

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 Haemorrhaging Woman

Year 2022, Issue #11

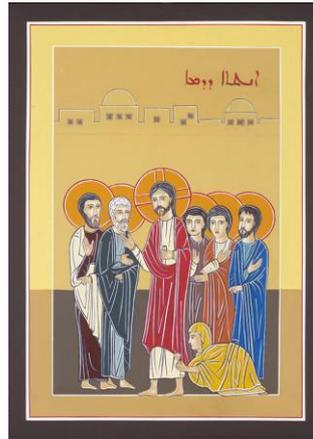


The Gospel

Luke 8: 40-56

When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her haemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, 'Who touched me?' When all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.' But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.' When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.' While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer.' When Jesus heard this, he replied, 'Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved.' When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, 'Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, 'Child, get up!' Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Season of Lent



Next Sunday
Sunday of the
Prodigal Son
Epistle

2 Cor 13: 5-13

Gospel

Luke 15: 11-32



الإنجيل

لو ٨ : ٤٠-٥٦

لَمَّا عَادَ يَسُوعُ، اسْتَقْبَلَهُ الْجَمْعُ، لِأَنَّهُمْ جَمِيعَهُمْ كَانُوا يَنْتَظِرُونَهُ. وَإِذَا بِرَجُلٍ اسْمُهُ يَائِيرُسُ، وَكَانَ رَئِيسَ الْمَجْمَعِ، جَاءَ فَارْتَمَى عَلَى قَدَمَيْ يَسُوعَ، وَأَخَذَ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ بَيْتَهُ، لِأَنَّ لَهُ ابْنَةً وَحِيدَةً، عُمُرُهَا نَحْوُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، فَذُ اسْرَقَتْ عَلَى الْمَوْتِ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ ذَاهِبٌ، كَانَ الْجُمُوعُ يَزْحَمُونَهُ. وَكَانَتْ امْرَأَةً مُصَابَةً بِنَزْفِ دَمٍ مُنْذُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، وَلَمْ يَقْدِرْ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَشْفِيَهَا. فَدَنَّتْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ يَسُوعَ، وَلَمَسَتْ طَرَفَ رِدَائِهِ، وَفَجَاءَتْ وَقَفَتْ نَزْفُ دَمِهَا. فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ: «مَنْ لَمَسَنِي؟». وَأَنْكَرَ الْجَمِيعُ. فَقَالَ بَطْرُسُ وَمَنْ مَعَهُ: «يَا مُعَلِّمَ، إِنَّ الْجُمُوعَ يَزْحَمُونَكَ وَيُصَابِقُونَكَ!». فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ: «إِنَّ وَاحِدًا فَقَدْ لَمَسَنِي! فَإِنِّي عَرَفْتُ أَنَّ قُوَّةَ قَدْ خَرَجَتْ مِنِّي!». وَرَأَتْ الْمَرْأَةُ أَنَّ أَمْرَهَا لَمْ يَخْفَ عَلَيْهِ، فَدَنَّتْ مُزْتَعِدَةً وَأَرْتَمَتْ عَلَى قَدَمَيْهِ، وَأَعْلَنْتْ أَمَامَ الشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ لِمَاذَا لَمَسَتْهُ، وَكَيْفَ شَفِيَتْ لِلْحَالِ. فَقَالَ لَهَا يَسُوعُ: «يَا ابْنَتِي، إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ! إِذْهَبِي بِسَلَامٍ!». وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ، وَصَلَ وَاجِدٌ مِنْ دَارِ رَئِيسِ الْمَجْمَعِ يَقُولُ: «مَاتَتْ ابْنَتُكَ! فَلَا تُزْعِجِ الْمُعَلِّمَ!». وَسَمِعَ يَسُوعُ فَأَجَابَهُ: «لَا تَخَفْ! يَكْفِي أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ فَتَنْجُو ابْنَتُكَ!». وَلَمَّا وَصَلَ إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، لَمْ يَدْعُ أَحَدًا يَدْخُلُ مَعَهُ سِوَى بَطْرُسَ وَيُوحَنَّا وَيَعْقُوبَ وَأَبِي الصَّبِيِّ وَأُمَّهَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَبْكُونَ عَلَيْهَا وَيَبْرَعُونَ صُدُورَهُمْ. فَقَالَ: «لَا تَبْكُوا! إِنَّهَا لَمْ تَمُتْ. لَكِنَّا نَائِمَةٌ!». فَأَخَذُوا يَضْحَكُونَ مِنْهُ لِعِلْمِهِمْ بِأَنَّهَا مَاتَتْ. أَمَّا هُوَ فَأَمْسَكَ بِيَدَيْهَا وَنَادَى قَائِلًا: «ابْنَتِي الصَّبِيَّةُ، قُومِي!». فَعَادَتْ رُوحَهَا إِلَيْهَا، وَفَجَاءَتْ نَهَضَتْ. ثُمَّ أَمَرَ بِأَنْ يُطْعَمُوا. فَدَهَشَ آبَاؤُهَا، وَأَوْصَاهُمَا يَسُوعُ أَلَّا يُخْبِرَا أَحَدًا بِمَا حَدَثَ.

