

# 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)*

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

Year 2022, Issue #35



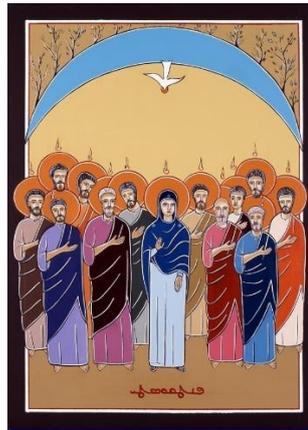
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## The Gospel

Luke 8: 1-15

Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources. When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.'" "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

## Season of Pentecost



Next Sunday

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of

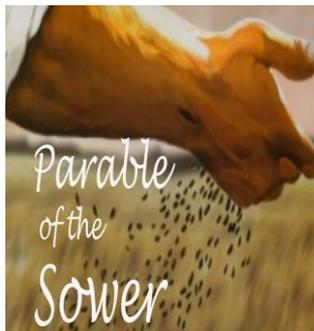
Pentecost

Epistle

1 Thess 2: 1-13

Gospel

Luke 10: 38-42-15



## الإنجيل

لو ٨: ١-١٥

أَحَدَ يَسُوعَ يَطُوفُ الْمَدِينِ وَالْقُرَى، يُنَادِي وَيُبَشِّرُ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، وَمَعَهُ اثْنَا عَشَرَ، وَبَعْضُ النِّسَاءِ اللَّوَاتِي شَفَاهُنَّ مِنْ أَرْوَاحِ شَرِيرَةٍ وَأَمْرَاضٍ، هُنَّ: مَرْيَمُ الْمَدْعُودَةُ بِالْمَجْدَلِيَّةِ، الَّتِي كَانَ قَدْ خَرَجَ مِنْهَا سَبْعَةُ شَيْطَانِينَ، وَحَتَّى أَمْرَأَةٌ خُوزَى وَكَيْلِ هِيرُودُسَ، وَسُوسَنَةَ، وَعَبْرَهُنَّ كَثِيرَاتٍ كُنَّ يَبْدُلْنَ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِنَّ فِي خِدْمَتِهِمْ. وَلَمَّا أَحْتَشَدَ جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ، وَأَقْبَلَ النَّاسُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَدِينَةٍ، حَاطَبَهُمْ بِمَثَلٍ: «خَرَجَ الزَّارِعُ لِيَزْرَعَ زَرْعَهُ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَزْرَعُ، وَقَعَ بَعْضُ الْحَبِّ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ، فَدَاسَتْهُ الْأَقْدَامُ، وَأَكَلَتْهُ طُيُورُ السَّمَاءِ. وَوَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ، وَمَا إِنَّ نَبَتَ حَتَّى يَسَى، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ رُطُوبَةٌ. وَوَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي وَسْطِ الشُّوكِ، وَنَبَتَ الشُّوكُ مَعَهُ فَخَنَّقَهُ. وَوَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الصَّالِحَةِ، وَنَبَتَ فَأَثْمَرَ مِئَةَ ضِعْفٍ. قَالَ يَسُوعُ هَذَا، وَنَادَى: «مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ سَامِعَتَانِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ!». «وَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ: «مَا تَرَاهُ يَعْني هَذَا الْمَثَلُ؟». فَقَالَ: «قَدْ أُعْطِيَ لَكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَسْرَارَ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ. أَمَّا الْبَاقُونَ فَأَكَلِمَهُمْ بِالْأَمْثَالِ، لِكَيْ يَنْظُرُوا فَلَا يَبْصُرُوا، وَيَسْمَعُوا فَلَا يَفْهَمُوا. وَهَذَا هُوَ مَعْنَى الْمَثَلِ: الزَّارِعُ هُوَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ، ثُمَّ يَأْتِي إِبْلِيسُ فَيَنْتَرِعُ الْكَلِمَةَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ، لِئَلَّا يُؤْمِنُوا فَيَخْلُصُوا. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ وَيُفَلِّسُونَهَا بِفَرْحٍ؛ هُوَ لَا أَصْلَ لَهُمْ، فَهَمُ يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَى جِينِ، وَفِي وَقْتِ التَّجَرُّبَةِ يَتَرَجَعُونَ. وَالَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الشُّوكِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ وَيَمْضُونَ، فَتَخَنَّقُهُمُ الْهَيْبَةُ وَالغَنَى وَمَلَذَاتُ الْحَيَاةِ، فَلَا يَنْضِجُ لَهُمْ ثَمَرٌ. أَمَّا الَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْجَيِّدَةِ فَهَمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ بِقَلْبٍ جَيِّدٍ صَالِحٍ فَيَحْفَظُونَهَا، وَيَبْتَنُونَ فِيثْمِرُونَ.

## 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

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost and Feast of Blessed Estephan Nehme



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

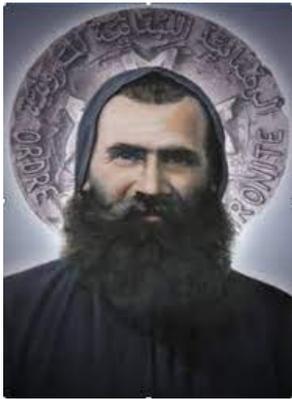
On this Sunday, the Church calls us to reflect on the Parable of the Sower. We know this text well; we often hear it in church. But what do we do with it?

