

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)*

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**Year 2022, Issue #30**



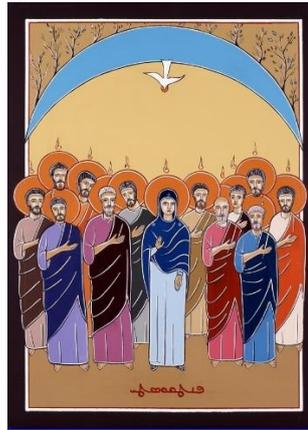
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

## The Gospel

**Matt 12: 14-21**

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'

## Season of Pentecost



**Next Sunday**

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**Epistle**

**Rom 8: 1-11**

**Gospel**

**Matt 12: 14-21**



## الإنجيل

متى ١٢ : ١٤ - ٢١

خَرَجَ الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ فَتَشَاوَرُوا عَلَى يَسُوعَ لِيُهْلِكُوهُ. وَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ بِالْأَمْرِ فَأَنْصَرَفَ مِنْ هُنَاكَ. وَتَبِعَهُ كَثِيرُونَ فَشَفَاهُمْ جَمِيعًا، وَحَذَّرَهُمْ مِنْ أَنْ يُشْهِرُوهُ، لِيَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِالنَّبِيِّ آشَعِيَا: «هُوَذَا فَتَايَ الَّذِي أَخْتَرْتُهُ، حَبِيبِي الَّذِي رَضِيتَ بِهِ نَفْسِي. سَأَجْعَلُ رُوحِي عَلَيْهِ فَيُبَشِّرُ الْأُمَّمَ بِالْحَقِّ. لَنْ يُمَاحِكَ وَلَنْ يَصِيحَ، وَلَنْ يَسْمَعَ أَحَدٌ صَوْتَهُ فِي السَّاحَاتِ. قَصَبَةً مَرْضُوضَةً لَنْ يَكْسِرَ، وَفَتِيلَةً مُدَخِّنَةً لَنْ يُطْفِئَ، إِلَى أَنْ يَصِلَ بِالْحَقِّ إِلَى النَّصْرِ. وَبِأَسْمِهِ تَجْعَلُ الْأُمَّمَ رَجَاءَهَا.»

## 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 Habkuk 0422 275 199 **Admin Assistant:** Rose Zeaiter

**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 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Maronite Church guides us to reflect on this 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Season of Pentecost on the Gospel from St Matthew (12:14-21). The Pharisees are plotting to destroy Jesus because they considered Him to have violated the Sabbath law.

Jesus does not go to war with the Pharisees. He simply goes away to continue to perform His works of healing and mercy. He reveals to us the love of the Father for all humanity. He shows us the path of the Truth, which is not accomplished through clashes, violence, or wars but through charity, compassion and justice. To follow Christ is to respect the dignity of every human being. It is to learn to live in fraternal love. It is also to discover the love of the Father and to learn to live in this love.

The Pharisees and the crowds at the temple had not understood or accepted this. They were preoccupied with defending their rites and their power. Jesus challenged their beliefs and their practices by promoting service to others, concern for the weak and the poor, and bringing back the sinners to the faith. Envy gnawed at the hearts of the Pharisees and prevented them from thinking of others. The essence of selfishness is to consider the good of others as a personal threat.

When we drift away from Jesus Christ, from His love, His fidelity, and His goodness, He awaits us to come back and to trust Him again. He is always ready to offer us His grace and to show us His merciful love. When we doubt His love, we judge by our measure, with the limited forgiveness of which we are capable. When we entrust ourselves to His love and believe in His infinite mercy, we are better disposed to receive His grace.

Many people followed Christ, and He healed them all. Christ is the only source of true happiness in the heart of every man and woman. All our hopes and aspirations find their fulfilment in His person. To know Christ is to love Him. When we do not know Him well enough, we are content with lesser joys and small pleasures destined to wither. Let us pray for the grace to know Him, love Him and serve Him and to draw from the fountain of His love.

I wish you a Blessed Sunday!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



## The Word from Your Servant

This Sunday's Gospel is a good reminder to all of us about how to turn difficult and potentially hostile situations into good. Here we see our Lord Jesus becoming aware of the Pharisees' hostile intentions towards Him. Our Lord chooses not to confront the Pharisees or even defend Himself. He does not allow Himself to be distracted by the Pharisees negativity towards Him. Rather our Lord continues on His mission. He cured the crowds who followed Him. He proclaimed justice to the Gentiles.

We should learn from our Lord, that when we have God on our side, we should not be afraid of opposition. Trust in God and the mission He has set up for us. He will provide us with the strength to execute and complete the plans He has for us. Turn to our Saints' intercession for the help which we need to stay on the path which God has set for us. With the relic of St Charbel here in our Church this weekend, let us especially take this opportunity to pray before the relic and the Blessed Sacrament. Give thanks for this special blessing in our Parish. Ask St Charbel to intercede for our intentions, for our families and for our Parish.