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 Administrator: Fr Claude Rizk 0422 819 277

Deacons: Nagi Dimian 0403 750 613, Robert-Pio Al Bayeh 0414 447 883, Joseph Maatouk 0413 245 501

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 Haemorrhaging Woman



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel of this Sunday is the Healing of the Haemorrhaging Woman, a text that we know and that we reflect on during Lent every year. By now, Jesus has become known as a healer and the crowds were following Him.

We see in this Gospel two people from very different backgrounds: Jairus, a leader of the synagogue, and a woman, about whom we know very little. We do not know her name. We only know that she is seriously ill and is ready to do anything to heal.

Jairus is not afraid to show himself in front of the crowd. He is humble and confident in Jesus. It took courage to do this in public but, as all parents would know, when it comes to your child you are ready to overcome any barriers. The woman however is very discreet and wary. She only wants to touch Jesus' garment.

Jesus immediately departs to Jairus' house but, when it came to the woman, he asks her to reveal herself. We might wonder why? The reason is that faith is not magic, it is not the garment that saves or heals, but faith in Jesus and the encounter with Him. This encounter takes place when the woman comes forward and has the courage to reveal herself in front of everyone explaining what has taken place. "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace," are the words of Jesus affirming that her faith has healed her.

How does this apply to us today? We also need to understand that faith is not magic. It is not because I put a rosary in my car that I will be protected from any accident. It is the faith that I have in Jesus and the knowledge that my life lived with Him will be a source of grace. We can have the relics of saints displayed in our home and all the holy water we can collect, but these alone are of no use to us if we do not live in the love of Jesus. Faith is to encounter and live our life with Jesus.

The second point we can take from this Gospel is that Jesus can act in any life, in any person, whatever their origin, background or culture, and at any time. God's action is not limited to our understanding or our way of thinking. God is much bigger than us and He knows what He is doing and why He is doing it, so let us trust in His timing and His will. During this week of Lent, let us remember that God does not grant us graces for ourselves alone, but He grants them to us to live by His love and to serve Him in the midst of our brothers and sisters by witnessing to His love.

May we, by our love, be true witnesses to Christ this week!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



The Word from Your Servant

It is Sunday and the third week of Lent. The Maronite Liturgy presents us the Gospel of the Healing of the Haemorrhaging woman, who was suffering from an illness that affected her for 12 years. This woman had a rare opportunity to meet Jesus to obtain physical and psychological healing, as she was suffering from a reclusive life, unable to meet people because of her bleeding, causing her uncleanness according to society in which she was living. Through this text, and through the experience of this woman, we can summarise the journey of our Christian faith:

- 1- **Seeking salvation away from Jesus Christ:** *"she spent all she had on doctors, and no one could cure her."* This is the image of each one of us. We search for our own salvation with our own strength (money, relying on people of this age) and we fail. We know that we are incapable of giving ourselves salvation. We think we are in control of our lives, able to make decisions, set a program that extends for the next decades, take pride in what we have, what we have learned, and we forget God is the centre of our happiness. We then find ourselves helpless and drown in loneliness.
- 2- **Become among Jesus's crowd:** like each one of us who hears about Jesus but not have a direct relationship with Him. Sadly, we treat our daily prayer as a duty, and Sunday Mass as a weekly obligation to avoid sin and punishment.
- 3- **Search of salvation:** *"She came up behind Jesus, touched the hem of His garment, and her blood stopped immediately."* The search of this woman at this stage was the salvation of the body. She was in constant pain and wanted to be cured of a disease. She approached, but did not receive inner healing because she, like us, approached Jesus from behind, hiding her face and avoiding a personal relationship with Him.
- 4- **Entering a direct relationship with Jesus:** *"she came trembling and fell at his feet"*. This woman knew that she could not escape from the face of the Master - that he knew her deeply. She trembled, because she knew that she was in front of a unique, special person. She also trembled because her own person had become important to him, and she knew that the Lord himself cared and loved her and wanted to enter a relationship of knowledge and friendship with her.
- 5- **Faith is standing face to face with Jesus:** Jesus led the woman to stand before him. She saw his face, and most importantly, Jesus saw her face: Jesus led the woman to the state of a friend, possessing a personality and an identity, a history, and a biography of life. Faith introduces us into this kind of relationship with God, a state of friendship, Jesus knows me and defines me, and I know Jesus becomes central to my life.
- 6- **Faith is to declare what we have:** *"She told him before all the people why she touched him and how she was immediately healed"*: she revealed the most private things, things even a woman of our time would be ashamed to tell. Christ restored this woman, her inner and external freedom, brought her out of the prison of her fear and shame, made her reconcile with her past, and set out towards a future that God had prepared for her. She no longer lives in secret but in a state of reconciliation with God, herself and with others.
- 7- **The fruit of faith is the peace of the heart:** *"My daughter, go in peace."* "My daughter" is the sign of a new life, a fresh start in her life's journey. **Go in peace**, this peace is the fruit of faith, its feature is that it is indescribable, unexplained, illogical according to the logic of the world. It is the peace that the student lives because he possesses the Lord and knows that the Master is present in his life

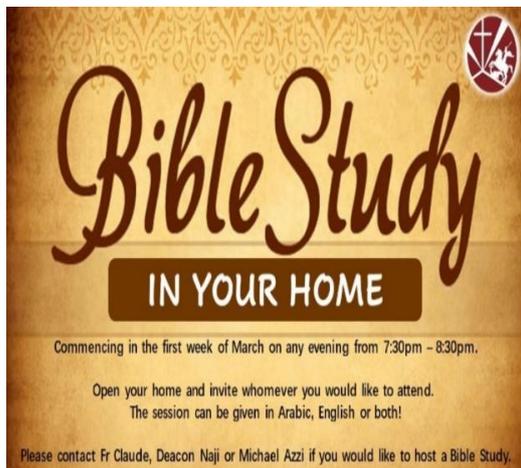
Dear Brothers and Sisters, on Wednesday this week, the Pastoral Council convened for its monthly meeting. In my new role as Parish Administrator the meeting commenced with a prayer seeking God's light and unity and the meaning of "Church" – a House of God, a community of people who share their faith.

The meeting, which was attended by members of each of the different pastoral groups within our Parish as well as our Deacons, was thanks be to God, very fruitful and unifying. The focus of the Parish Pastoral Council is to grow the Parish in members of faith and unity. The Council is considering expanding the faith activities which are currently conducted in our Parish (such as Fersan, Teens, Youth Group, Bible Studies, Sodality) to include younger families through, God willing, the establishment of a play group for mothers of young children as well as other new spiritual activities such as a bus trip pilgrimage to visit a Shrine of our Lady.

