

# 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)*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

Year 2022. Issue #28



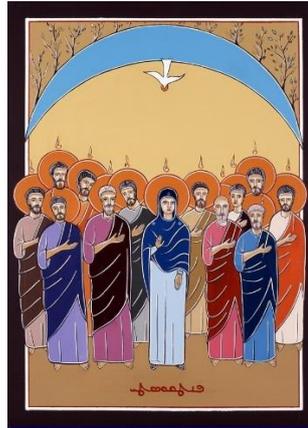
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## The Gospel

**Matt 10: 16-25**

See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

## Season of Pentecost



**Next Sunday**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
**Epistle**  
**2 Cor 3: 1-6**  
**Gospel**  
**Luke 10: 1-7**



**Feast of the Three Massabki Brothers**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## الإنجيل

متى ١٠ : ١٦ - ٢٥

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ: «هَذَا أَنَا أُرْسِلُكُمْ كَالخِرَافِ يَبْنَ الدَّيَّابِ. فَكُونُوا حُكَمَاءَ كَالْحَيَّاتِ، وَوُدَعَاءَ كَالْحَمَامِ. إِحْذَرُوا النَّاسَ! فَإِنَّهُمْ سَيَسْأَلُونَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَجَالِسِ، وَفِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ يَجْلِدُونَكُمْ. وَتُسَاقُونَ إِلَى الْوَلَاةِ وَالْمُلُوكِ مِنْ أَجْلِي، شَهَادَةً لَهُمْ وَ لِلْأُمَّمِ. وَحِينَ يُسْأَلُونَكُمْ، لَا تَهْتَمُّوا كَيْفَ أَوْ بِمَاذَا تَتَكَلَّمُونَ، فَإِنَّكُمْ سَتُعْطُونَ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ مَا تَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِهِ. فَلَسْتُمْ أَنْتُمْ الْمُتَكَلِّمِينَ، بَلْ رُوحُ أَبِيكُمْ هُوَ الْمُتَكَلِّمُ فِيكُمْ. وَسَيَسْأَلُ الْاِخْ أَخَاهُ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، وَالْأَبُ ابْنَهُ، وَيَتَمَرَّدُ الْوَالِدُ عَلَى وَالِدَيْهِمْ وَيَقْتُلُونَهُمْ. وَيُبْغِضُكُمْ جَمِيعُ النَّاسِ مِنْ أَجْلِ اسْمِي، وَمَنْ يَصْبِرْ إِلَى الْمُنْتَهَى يَخْلُصْ. وَإِذَا اضْطَهَدْتُمْ فِي هَذِهِ الْمَدِينَةِ، أَهْرُبُوا إِلَى غَيْرِهَا. فَالْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ تَبْلُغُوا آخِرَ مَدُنِ إِسْرَائِيلَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ. لَيْسَ تَلْمِيذٌ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ مُعَلِّمِهِ، وَلَا عَبْدٌ مِنْ سَيِّدِهِ. حَسْبُ التَّلْمِيذِ أَنْ يَصْبِرَ مِثْلَ مُعَلِّمِهِ، وَالْعَبْدُ مِثْلَ سَيِّدِهِ. فَإِنْ كَانَ سَيِّدُ الْبَيْتِ قَدْ سَمَّوَهُ بَعْلَ زَبُولٍ، فَكُمْ بِالْأَحْرَى أَهْلُ بَيْتِهِ؟

## 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

**Parish Secretary:** Debrah Habkook 0422 275 199 **Admin Assistant:** Rose Zeaiter 0402 463 036

**Office Hours:** Mondays - Fridays 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays 9:00am - 3:00pm **Phone:** (02) 9481 7388

**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

**Website:** [www.stgeorgemcc.org.au](http://www.stgeorgemcc.org.au) **Email:** [info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)



## Bishop's Corner

### Year of Hope

#### Sixth Sunday of Pentecost and Feast of the Massabki Brothers



Dear brothers and sisters,

All the Maronites know our well-known saints: Charbel, Rafqa, Nehmetallah, and Blessed Estephan and Yaacoub, but these holy people are not the only ones in our Maronite Church. Our history is rich with holy men and women who lived good lives and protected the faith through hardship and persecution. On the 10th of July, we celebrate the feast of the three holy Maronite men, the Massabki brothers who were raised to the glory of the altars by Pope Pius XI in 1926. Francis, Abdel Mohti and Raphael, sons of Nehme Massabki, were martyred for refusing to deny their faith.

Who are these men and what do we know about them? They belonged to a large, well-known family in the Maronite community of Damascus. Francis, the eldest, had eight children. He was a rich merchant, honest in his business, a generous man who helped the poor, and his big house was open to everyone. His popularity went beyond Syria, and it is said that the bells were rung in the villages of Lebanon on his arrival; but he was above all a faithful and pious Christian. Abdel Mohti spent his life teaching and educating children. He too was a pious man. As for Raphael, he lived celibate and humble, but rich in the love of God.