I look forward to seeing you at the various events which we have organised this weekend to celebrate the visit of the relic to our Parish. Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to arrange and coordinate the various gatherings.

This week we recommenced our Parish activities. Thank you to Sonia Gebrael for the inspiring talk she gave last Sunday evening – from anxiety to hope. Bible Studies and Playgroup have resumed and it was wonderful to see the return of familiar faces. On Wednesday night, the teens regrouped for the first session of the term to hear about St Charbel. Please continue to pray for our Parish community.

Fr Claude Rizk

## Image of Jesus

How would Jesus have described himself? Well in today's Gospel we can catch a glimpse of this. The image portrayed differs a great deal to previous prophets.

John the Baptist is described as one who cries out in the wilderness and wore clothes of camel's hair (Mt 3:3-4). Prophet Jeremiah said of himself, 'I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy' (Jer 1:6). The great prophet Moses gave constant excuses to God's call to be a prophet (Exodus 3 and 4) and Amos the prophet was a shepherd of Tekoa (Amos 1:1).

Jesus was very different to all of them. He associates himself with the image of a servant, one who has the Spirit of God, who proclaims justice, will not wrangle, not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick. He is an image of hope to all.

This is quite an image to live up to and yet Jesus was prepared to put his name to this. Jesus was fully committed and totally attentive to who he was and what he was to do. He had a certainty of mind and a passionate vision.

Life for Jesus was given in full to the cause of justice and mercy. He would commit his heart, mind and soul in the act of justice for all. He was driven with spirit to be a figure for all who needed righteousness to reign. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn



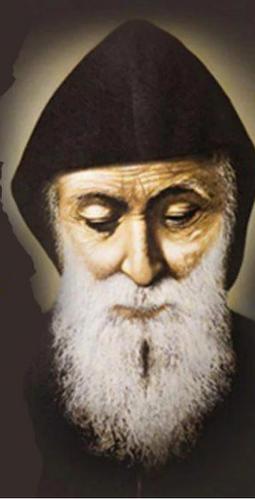
## St Charbel Relic Visit

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



## Bring a Saint Day

Beginning of Fersan Term

**SATURDAY 30TH JULY 2022**  
**4:00PM - 5:30PM**

Bring an item with a Saint on it (statue, image, book etc.) for show and tell

SHOW AND TELL  
MOVIE  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE



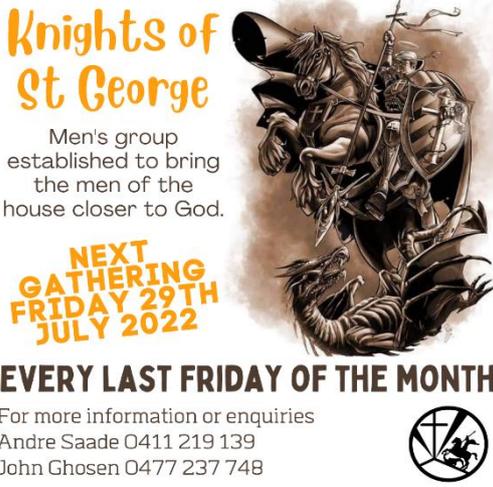
## Knights of St George

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



## 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

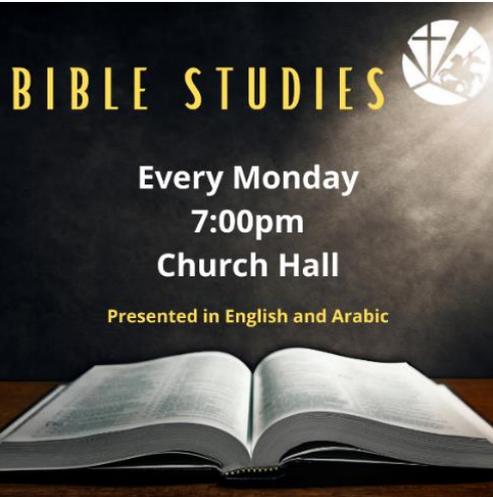
Call to secure your seats today!  
(02) 9481 7388



## BIBLE STUDIES

Every Monday  
7:00pm  
Church Hall

Presented in English and Arabic



Memorial Masses			نوايا القداست		
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	11am	Late Souad Khoury	قداس المرحومة سعاد الخوري	١١:٠٠	الاحد ٢٤ تموز ٢٠٢٢
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	9am	Late Elizabeth Habkouk	قداس المرحومة اليزابث حبقوق	٩:٠٠	الاحد ٣١ تموز ٢٠٢٢
	11am	40 <sup>th</sup> Mass for the Late Adra Greige Mouyat	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة عدرا جريج معيط	١١:٠٠	٢٠٢٢

## Maronites on Mission Philippines Missionary Trip – January 2023

Maronites on Mission Australia is calling for volunteers for their next missionary trip to the Philippines which will take place from the 8th to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2023. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to [international@maronitesonmission.com](mailto:international@maronitesonmission.com) or contact George on 0450 383 522.

