

# 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)*

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

**Year 2022, Issue #34**



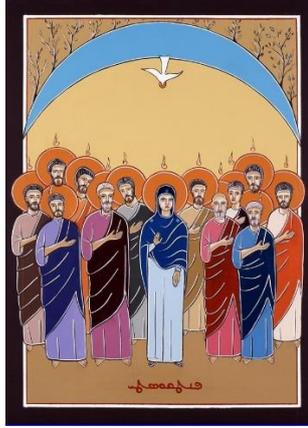
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

## The Gospel

**Matt 15: 21-28**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

## Season of Pentecost



**Next Sunday**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
**Epistle**  
**1 Cor 3: 1-11**  
**Gospel**  
**Luke 8: 1-15**



## الإنجيل

متى ٢١-٢٨

إِنْصَرَفَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي صُورَ وَصَيْدَا ،  
وَإِذَا بِأَمْرَأَةٍ كَنْعَانِيَّةٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ النُّوَاحِي  
خَرَجَتْ تَصْرُخُ وَتَقُولُ : «إِرْحَمْنِي ، يَا رَبِّ ،  
يَا أَبْنَى دَاوُدَ ! إِنَّ ابْنَتِي بِهَا شَيْطَانٌ يُعَذِّبُهَا  
جِدًّا .» فَلَمْ يُجِبْهَا بِكَلِمَةٍ . وَدَنَا تَلَامِيذُهُ  
فَأَخَذُوا يَتَوَسَّلُونَ إِلَيْهِ قَائِلِينَ : «إِصْرِفْهَا ،  
فَإِنَّهَا تَصْرُخُ فِي إِثْرِنَا !» . فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ : «لَمْ  
أُرْسَلْ إِلَّا إِلَى الْخِرَافِ الضَّالَّةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ  
إِسْرَائِيلَ .» . أَمَّا هِيَ فَاتَتْ وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ  
وَقَالَتْ : «سَاعِدْنِي ، يَا رَبِّ !» . فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ :  
«لَا يَحْسُنُ أَنْ يُؤَخَذَ خُبْزُ الْبَنِينَ ، وَيُلْقَى  
إِلَى جِرَاءِ الْكِلَابِ !» . فَقَالَتْ : «نَعَمْ ، يَا رَبِّ !  
وَجِرَاءُ الْكِلَابِ أَيْضًا تَأْكُلُ مِنَ الْفَتَاتِ  
الْمُتَسَاقِطِ عَنْ مَائِدَةِ أَرْبَابِهَا .» . حِينَئِذٍ  
أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا : «أَيُّهَا الْمَرْأَةُ ،  
عَظِيمٌ إِيمَانُكَ ! فَلَئِنْ لَكَ كَمَا تُرِيدِينَ .»  
وَمِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ شَفِيَتْ ابْنَتُهَا .

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



## Bishop's Corner Year of Hope Feast of the Assumption



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am presently in Melbourne visiting our Maronite parishes here and celebrating the Feast of the Assumption with our community.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Season of Pentecost, we read how Our Lord went to the district of Tyre and Sidon, that is, ancient Canaan, what is modern Lebanon. There, He was sought out by a Canaanite woman whose daughter was being tormented by a demon. At first, He would not answer her but the apostles came up to Him, and they urged Him to send her away because she kept following them and shouting.

Our Lord did not send her away, rather He made a comment to her that He had been sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. She then knelt before Him, itself a significant action because it shows her humility, and asked Him, simply and directly: "Lord, help me." This woman chose the road of humility and knew that she was speaking to the Master of Life and Love. The Canaanite woman, on her knees, acknowledged Jesus as her master, and the master of all, whether Jew or Canaanite.

So it was then, that Jesus gave her the comforting answer: "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish," and her daughter was instantly healed. That is, her belief in the Lord had not just been merely believing; rather, she had felt in her heart the truth of the divinity of the Lord, and understood His goodness. The Canaanite woman knew that Jesus was God, and she feared Him, but she also loved Him and put her faith into Him and expressed it into action.

