

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)*

9th Sunday of Pentecost and Feast of the 350 Martyred Monks of St Maroun

Sunday 31st July 2022

Year 2022, Issue #31

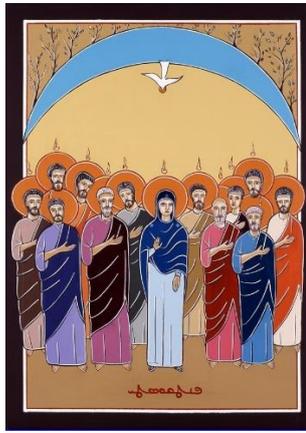


The Gospel

Luke 11: 49-54

Therefore, also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' so that this generation may be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation. Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering." When he went outside, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile toward him and to cross-examine him about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

Season of Pentecost



Next Sunday
**10th Sunday of
Pentecost**
Epistle
1 Cor 12: 1-11
Gospel
Matt 12: 22-32



الإنجيل

لو ١١ : ٤٩-٥٤

قال الرب يسوع: لهذا قالت حكمة الله:
ارسل اليهم انبياء ورسلًا، فيقتلون منهم
ويضطهدون، لكي يطلب من هذا الجيل
دم جميع الانبياء، الذي سفك منذ
انشاء العالم، من دم هابيل الى دم
زكريا، الذي قتل بين المذبح والهيكل.
نعم، اقول لكم، انه سيطلب من هذا
الجيل. الويل لكم، يا علماء التوراة!
لانكم حملتم مفتاح المعرفة، فانتم ما
دخلتم، ومنعتم الذين يدخلون. ولما
خرج يسوع من هناك، بدأ الكتبة
والفريسيون يضربون له حقدًا شديدًا،
ويستدرجونه الى الكلام على امور
كثيرة، ويترقبونه ليصطادوه بكلمة من
فيه.

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 Habkhouk 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 Email: info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



Bishop's Corner Year of Hope

9th Sunday of Pentecost and

Feast of the 350 Martyred Monks of St Maroun



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
On the 31st of July, the Maronite Church celebrates the Feast of the 350 Martyred Monks of St Maroun. The information we have about the martyrdom of the 350 Monks is from a letter from the monks to Pope Hormisdas in the year 517. The letter described the suffering and attacks that the Maronites endured. We learn that, while the monks were on their way to St.

Simon Stylite, the 350 monks were ambushed and killed. The saddest part of their story is that the death of these martyrs occurred out of a growing disunity amongst Christians themselves. The 350 martyrs were killed by other Christians because of a disagreement around the teaching of the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. This Council in 451 decreed that Our Lord Jesus Christ was one person, but having two distinct natures, divine and human, and the monks of St Maroun accepted this teaching. They were persecuted by those who only believed in the divinity of Christ denying his human nature. In the Gospels of the Season of Pentecost in the Maronite Church, we hear a lot about the danger of division. That was something which we are warned about and, yet, still even now we sometimes do not listen. Unity does not mean thinking the same, speaking the same, feeling the same. Unity means respect for each other, listening to each other, working together and most importantly together in love and sacrifice with our neighbour, no matter who they are. This week, we also remember the tragedy of the explosion at the port of Beirut on 4 August 2020. At 6.07pm that day, the blast rocked the heart of Beirut and killed more than 215 people and wounded some 7,000, while leaving a large part of the Lebanese capital in ruins. Many continue to live with the scars of trauma, of shock, of loss and of grief. It is shameful and tragic that 730 days have passed and the culprits in this crime against humanity continue to evade justice. We owe it to the victims, to their families and to every Lebanese person to seek the truth and bring those responsible to justice without any further delays. May God look upon Lebanon and its people in His mercy. May He enfold the victims and join them to the tenderness of His heart and to the lights of His glory, as He promised in Saint John's vision: "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more..." (Revelation 21:4). I invite you to join us for a **Memorial Mass on Thursday 4 August 2022 at 6pm at St Joseph's Church in Croydon, NSW**, to pray for the victims, their families and for our beloved Lebanon. May the prayers of the 350 Martyr Monks be with us and may we be courageous in standing up for the truth and speaking up for the oppressed.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

The Word from Your Servant

This weekend we commemorate the feast of the 350 Maronite Martyrs.