In 1860, Ahmed Pasha ruled Syria, he was a tyrant and a sectarian and his men were responsible for stirring up trouble. They spread through their neighbourhoods, set fire to the churches and massacred Christians, robbing and burning down their houses.

When the situation got dangerous, the Massabki brothers took refuge in the nearby Franciscan convent. On 10 July 1860, the invaders entered through a secret door and killed eight Franciscan monks, seven Spaniards and an Austrian, and the three Massabki brothers. Francis was killed at the foot of the altar. Abdel Moati was seized at the chapel door, and told to deny his faith in order to save his life. In a clear voice, he said: "I am a Christian, kill me, I am ready." Raphael was found killed in a corner of the convent after he also refused to deny his faith. The three brothers were buried with the Franciscan fathers.

66 years later, a letter from the Maronite Church was addressed to the Holy Father asking him to beatify the three brothers at the same time as the Franciscan Fathers, because they gave their lives on the same date and for the same faith. The Holy Father accepted this request and on 7 October 1926, the 8 Franciscan Fathers and the Massabki brothers were beatified. A reliquary with the bones of the three martyr brothers lies in the Franciscan Church at Bab Touma in Damascus.

On this feast, we ask the Blessed Massabki Brothers, Abdel Mohti, Francis and Raphael, to pray to the Lord our God for us, for our families and for the Church. May we, in their example, persevere in love and courage until the end.

The Second General Assembly of the Plenary Council of Australia has concluded on Saturday. I thank you for your prayers for the Plenary. It was a unique experience for the Church in Australia. This is definitely not the end, but the journey has just begun as we work to implement the decisions and recommendations of the Plenary with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. + **Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**

## The Word from Your Servant

This weekend's Gospel sounds a little "unChristian" – Brother will betray brother, a father his child, and children will rise against parents and put them to death. Wow! Is this really what Jesus is asking of us?

Not at all! Do not be fooled into thinking that God wants us to create disharmony in our family. There are two aspects to this Gospel which I would like to you to reflect upon this week. First, when our Lord tells the disciples about the difficulties which they will face and the troubles which will be encountered as they spread His word, He is not insisting that this happens to spread His word. Rather, He is indicating what will happen when His message is not accepted. Family difficulties and tribulations are often the result of the Word of God being dismissed, not followed, ignored, abused, and even discarded in families. If we accept, love, and try to live the Word of God in our family life, then I can assure you that brother will not betray brother, nor a father his child, and children will not rise against parents and put them to death. Our families are born from the Sacrament of Marriage – the graces of that Sacrament are there to be used. When we face tribulations and difficulties in our family life, parents especially, ought to remember the graces which they have received from the Sacrament of Marriage, which will help them deal with these difficulties so that the family can grow stronger in unity with God.

The second aspect of the Gospel which I would like you to reflect upon is Jesus' reminder to the disciples "do not worry". As I mentioned last week, the disciples were ordinary men – many of very limited education and skills. And yet, Jesus entrusted them with the spreading of the Word – of communicating to the world that God had fulfilled his promise and salvation had been delivered. Imagine if we were tasked with half of what these disciples were asked. Think of all the questions we would have. And yet, our Lord assures the disciples "do not worry" because the Holy Spirit would speak through them.

Often in our daily lives – be it within our workplace, our social lives and even our ordinary activities, we will encounter situations which are contrary to our faiths and beliefs. I remind you "do not worry" about staying firm to our faith and beliefs. Lean on the Holy Spirit especially during this season of Pentecost, to guide your words and actions and to keep you firm with your faith.

We have completed another term of formation for our young children through Fersen and for our teenagers through the Wednesday evening Teens night. Thank you to Ray Zeaiter for all his efforts with the Fersan programme and to Daniel Assaf, Charbel Raish and Georgina Sarkis for all their efforts with the Teens Programme. I am indebted to each of them for their ongoing commitments and I look forward to the next term's programmes.

It was also lovely to see our seniors attend Mass and lunch on Thursday. They have so much wisdom to share with us! The Confraternity and the Youth Committees also met this week to plan further activities for our parishioners in the coming months.

Please pray for our volunteers – our Parish family flourishes because of their commitments and efforts.

Have a blessed week.