Today, Lebanon, the home of this Canaanite woman and of her daughter, and the homeland to most of the Maronites all around the world, is suffering, in a way which we have never seen since the days of the civil war, and which we had thought and prayed were gone forever. Perhaps we can see a parallel in the daughter of the Canaanite woman: she is being tormented by demons and cannot help herself. Someone else must speak up for her, and it was her mother who called upon the Lord. Today, let us pray to the Mother of God, to Our Lady of Lebanon, to speak up for Lebanon and for its people tormented and suffering. I am sure that she will intercede and ask her Son to deliver and save Lebanon.

In our turn, let us all call out after the Lord with perseverance, and keep the plight of the Lebanese people alive. Let us be their voices all around the world, and let us continue to express our solid faith in the Lord that He will never abandon His flock in Lebanon. And then, perhaps, we will hear His consoling words that our faith has been great and we will be saved.

The Lord tested the Lebanese Canaanite woman but because of her faith in Him and her love to her daughter, she strongly persisted and she was granted her heart's desire. In following her example, we need to renew our faith in the Lord. Let our faith be the faith of our hands and our hearts and not only of our minds and our lips. May our actions reflect our love to the Lord and faith in Him.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

## The Word from Your Servant

In this week's Gospel, our Lord travels to Tyre and Sidon in our beloved Lebanon (or Phoenicia as it was then known). Our Lord had travelled there to avoid the crowds and spend quiet time with His disciples. Instead, He encounters a Canaanite woman who seeks His help for her daughter.

The woman is not a Jew – she is a pagan – a woman who does not even know about God or His promise to His

chosen people. However, her cry for help is so common to all of us – the cry of a suffering parent who sees their child tormented by evil which it appears cannot be healed.

Even though our Lord initially ignores her, the woman persists – such is her love for her daughter and her faith in Jesus. Her words "*Yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table*" shows her wisdom and her perception of the goodness of the Most High God present in Jesus. Her humility and her plea touch our Lord's heart and He grants her wishes.

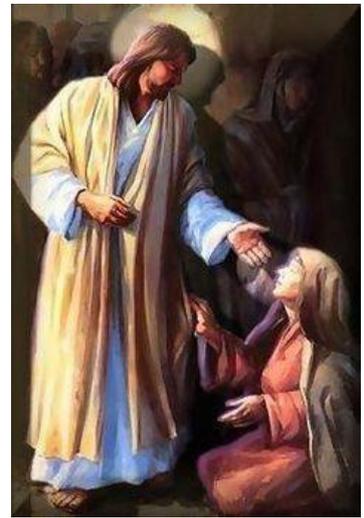
From the Canaanite woman we learn that all of us with our history, our pain and our struggles, can knock on Jesus' heart and say to Him "Lord, if You will, You can heal me!" To do this, we must always remember that Jesus' heart is one that feels compassion, bears our pain, our sins, our mistakes, and our failures.

To learn about Jesus' heart, go back to the Gospels. Try to read a passage every day. The more we read about Jesus' life (including the different persons who encountered Him), the more we will learn about Jesus' heart and the greater confidence we will have to adopt the stubbornness of the Canaanite woman, go down on our knees as she did, adoring and imploring Him "Lord, help me". When we do this, our darkness, pain, and suffering will vanish by the light of Love.

As I was writing this, I heard on the news our beloved Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi address journalists and state "*God does not leave us. God enters when he Wills and how He Wills. It is for us to keep hoping and praying.*" Let us pray for our beloved Patriarch and his intentions and use his advice to have the faith of the Canaanite woman.

I cannot finish this week's message without express my deepest gratitude to all our volunteers last weekend as our Parish celebrated the great feast of the Assumption with prayer, Mass and of course, the get togethers. May Our Lady continue to intercede for each member of our Parish so that the joy of faith might grow in each person as well as the desire to communicate it through a consistent witness of life that will lead us all to her Son.