These martyrs were 6th Century monks of St Maroun living in several monasteries throughout Northern Syria adjacent to Northern Lebanon. They held strong ties to the Catholic faith, particularly to the teaching of the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. This Council in 451 decreed that Our Lord Jesus Christ was one person, but having two distinct natures, one divine, the other human. This Dogma continues to be upheld by the Church to this day. Despite the Dogma of the Council there persisted the group called Monophysites—meaning one nature, namely the divine nature. Without a human nature, the Son of God was not truly man, not born of a human mother, could not die; so the sacrifice of Calvary was a sham.

The monks who were faithful to the Dogma of the Council of Chalcedon were persecuted and ordered to be executed in the year 517AD.

When things settled down, several of the survivors presented to Pope Hermisdas an affidavit testifying how the monks had been martyred. The Pope expressed his sympathy and urged them to remain steadfast against persecution.

In 1734, Pope Clement XII bestowed an indulgence upon all the Churches honouring the 350 Maronite monks. Pope Benedict XIV in 1740 declared the indulgence applicable to all Maronite Churches throughout the world.

The feast reminds us of the importance of unity within the Church – unity with our Pope, our Bishops and our Priests. To be united we must grow in knowledge of our faith – faith formation. When we learn about our faith, we will be best placed to practise it and to defend it when necessary. Our Church which has survived for more than 2000 years on the rock which our Lord built it – on Peter – will with God's grace, continue to survive for another 2000 years when we remain loyal and united to the principles of our faith, as upheld by our Pope.

Please pray the prayer which we pray in our liturgy on the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, "*O Lord, preserve your children from all error or deviation, grant us to live and die proclaiming: 'Our faith is the faith of Peter, the faith of Peter is our faith!'*"

What a beautiful weekend we celebrated last week in the presence of the relic of our beloved St Charbel. St Charbel brought so many of us to the celebration of the Eucharist and to prayer. This is what St Charbel wants us to do – to turn to our Lord and to love Him as He did, to make our Lord the centre of our lives. Let us continue to try and live with the faithfulness, devotion and humility which St Charbel did to the Mass.

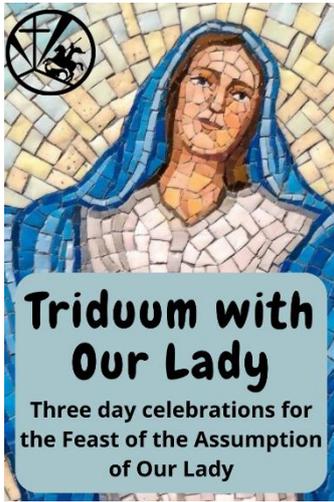


Thank you so much to all our volunteer Parishioners who contributed their time and efforts with the celebrations last weekend. God bless and protect them.

Have a blessed week.

Fr Claude Rizk

Parish News and Upcoming Events



**SATURDAY 13TH
AUGUST 2022**

5:30pm: Rosary
6:00pm: Mass
7:00pm: Teens Movie
Night with popcorn,
chips, pizza

**SUNDAY 14TH
AUGUST 2022**

5:30pm: Rosary
6:00pm: Mass
7:00pm: Bonfire Night
with Shawarma and
Lebanese Music

**MONDAY 15TH
AUGUST 2022**

6:30pm: Rosary
7:00pm: Solemn Mass
and Procession
8:00pm: Tea, Coffee,
Cakes

Triduum with Our Lady

Three day celebrations for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady

St George Celebrates Dad

Father's Day function for all father figures

Saturday 27th August 2022

Mass @ 6pm followed by function in the Church Hall

\$100 pp \$50 (under 12)

Includes unlimited alcohol, lamb spit, BBQ, Shiah's & Arcade Truck

For Bookings, contact the Parish Office by 22nd August 2022

St George Faith Formation Talks

Knowing God

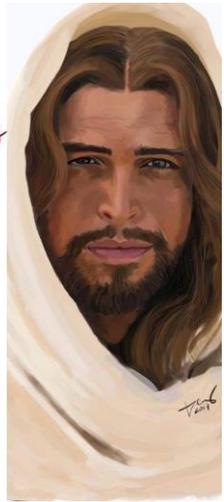
with Sister Anastasia from Dominican Sisters

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

Sunday 31st July 7pm

Church Hall

Includes FREE Supper!



