

St George Maronite Catholic Church,
Thornleigh



Our Parish

Sunday of the Visitation to Elizabeth

Sunday 27th November 2022

Year 2022, Issue #48

The Gospel

Luke 1: 39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Season of the Birth of Our Lord



Next Sunday
**Birth of John the
Baptist**

Epistle

Gal 4: 21-5:1

Gospel

Luke 1: 57-66

الإنجيل

لو ١: ٣٩-٤٥

في تلك الأيام (بعد البشارة
بیسوع)، قامت مريم وذهبت
مُسْرِعَةً إلى الجبل، إلى مَدِينَةٍ في
يَهُودَا. ودخلت بيت زكريَّا، وسلّمت
على إيصابات. ولما سمعت
إِيصَابَاتُ سَلامِ مَريمَ، ارتكض
الجنين في بطنها، وأمتلات من
الرُّوحِ القُدُسِ. فهتفت بأعلى صوتها
وقالت: «مباركة أنت في النساء،
ومباركة ثمرة بطنك! ومن أين لي
هذا، أن تأتي إليّ أم ربي؟ فها منذُ
وقّع صوت سلامك في أذنيّ،
ارتكض الجنين أبتهاجًا في بطني!
فطوبى للتي آمنت أنه سيتم ما قيل
لها من قبل الرب!».

Divine Liturgy and Services

Sundays: 9:00am (Arabic), 11:00am (Arabic/English), 6:00pm (English)

Mondays and Tuesdays: 9:00am **Wednesdays – Saturdays:** 6:00pm

Confessions: By Appointment **Sick Visits:** Contact Clergy or the Parish Office (contact details below)

Parish and Ministry Team and Contact Details

Acting Parish Priest: Mons Marcelino Youssef 0404 272 272

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Alain Fares 0433 507 389 **Deacon:** Nagi Dimian 0403 750 613

Parish Secretary: TBA **Admin Assistant:** Rose Zeaiter **Phone:** (02) 9481 7388 or 0422 275 199

Office Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays 9:00am - 5.00pm; Saturdays 9:00am - 3:00pm

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Margaret Simpson 0408 895 798, 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 Message Year of Hope Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
This Sunday's Gospel of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth is one of the most joyful in our liturgical year. With Mary, we reflect on all that the Lord has done for us and magnify Him for all His marvels.

According to St. Luke, "Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country" (Luke 1:39) to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

The story of the Visitation features two mothers and their two unborn children. However, the lead character as this scene unfolds is the Holy Spirit. Mary is filled with the Holy Spirit—the Holy Spirit overshadows her—and in response to the message of the Archangel, she rushes to Zechariah's house. It is the Holy Spirit who guides Elizabeth to greet Mary with those memorable words, and it is also He who inspires Mary to rejoice with her canticle of thanksgiving, the Magnificat.

From the early chapters of the Gospels, we foresee the role that the Spirit will play in the life of the nascent Church. Through the Spirit, the child in Elizabeth's womb, who will be the greatest among the prophets, attests that the child within Mary's womb is truly the Son of God.

Joy is the common trait of all those who have been touched by the Spirit: Elizabeth is filled with happiness from the visit of the mother of her Lord. John the Baptist leaps with joy within her womb, and Mary exalts the Lord, her spirit exulting in God her Saviour.

In bringing the unborn Christ to Zechariah's house, Mary witnesses the fruits of Christ's presence. The baby in Elizabeth's womb professes his faith in a manner appropriate to an unborn child, while his mother professes her faith in Christ's presence within his mother. As Pope Francis writes: "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." (Evangelii Gaudium 1)

Friends, if the coming of the Child Jesus brings such happiness and joy, how much more should the certainty of the presence of the Risen Lord in the heart of our Church be a reason for joy for all believers. Saint Paul exhorts us in his letter to the Romans to "Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection..." and then he continues: "Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." (Rom 12: 9-11)

On this Sunday, let us pray to Almighty God, who inspired the Virgin Mary, who bore His own Son within her, to visit her cousin Elizabeth. We ask Him to grant us to be obedient to the breath of the Spirit so that we too can magnify Him eternally.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week "Visitation to Elizabeth"

Hurry up. Come on. Speed it up. A matter of urgency overcomes us when we have something of great importance that we want to attend to. In today's Gospel, Mary has a matter of urgency about her.