What land are we when we hear the Word of God? This is indeed a question that every believer must always bear in mind. How carefully do I listen to the Word of God? With what heart do I receive it? With what love, what perseverance, do I strive to live it daily in my life? The Word of God must be received in detail and each of these details must find its place in our lives!

Christian life is adherence to the Word of God, which is a permanent source of conversion in us. But we still have to be really good soil, otherwise it will produce nothing or very little!

God comes to us with His word, let us open our hearts to Him, and allow the Word to do its work of life in us.

#### Feast of Blessed Estephan Nehme



We celebrate on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August the Feast of Blessed Estephan Nehme, Monk of the Lebanese Maronite Order. Brother Estephan was born in Lefed, North Lebanon, on 8 March 1889, and was baptised at the Church of Our Lady in the village and given the name Youssef. Youssef learned to love God and His mother, the Blessed Virgin, since his childhood.

In 1905, at the age of 16, Youssef Nehme left his parental home, heading to the monastery of St. Cyprian and Justina in Kfifan, to become a monk of the Lebanese Maronite Order. He entered the novitiate and took the name Estephan. He lived for 31 years in the Order as a “worker brother” who worked in the gardens and orchards of monasteries. He also mastered carpentry and stone masonry. He was a silent worker who sought holiness in the smallest of deeds that he did with love, care and dedication.

He passed away on 30 August 1938 at the age of 49 at the Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina in Kfifan. On 10 March 1951, while the community of the monastery was burying another monk, they found that the body of Brother Estephan was still incorrupt. His body was moved to a new tomb where it still rests today and is visited by pilgrims seeking his prayers, blessing and intercession.

We pray today to the Lord who called Brother Estephan to be one of the servants of His house, where he lived his short life with faith and steadfastness, and enriched the church with fraternal love that brought him to holiness. May he be for us an example of sacrifice, selflessness and discipleship so we may live our life with the awareness that “God sees us” at all times. Amen.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

## The Word from Your Servant

I know that the celebration of Father's Day is not until next weekend. But, fathers are so important that I wanted to start our reflection about them this week. Where better to start than to revisit the letter of Pope Francis in the year of St Joseph – *Patris Corde*. As you each prepare to celebrate Father's Day in your own way (including prayers for our fathers that have left this world), I encourage you to re-read *Patris Corde* ([https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)).

Pope Francis wrote the letter to remind us of how St Joseph can help us with the care of our family and our society. Of course we all have this responsibility – even a little baby's smile is beneficial to the family and society. But fathers in particular, do carry a special responsibility.

Pope Francis identified seven features of St Joseph which in so many ways reflects many of our fathers' attributes and that of our loving God the Father. I will discuss a few this week and the remaining ones next week.

First, the beloved Father. By accepting his role as communicated to him by the Angel Gabriel, St Joseph assumed quite the sacrificial role in the plan of salvation. He was not only the earthly husband of our Lady, and the father of Jesus, but he also gave up his own aspirations to have his own children. How much more can a real father love? He placed his love at the service of Christ and our Lady, and really at the service of God's will.

I have no doubt that the fathers in our families do the same – they sacrifice for the love of their wives and their children. How many fathers work tirelessly outside the home and then inside, and then despite their tiredness, continue with a smile? Blessed be God for the heart of the father. We pray to God the Father, who made the ultimate sacrifice of His Son, that our fathers will continue to sacrifice with love and joy and that we may strive to love them back unconditionally.

Second, the tender and loving father. Pope Francis is sure that St Joseph bestowed a lot of affection on Jesus and our Lady. Pope Francis states “*Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses.*”

The best way for fathers to approach their families is with tenderness. We all learn tenderness in the Sacrament of Confession because in that Sacrament we experience God's truth and tenderness. If we are on good terms with God, and this means accepting His will, we will then be able to show tenderness and love to our family members despite the difficulties we have before us.

Third, an obedient father. St Joseph, like us, was born of original sin. He was a man who worked hard, loved a beautiful young lady, and no doubt had aspirations to have a family of his own with the lady to whom he was betrothed. By choosing to accept God's will in his marriage and being obedient to God, St Joseph shows how to bring God into your marriage – that is by obeying God in our marriage. In doing so, St Joseph welcomed God the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis wrote: “*In every situation, Joseph declared his own “fiat,” like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.... In his role as the head of a family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents (cf. Lk 2:51), in accordance with God's command (cf. Ex 20:12)....During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. That will was to be his daily food (cf. Jn 4:34).*”

All of us, and especially fathers, are called upon to be obedient to God in every part of our lives and in particular before our children so that our children can grow in confidence to also obey God in their lives. Fathers are the first examples for their children and if the children, like Jesus, see them like St Joseph, obeying God completely and with happiness, they will have less fear and subsequently more courage to do so as well. When we obey God with love we welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives.

