communion. We congratulate the following children who will receive their first holy communion: Clara Azzi, Jeremy Azzi, Samuel Azzi, Julian Chiha, Georgia Elias, Jayda Eltakchi, Jacob Fionda, Grace Harb, Natalia Khamis, Grace Melhem, Christian Nasr, Ruby Rahi, Anthony Rahme, Christian Rizk, Isaiah Saade, Saade Saade, Isaac Saade, Alexander Saba, Vanessa Sarkis, Audrey Semaan, Mariella Zaiter, and Rachel Zeaiter.



| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Parish Financial Updates | | To receive our eNewsletter please email | |
| 7 th February – 13 th February TBA | | info@stgeorgemcc.org.au | |
| Parish Operations Account \$23,849.81 | Parish Loan Balance \$611,613.11 |  YouTube | Subscribe to our Channel St George Maronite Catholic Church |
| Donations to support our ongoing Parish mission can be made at the Parish Office or by internet banking or direct debit - (Account Name: St George Maronite Church, BSB #062-784, Account # 16948504) | |  'like' us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram | |

Business Community Corner



SAND • CEMENT • METAL
SOIL • LEAF MULCH
DECORATIVE GRAVELS • PAVERS • PINE BARK
POTTING MIXES • ORGANIC SOIL MIXES
BULK BAGS AVAILABLE FOR MOST PRODUCTS

9651 1055
TRADES & GENERAL PUBLIC WELCOME
272 - 274 NEW LINE ROAD DURAL

www.martinsbuildingsupplies.com.au



BUYING, SELLING or RENTING ?
Contact your local active Agent

274 Pennant Hills Road, Thornleigh
9484 0555 info@homefront.com.au



Chris Khoudair
Principal
0405 122 331 | 02 9875 1777
chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au

Pennant Hills
100 Yarrara Road,
Pennant Hills NSW 2120
lsre.com.au/pennanthills



EXOTIC NURSERIES & LANDSCAPING

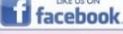
676 Old Northern Road, Dural NSW 2158
02 9651 2299
www.exoticnurseries.com.au



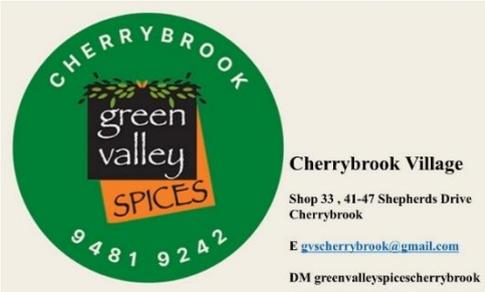
TRUSTED, RELIABLE, ON TIME EVERY TIME HELPER!

- ✓ Assistance with Travel/Transport
- ✓ Assistance with Household Tasks
- ✓ Daily Personal Activities
- ✓ Development of Daily Life and Life Skills
- ✓ Innovative Community Participation
- ✓ Community, Social and Civic Activities

Contact May Bou Mansour on 0452 223 714
Email info@magnoliahelpinghands.com.au
NDIS Provider Number: 4050083511
www.magnoliahelpinghands.com.au

LIKE US ON  **facebook**

 REGISTERED PROVIDER



Cherrybrook Village
Shop 33 , 41-47 Shepherds Drive
Cherrybrook
E.gvscherrybrook@gmail.com
DM greenvalleyspicescherrybrook

For more information on advertising, please contact Debrah on 9481 7388 or email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au