We read, 'Mary set out and went with great haste' (v39). Why the hurry? Obviously, she was bursting with good news. Mary could not contain her excitement and so rushed to Elizabeth. We are grateful that Elizabeth was more than happy to hear what Mary had rushed to tell.

God bursts onto the scene of our lives often unexpectedly. We suddenly find ourselves gazed upon with love. We have those 'magical' moments that transform us. Often, they are fleeting but the impression lingers on.

And yet today the biggest threat to the proclamation of the good news is an apathy among many. People do not care. They lack an interest in God and are impervious to grace. If someone has had a profound experience of God, well good luck to them, but it has nothing to do with the other. We shut ourselves to others. We do not want their 'good news.' We do not want to be bothered with God talk. We want to be left alone to take life as we want it.

However, once we have been graced by God, we cannot be silenced by the disinterest of others. Our lives, like Mary, is to be one of constantly making present the joy of God to all whom we meet. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf



كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

في هذا الإنجيل، مثال لعيش الدَّعوة إلى القِداسة... فَمَرِيَمَ، ابْنَةَ الوَعْدِ، التي عَرَفَتْ كَم هي محبوبَةٌ من الله، عاشت دَعوتها إلى القِداسة بالْحُبِّ والعَطَاءِ. فَقد حَلَّ الرُّوحُ القُدُسُ عَليها، فَمَا كانَ مِنْها سِوى الإِنطلاقِ للخدمة... لذلكَ قامت مُسرعة، ولم تُفَكِّرْ بِذاتِها، لِخدمة نَسِيبتها البِصابات. لِذلكَ، عِنْدَ لِقائِها بِنَسِيبتها صارَت الفَرحة، وإرتكضَ الجَنِينُ في بطنِ العاقرِ فَصَرَحتْ: مُباركة أنتِ في النِّساء! لِمَذا؟ لأنَّ مَرِيَمَ عَرَفَتْ أن تحمِلَ البَرَكَةَ. قَبِلتِ يَسوعَ مَحَبوبَ الأبِ في أحشائها، وكَمَا أعطى الأبُ ابْنَهُ للعالمِ، أعطتِ مَرِيَمَ ذاتِها للخدمة وعَمَلِ المَحَبَّةِ. هذا الحُبُّ هُوَ البَرَكَةُ الساكنةُ فيها... مُباركة تُمرَّةٌ بطنكِ: لأنَّ هذه الثَّمرةُ هي عَطيَّةُ الحُبِّ للعالمِ... هذه الثَّمرةُ هي خُبزُ الحياة الذي يُكسِرُ لِمَغفِرَةِ الحُطايا... هذه الثَّمرةُ هي يَسوعُ: أعظمَ قِصةِ حُبِّ كَتَبَها بِدمِهِ... هذه الثَّمرةُ هي يَسوعُ الذي أعطى ذاته لِحياةِ الجَميعِ... لِذلكَ:

- في كُلِّ مَرَّةٍ نَبْذُلُ دَواتنا في الخدمة نَحْنُ مُباركون.
- وفي كُلِّ مَرَّةٍ نَجْعَلُ يَسوعَ ظاهراً في أَوالنا وأَفعالنا نَحْنُ نُثَمِرُ ثَمارَ البَرَكَةِ.

www.kobayat.org

Parish News and Upcoming Events

ST GEORGE MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THORNLEIGH

Carols by Candlelight

FREE OUTDOOR EVENT

Saturday 17th December 2022
Mass @ 5:30pm
Carols @ 7:00pm

LIVE PERFORMANCES (including ELLA E)

CHARACTERS

SANTA CLAUS

STALLS

FACE PAINTING

ST GEORGE MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THORNLEIGH

CAROLS BY CANDELIGHT

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking potential sponsors to assist in hosting our Carols by Candlelight. With the support of our sponsors, we hope to cover the expenses in order for the event to operate.