**Fr Claude Rizk**



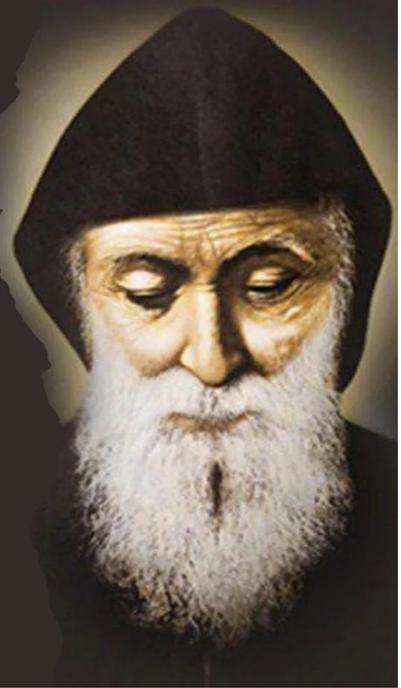
# St Charbel Relic Visit

First Class St Charbel Relic

**Saturday 23rd July 2022**  
**Sunday 24th July 2022**

**Masses, Processions, Reflections,  
Prayers, Hymns, Parish BBQ**

Refer to Parish Social Media and Newsletter for full program



## Hunter Valley Day Trip



**\$150pp**

(over 18's only)  
Includes coach transport, morning tea, set menu lunch, and entry to three wineries.

**Sunday 31st July 2022**

Departing 7am from St George and returning by 7:45pm

Booking required by Monday 25th July 2022

For bookings or more information, please contact the Parish Office 9481 7388

## State of Origin #3

on the big inflatable screen!

**Wednesday 13th July 2022**

**@ 7pm**



**Dinner provided**

**Entry via donation**

## St George Faith Formation Talks

*A Journey from Anxiety to Hope*

with Sonia Gebrael

Join us as we journey together, towards a deeper connection with Christ.

**Sunday 17th July**  
**7pm**  
**Church Hall**

Includes FREE Supper!



## THURSDAY MASS AND LUNCHEON

**11am Mass**  
followed by lunch in the Church Hall

**UPCOMING DATES**  
JULY - 7TH AND 21ST JULY 2022  
AUGUST - 4TH AND 18TH AUGUST 2022

St George Maronite Catholic Church Presents

## 21st Anniversary Dinner

Friday 4th November 2022

Ticket cost: \$100pp  
Venue: The Renaissance Room: Ballroom  
Time: 7:30pm

Call to secure your seats today!  
(02) 9481 7388

## BIBLE STUDIES

Every Monday  
7:00pm  
Church Hall

Presented in English and Arabic

**Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Matthew Mark Abood and Anthony John Tarraf**

### Memorial Masses

### نوايا القداسات

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	9am	Late Malkoun Asmar, and his parents Abdo and Jenifyef Asmar	المرحوم ملكون أسمر ووالديه عبدو وجنيفياف أسمر	٩ :٠٠	الاحد ١٧ تموز ٢٠٢٢
	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Rosette Morad	قداس السنة المرحومة روزات موراد	١١ :٠٠	



St George Maronite Catholic Church,  
Thornleigh

## St Charbel Relic Visit Program



### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022

- 4:00pm – Arrival of St Charbel Relic  
 † Welcome and Procession  
 † Opening Prayer  
 † Silent Reflection

6:00pm – Mass including Ziyeh of St Charbel

7:00pm – Prayer Evening with the Relic

- † Prayers and hymns  
 † Blessing with the Relic

\*\*\*The church will remain open until midnight\*\*\*

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022

6:00am – Personal Reflection with the Relic  
 † Church will be open for personal reflection and prayer with the Relic

9:00am – Mass

11:00am – Family Mass

- † Followed by Finger Food in the Parish Hall

12:30pm – Personal Reflection with the Relic

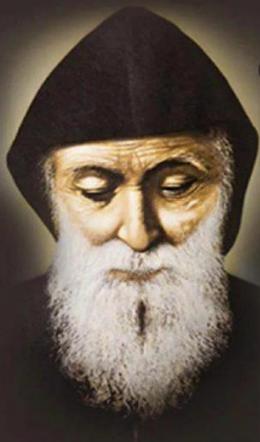
- † Church will be open for personal reflection and prayer with the Relic and St Charbel blessing

6:00pm – Youth Mass including Ziyeh of St Charbel

- † Farewell of St Charbel Relic

7:30pm – Parish BBQ (FREE)

- † All parishioners are invited for a celebration BBQ



### Parish Camera



Knights of St George held their inaugural monthly gathering last Friday and will be gathering every last Friday of the month.

## Knights of St George

Men's group established to bring the men of the house closer to God.

**NEXT  
GATHERING  
FRIDAY 29TH  
JULY 2022**



**EVERY LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

For more information or enquiries  
 Andre Saade 0411 219 139  
 John Ghosen 0477 237 748



### Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (week ending 03/07/2022)

TBA

Parish Operations Account

\$57,598.52

Parish Loan Balance

\$601,594.16

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

[info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)



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### Business Community Corner

**Laing + Simmons**

Chris Khoudair  
Principal

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Pennant Hills

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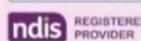


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ON TIME EVERY TIME HELPER!

- ✓ 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](mailto:info@magnoliahelpinghands.com.au)  
 NDIS Provider Number: 4050083511

[www.magnoliahelpinghands.com.au](http://www.magnoliahelpinghands.com.au)



For more information on advertising, please contact the Parish Office 9481 7388 or email

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