Our Parish continues to buzz with the upcoming trip to Berrima (27 August), the Father's Day celebrations (26 August) and the weekly activities (Bible Study, Playgroup, Teens, Adoration and Fersen). I look forward to seeing you all at the various functions. Have a blessed week!



Fr Claude Rizk

## 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 drinks, lamb spit, BBQ, and Arcade Truck

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

**MOVIE NIGHT**

**Sunday 28th August**  
Entry by Donation  
Location: Church Carpark  
For people aged 16+ after 6pm Youth Mass

**HUSTLE**  
NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS

## Trip to Berrima

**Saturday 27th August 2022**

Departing 8am from St George Church and returning late afternoon

**\$60 adults \$30 child under 12**  
Morning Tea provided

For bookings contact the Parish Office 9481 7388

## Knights of St George

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

**NEXT GATHERING FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 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**  
SEPT- 1ST, 15TH AND 29TH SEPT 2022  
OCTOBER - 13TH AND 27TH OCT 2022

## Weekly Teens Gathering

Every Wednesday (during School Term)  
for Teens 13 - 18 Years  
Commencing 7:00pm

## ARISE !!!

MARONITE YOUTH CONVENTION  
SAVE THE DATE  
2ND - 4TH DECEMBER  
LOCATION: THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE - STANWELL TOPS

GUEST SPEAKERS | HAFLE NIGHT | & MORE  
"MARY AROSE AND LEFT WITH HOPE"

## BIBLE STUDIES

Every Monday  
7:00pm  
Church Hall

Presented in English and Arabic

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

Memorial Masses			نوايا القديسات	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	11am	Late John Raymond Baynie	قداس المرحوم جان رايمون البعيني	الاحد ٢١ اب ٢٠٢٢
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	9am	Late Shukri and Najeh Khoudair	قداس المرحومين شكري ونجاح خضير	الاحد ٢٨ اب ٢٠٢٢
	11am	Late Youssef Nassif Nassif	قداس المرحوم يوسف ناصيف ناصيف	

Congratulations to the Newly Weds: John Paul Halabi and Natalie Saliba

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Veronica and Jonathon Nassif

# Children's Corner: Jesus and the Canaanite Woman Find-A-Word

E	P	E	H	S	P	A	R	C	S
T	E	R	A	S	E	N	N	E	G
I	O	L	L	E	W	I	S	R	O
N	S	R	D	O	O	F	A	H	D
A	T	R	M	P	E	N	O	D	E
A	I	A	A	E	T	S	O	L	S
N	N	T	L	E	N	Y	F	I	U
A	A	B	D	H	L	T	R	V	O
C	A	L	H	S	I	W	E	E	H
T	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	D	S

GENNESARET TYRE CANAANITE  
 DAUGHTER DEVIL LOST  
 SHEEP WOMAN HOUSEDOGS  
 SCRAPS TABLE WELL



## Parish Financial Updates

**Parish Income (week ending 14/08/22)**

TBA

**Parish Operations Account**

\$61,513.69

**Parish Loan Balance**

\$576,941.83

**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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Follow us on Instagram

## Business Community Corner

# Laing + Simmons

**Chris Khoudair**

Principal

0405 122 331 | 02 9875 1777

[chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au](mailto:chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au)

**Pennant Hills**

100 Yarrara Road,

Pennant Hills NSW 2120

[lsre.com.au/pennanthills](http://lsre.com.au/pennanthills)



TRUSTED, RELIABLE, ON TIME EVERY TIME HELPER!

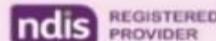
- ✓ Assistance with Travel/Transport
- ✓ Assistance with Household Tasks
- ✓ Daily Personal Activities
- ✓ Development of Daily Life and Life Skills
- ✓ Innovative Community Participation
- ✓ Community, Social and Civic Activities

Contact May Bou Mansour on 0452 223 714

Email [info@magnoliahelpinghands.com.au](mailto:info@magnoliahelpinghands.com.au)

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