I pray for all the fathers in our Parish. May they adopt the ways of St Joseph in their day to day lives – living with love, tenderness and obedience their vocation.

I look forward to celebrating Father's Day with the fathers, uncles, God Fathers and grandfathers this Saturday night. Have a blessed week!  
Fr Claude Rizk

# Parish News and Upcoming Events

**MOVIE NIGHT**

**Sunday 28th August**

Entry by Donation  
Location: Church Carpark  
For people aged 16+ after 6pm Youth Mass

**HUSTLE**  
NEVER GOIT ON YOUR DREAMS

**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



**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

**Weekly Teens Gathering**

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

**WORLD Youth Day 2023**

HOLY LAND & PORTUGAL | 22 DAYS  
21 July - 11 August 2023

For all Maronite Youth, Adults & Families, join our Australian Maronite WYD 2023 Group to experience an unforgettable faith journey filled with God's Grace as we travel to the Holy Land and then Portugal, together with Monsignor Shora Merre and Fr. Charbel Dib as our Chaplains. Join us as we join Pope Francis, with Catholic Youth, Adults and Families from all over the world in Lisbon for the 14th International WYD, a pilgrimage of a lifetime.

MISSION WORK IN LEBANON (OPTIONAL) | 8 DAYS  
11th - 20th August 2023  
TBC (Mission work and accommodation)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT TINA SALAME  
EMAIL: TINASALAME@HOTMAIL.COM  
PHONE: 0448 247 336

DAY 1: Friday 21 July (Fly Directly to Mt. Athos)  
DAY 2: Saturday 22 July (Arrive The Holy Land)  
DAY 3: Sunday 23 July (Bethlehem & Surrounds)  
DAY 4: Monday 24 July (Dead Sea & Jericho to Galilee)  
DAY 5: Tuesday 25 July (Nazareth & Cana)  
DAY 6: Wednesday 26 July (Sea of Galilee)  
DAY 7: Thursday 27 July (Sea of Galilee)  
DAY 8: Friday 28 July (St. Mary Major & Queens & Jerusalem)  
DAY 9: Saturday 29 July (Jerusalem)  
DAY 10: Sunday 30 July (Jerusalem)  
DAY 11: Monday 31 July (Depart to Portugal)  
DAY 12: Tuesday 1 August (WYD Week Lisbon)  
DAY 13: Wednesday 2 August (WYD Week Lisbon)  
DAY 14: Thursday 3 August (WYD Week Lisbon)  
DAY 15: Friday 4 August (WYD Week Lisbon)  
DAY 16: Saturday 5 August (WYD Week Lisbon)  
DAY 17: Sunday 6 August (14th International World Youth Day)  
DAY 18: Monday 7 August (Depart Lisbon for Port-WYD Return)  
DAY 19: Tuesday 8 August (Fátima & Return Day)  
DAY 20: Wednesday 9 August (Fátima & Return Day)  
DAY 21: Thursday 10 August (Portugal to Lebanon - Optional)  
DAY 22 - 29: 11-20 August (Mission America in Lebanon)  
DAY 30: Saturday 19 August (Depart for Sydney)  
DAY 31: Sunday 20 August (Active in Australia)

PILEDGE ITINERARY

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WYD LISBON 2023

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

REGISTRATIONS OPEN IN OCTOBER

COST \$7,500 PP (THE HOLY LAND & WYD EXCL LEBANON)  
COST \$1,900 (LEBANON OPTIONAL, INCL FLIGHTS & ACCOMMODATION TBC)

\$1,000 DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO SECURE YOUR BOOKING

Memorial Masses		نوايا القداسات	
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	9am	Late Shukri and Najeh Khoudair	قداست المرحومين شكري ونجاح خضير
	11am	Late Youssef Nassif Nassif	قداست المرحوم يوسف ناصيف ناصيف
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022	9am	Late Adele Wehbe	قداست المرحومة اادل وهبه
	11am	40 <sup>th</sup> Mass for the Late Sleiman Elias Charrara	قداست ٤٠ المرحوم سليمان الياس شراره

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Michael Nabih Moit and Chloe Marie Khoudair

## Children's Corner: Parable of the Sower Find-A-Word

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



PLANTS	SCORCH	FARMER	THORNS	CROP
WITHER	BIRDS	ROOT	CHOKE	SOIL
FELL	PARABLE	SCATTER	SEED	GREW
ROCKY	SHALLOW	GOOD	SOW	PATH

<b>Parish Financial Updates</b>		<b>To receive our eNewsletter please email</b>	
<b>Parish Income (week ending 14/08 - 21/08/22)</b>		<b><a href="mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au" style="color: yellow;">info@stgeorgemcc.org.au</a></b>	
\$7690.95		<b>Subscribe to our Channel</b>	
<b>Parish Operations Account</b>	<b>Parish Loan Balance</b>		<b><a href="#">St George Maronite Catholic Church</a></b>
\$38,820.44	\$576,941.83		
<b>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)</b>		<b>'like' us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram</b>	

## 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)

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ON TIME EVERY TIME HELPER!**

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- ✓ 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)

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# Homefront

real estate

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