<p>PLATINUM \$4,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banner display at the event Advertising table for your business at the event Advertising in the event booklet provided Advertising in the Parish Newsletter and Social Media Business recognition on the evening 	<p>GOLD \$2,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising in the event booklet provided Advertising in the Parish Newsletter and Social Media Business recognition on the evening
<p>SILVER \$1,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising in the event booklet provided Thank you Message in the Parish Newsletter and Social Media Business recognition on the evening 	<p>EVENT PARTNER \$500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising in the event booklet provided

To sponsor or for more information, please contact
 Elie Asmar 0411 129 956
 Belinda Srour 0416 012 603

TEENS END OF YEAR

class of 2022

D.J. DINNER PARTY

AGES 12-18YRS BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Wednesday 7th December
7.00pm-9.30pm

PRAYING FOR ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER

EUCCHARISTIC Adoration

7.30PM TILL MIDNIGHT
STARTING THE ROSARY AT 9PM

ST GEORGE YOUTH HARBOUR CRUISE

SAVE THE DATE
17 FEB 2023

Gingerbread House Making

10 DECEMBER 3-5PM

Reserve your \$40 kit by 30 November

Call Margaret Michael 0412198034 or Rachel Ive 0401984036

REJOICE WITH THE ANGELS FOR THE STAR OF THE WORLD IS BORN

Order your personalised angel or star bauble to display on our parish family Christmas tree. Choose your preferred bauble in red, silver or gold colour.

Order via a church donation and contacting Margaret Michael 0412198034 before 3 December 2022

2023 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

To register your child, please contact Margaret Simpson 0408 895 798

Deacon Nagi will be on leave from Monday 21st November 2022 until 8th January 2023.

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Saturday 26 th Nov 2022	6pm	Late George Nabih Moit	قداس المرحوم جورج نبيه معيط	٦ :٠٠	السبت ٢٦ ٢٠٢٢
Sunday 27 th Nov 2022	11am	Late William Kalim Ghazi	قداس المرحوم ويليام كلیم غازي	١١ :٠٠	الاحد ٢٧ ٢٠٢٢

Congratulations to the newly Baptised: Christian John-Paul Khamis and Teresa Joukhadar



**DONATIONS
NEEDED FOR
MONTHLY
FOOD RUNS**

MEAL ITEMS SUCH AS:
Sandwiches, Fruit, Hot
Meals, Cakes, Bread

For more information
please contact:
Ann-Marie Boumerhe
0420 309 677
George Takchi
0419 651 229

**Maronites on Mission +
St George Youth
Christmas Food Run**



- ✓ 14th December
- ✓ Meet at St George Church at 4:45pm
- ✓ Strictly 18+
- ✓ Contact Natalie 0406654295 or Ann-Marie 0420309677



**Sodality of the Immaculate Conception
welcomes new
members - any ages!**

**NOW
COMMENCING
IN ENGLISH.**

For more information,
please contact Deacon
Nagi or Josephine Zeaiter

ARISE III 

MARONITE YOUTH CONVENTION

2ND - 4TH DECEMBER | 2022

LOCATION THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE - STANWELL TOPS

PRICING NSW ATTENDEES: \$250
INTERSTATE: \$100

REGISTER MYDC.ORG.AU/ARISE

TALKS | ADORATION | HAFLE NIGHT | & MORE

MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH HOPE

ARISE III 

MARONITE YOUTH CONVENTION

PACKAGES

FULL PACKAGE (FRI/SAT/SUN):	\$250
2 DAYS 1 NIGHT INCL. ACCOMMODATION:	\$200
1 DAY 1 NIGHT INCL. ACCOMMODATION:	\$100
1 DAY NO ACCOMMODATION:	\$80
INTERSTATE:	\$100

MYDC.ORG.AU/ARISE

MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH HOPE

Parish Financial Updates		To receive our eNewsletter please email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au	
Parish Income (fortnight 13/11/2022 – 27/11/2022) \$3,794.30		 Subscribe to our Channel St George Maronite Catholic Church	 'like' us on Facebook
Parish Operations Account \$78,215.33	Parish Loan Balance \$559,887.14		
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)			

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
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For more information on advertising, please contact
the Parish Office 9481 7388 or email
info@stgeorgemcc.org.au