The ambience of the Pastoral Council was quite uplifting no doubt because of the work of the Holy Spirit. We pray for the continued unity of the members of the Pastoral Council as they focus on growing and moving the Parish and its members towards our Father, God.

Fr Claude Rizk

Parish News and Upcoming Events



Bible Study
IN YOUR HOME

Commencing in the first week of March on any evening from 7:30pm – 8:30pm.

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.



LENTEN LUNCH

Every Thursday in the Season of Lent

Mass @ 11am
Followed by FREE Luncheon in the Church Hall

All are welcome



ST GEORGE FERSEN

EVERY SATURDAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM 4.00PM - 5.30PM

YEAR 1 - YEAR 6

Scan me to register your children



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday 9th April 2022

9:30am start

Anyone free is welcome to join us and help clean up our Parish.



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

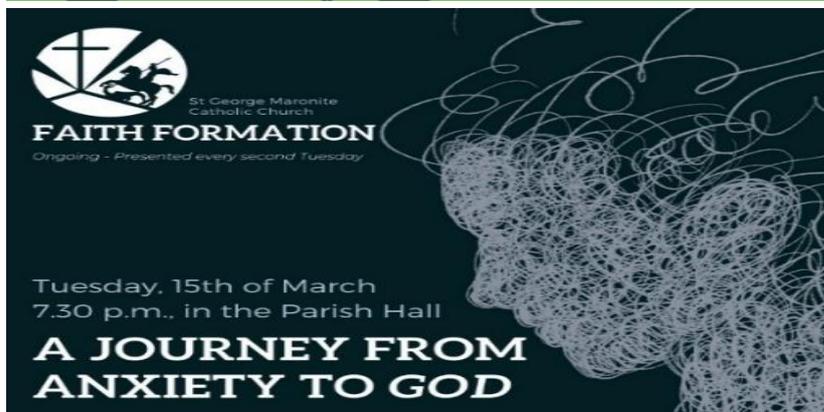
PLAYGROUP

Ages 0-5 years old
FREE

Every Tuesdays from 9am – 12pm
Commencing Tuesday 5th April 2022

All welcome! Come join us as and build our community family.

For more information, please contact Mary 0422 871 197



FAITH FORMATION
Ongoing - Presented every second Tuesday

Tuesday, 15th of March
7.30 p.m., in the Parish Hall

A JOURNEY FROM ANXIETY TO GOD



First Holy Communion

Registration open for this year's Holy Communion program.

To register, please contact the Parish Office
02 9481 7388
info@stgeorgemcc.org.au

Registrations close Friday 25th March 2022

MASS LIVE STREAMING – Sundays at 9am only

Christmas Baubles raised \$6,855 for our Parish. Thank you all who supported this initiative.

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداصات

Day	Time	Name	Arabic Name	Time	Date
Sunday 13 th March 2022	9am	Late Grace Elgrayeb	قداص المرحومة غريس الغرايب	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٣ اذار ٢٠٢٢
	11am	Late Saide Gerges Khamis	قداص المرحوم سيدة جرجس خميس	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٣ اذار ٢٠٢٢
Saturday 19 th March 2022	6pm	Late Fouad and Josephine Kazzi, and Melia and Michelle Kazzi	قداص المرحومين فؤاد وجوزفين قزي وميليا وميشال قزي	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ١٩ اذار ٢٠٢٢
Sunday 20 th March 2022	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Badiha Merhi	قداص السنة المرحومة بديعة مرعي	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٢٠ اذار ٢٠٢٢

Parish Camera



Fersen commenced last week on Saturday. Fersen will be held every Saturdays from 4pm – 5:30pm.

Maronites on Mission's Homeless Feed was held this week on Wednesday. Thank you to all those who donated.

Thursday Adoration evening – another amazing evening!

Parish Financial Updates

28th February – 6th March
TBA

Parish Operations Account
\$14,094.75

Parish Loan Balance
\$611,613.11

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)

To receive our eNewsletter please email
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