يوجه فريق Maronites on Mission في اوستراليا نداءً ودعوة إلى جميع الراغبين بالانضمام إلى رحلتهم القادمة إلى الفلبين من ٨ إلى ٢٢ كانون الثاني ٢٠٢٣. لمزيد من المعلومات وللتسجيل، يرجى إرسال email على البريد الالكتروني: [international@maronitesonmission.com](mailto:international@maronitesonmission.com) أو الاتصال بجورج على الرقم 0450 383 522



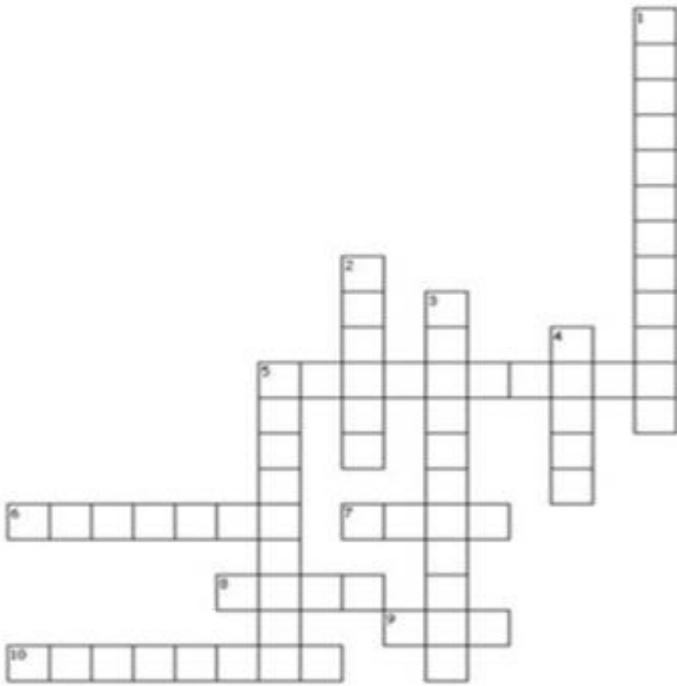
**2023 Philippines Mission**  
**January 8 - 22**

Contact | George Nasr 0450 383 522  
Apply | [international@maronitesonmission.com](mailto:international@maronitesonmission.com)

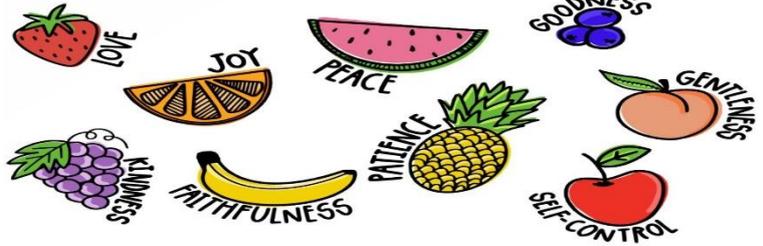
"The fruit of love is service, which is compassion in action"  
- Mother Teresa

## Children's Corner: Fruits of the Spirit

Complete the crossword below using the bible references to help you find the answers.



## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



**Across**

- 5. God gives us \_\_\_\_ to show the power of love without words
- 6. Be \_\_\_\_ (James 5:7)
- 7. Always try to be \_\_\_\_ to each other and to everyone else (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- 8. God is \_\_\_\_ (1 John 4:16)
- 9. May the God of hope fill you with all \_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:13)
- 10. The sixth Fruit of the Spirit

**Down**

- 1. Let love and \_\_\_\_ never leave you (Proverbs 3:3)
- 2. Against such \_\_\_\_ there is no law
- 3. God wants us to practice
- 4. And the \_\_\_\_ of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7)
- 5. 5:22

### Parish Financial Updates

**Parish Income (week ending 03/07-17/07/22)**

\$6,593.85

**Parish Operations Account**

\$51,671.26

**Parish Loan Balance**

\$589,239.51

**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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[St George Maronite Catholic Church](#)



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## Business Community Corner

# Laing + Simmons

**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



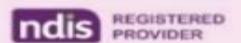
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- ✓ Daily Personal Activities
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Contact May Bou Mansour on 0452 223 714  
Email [info@magnoliahelpinghands.com.au](mailto:info@magnoliahelpinghands.com.au)  
NDIS Provider Number: 4050083511

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



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