MOVIE NIGHT Sunday 28th August
\$10 entry
Location: Church Carpark
after 6pm youth mass

HUSTLE
NEVER GOIT ON YOUR DREAMS!

MEMORIAL MASS
FOR THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF THE BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION
THURSDAY | 4TH AUGUST 2022
MASS AT 6PM
CELEBRATED BY HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP ANTOINE-CHARBEL TARABAY AT SAINT JOSEPH'S, CROYDON

2023 Philippines Mission January 8 - 22
Contact | George Masr 0450 383 522
Apply | international@maronitesonmission.com
"The fruit of love is service, which is compassion in action"
- Mother Teresa

Knights of St George
Men's group established to bring the men of the house closer to God.
NEXT GATHERING FRIDAY 26TH AUGUST 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
AUGUST - 4TH AND 18TH AUGUST 2022
SEPT- 1ST, 15TH AND 29TH SEPT 2022

VOCATION DISCERNMENT NIGHT
MONDAY | 8TH AUGUST 2022
MASS AT 6PM
FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT MARY MACKILLOP
FOLLOWED BY A TALK BY BROTHER ELIA ABOUD ON THE MONASTIC VOCATION OF THE MARONITE

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Date	Time	Deceased Name	Prayer Text	Start Time	End Time
Sunday 31 st July 2022	9am	Late Elizabeth Habkoug	قداس المرحومة اليزابث حبقوق	9:00	الاحد 31 تموز 2022
	11am	40 th Mass for the Late Adra Greige Mouyat	قداس 40 المرحومة عدرا جريج معيط من ايلات	11:00	
Monday 1 st August 2022	9:30am	Late Sleiman Elias Charara from Saghbine	قداس المرحوم سليمان الياس شراره من صغين	9:30	الاثنين 1 اب 2022
Sunday 7 th August 2022	9am	1 Year Mass for the Late Moussa Hanna Moussa	قداس السنة المرحوم موسى حنا موسى	9:00	الاحد 7 اب 2022

All About Our Parish Playgroup

Our Parish launched a playgroup for our community earlier this year on Tuesday the 5th of April. What started as a small group of mums and their little ones, has grown to a regular group of friends who meet for fun, play and yummy morning teas! Whilst the children, aged 0 to 5 years, navigate the different activities set up in our parish hall, the mums chat over a cuppa and there's always laughter, food and new friendships made. The playgroup is free to join. We have members from our parish family, as well as local young families looking to grow, learn and develop through informal play activities. We meet every Tuesday morning, during the school term, from 10am-12pm, downstairs in the hall. The children look at books, play with toys, building blocks, puzzles and enjoy story time. There's craft activities and music times too! It's a great opportunity for the young ones to learn to play with other children of different ages. It's also important to reach out to our mums and caregivers to build social and support networks to help them in their most important God-given vocation as a parent. It's not just for the mums and grandmas, dads and grandfathers are welcome too! The playgroup is run by volunteers with the support of Fr Claude and our Parish Council.

Please pray for the families who come along and for those yet to come, that at St George Playgroup they will find a nurturing, welcoming apostolate. For more information about our playgroup, please call Mary on 0422871197 or come along on Tuesday and have a play! Everyone's welcome. **Mary Issa Flynn**

Teens Gathering to Celebrate St Charbel

The Teens gathered to learn more about St Charbel on the occasion of the visit of the relic to our Parish. Below are some interesting points about the session:

- He always looked to the ground and hardly ever looked at people. Only time he looked up, was to look at heaven
- Charbel is an Assyrian word for Char "story" and El "God"
- At birth his parents named him Youssef and born to a family of farmers. He was one of five children.
- His mother wanted him to get married young in his early teens.
- St Charbel, who never left the borders of Lebanon, is now one of the most renowned saints across the world
- St Charbel decided to give his life to God as a teenager and left his home to become a monk in the Maronite order without his parents consent. He loved the minimal life, sacrificing everything he had to God. He was a student of St. Neemtallah Al-Hardini. Both became saints of Lebanon.
- St Charbel has performed 26,000 miracles.
- God calls to love and give for ultimate happiness which St Charbel followed. The ultimate happiness is when we come together in communion to celebrate the mass.



Dominique Sarkis

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (week ending 24/07/22)

\$13009.85

Parish Operations Account

\$54198.31

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



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Business Community Corner

Laing + Simmons

Chris Khoudair
Principal

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

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