



St George Maronite Catholic Church,
Thornleigh



Our Parish

Sunday of the Faithful Departed

Sunday 12th February 2023

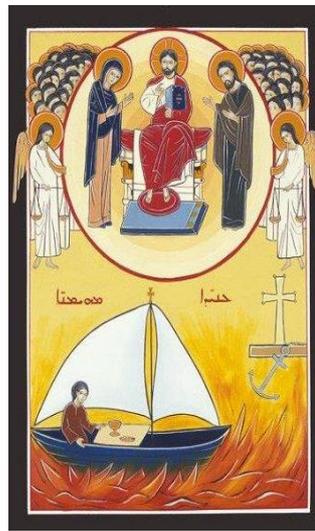
Year 2023, Issue #7

The Gospel

Luke 16: 19-31

'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house for I have five brothers that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Weeks of Commemoration



Next Sunday

**Cana Sunday:
Entrance into Lent**

**Old Testament
Reading**

Isa 55: 1, 6-13

Epistle

Rom 14: 14-23

Gospel

John 2: 1-11

الإنجيل

لو ١٦: ١٩-٣١

قال الرب يسوع: «كان رجلٌ غنيٌّ يلبسُ الأرجوانَ والكتانَ النَّاعمَ، وَيَتَنَعَّمُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ بِأَفْخَرِ الْوَلَدَانِ. وكان رجلٌ مسكينٌ اسمه لعازرٌ مطروحًا عندَ بابِهِ، تَكْسُوهُ القُرُوحُ. وكان يشتهي أن يشبعَ مِنَ الفَتَاتِ المِتْسَاقِطِ مِنَ مَائِدَةِ الغنيِّ، غَيْرَ أَنَّ الكِلَابَ كانت تأتي فتَلحَسُ قُرُوحَهُ. وماتَ المسكينُ فحَمَلَتْهُ الملائكةُ إلى حِضْنِ إبراهيمَ. ثمَّ ماتَ الغنيُّ ودُفِنَ. ورفَعَ الغنيُّ عينيه، وهو في الجحيمِ يقاسي العذابَ، فرأى إبراهيمَ من بعيدٍ، ولعازرٌ في حِضْنِهِ. فنَادى وقال: يا أبتَ إبراهيمَ، ارحمني وأرسلْ لعازرَ ليبلِّ طَرْفَ إصْبَعِهِ بماءٍ ويبردَ لساني، لأني متوجِّعٌ في هذا اللَّهبِ. فقال إبراهيمُ: يا أبنِي، تذكَّرُ أَنَّكَ بَلْتَ حَبْرَاتِكَ في حَيَاتِكَ، ولعازرٌ نالَ البِلَايَا. والآنَ هو يتعزَّى هنا، وأنتَ تتوجِّعُ. ومَعَ هذا كُلِّهِ، فإنَّ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ هُوَّةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ ثابتَةٌ، حتَّى إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُريدُونَ أَنْ يَجْتَازُوا مِنْ هُنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ، ولا مِنْ هُنَاكَ أَنْ يَغْبِرُوا إِلَيْنَا. فقال الغنيُّ: أسألكَ إذا، يا أبتَ، أن تُرْسِلَ لعازرَ إلى بيتِ أبي، فإنَّ لي خَمْسَةَ إِخْوَةٍ، ليشهدَ لَهُمْ، كي لا يأتوا هُمُ أيضًا إلى مَكَانِ العذابِ هذا. فقال إبراهيمُ: عندهم موسى والأنبياءُ، فلْيَسْمَعُوا لَهُمْ. فقال: لا، يا أبتَ إبراهيمَ، ولكن إذا مضى إِلَيْهِمْ واحدٌ مِنَ الأمواتِ يتوبونَ. فقال له إبراهيمُ: إن كانوا لا يسمعونَ لموسى والأنبياءَ، فإنَّهُمْ، ولو قامَ واحدٌ مِنَ الأمواتِ، لَنْ يَفْتَنُوا!».

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

Parish Priest: Mons Marcelino Youssef 0404 272 272

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Bechara Trad 0403 725 134

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 "Launch of the Jubilee Year"

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
We celebrated this past Thursday the feast of our spiritual father, Saint Maroun, and the launch of the Jubilee Year of our Eparchy marking 50 years since its establishment, under the theme – *The Maronites in Australia: A Journey of Holiness and Openness*.



First and foremost, we paused to remember those suffering from the devastating effects of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the very region where Saint Maroun and his disciples lived and preached. We must continue to pray, especially for those who have lost their lives and their loved ones, as well as the countless others who are displaced or injured in any way. May our Lord God, through the intercession of Saint Maroun, console those who are bereaved, aid the provision of relief, strengthen the work of emergency teams, and shine His light and hope in the midst of despair.

At the beginning of this Jubilee Year, we can look back with gratitude for so much that has been achieved in the past 50 years of the Eparchy noting that the history of the Maronites in this country is much older: it goes back more than 150 years. For more than one hundred years, pioneer priests and religious sisters embedded the seeds also planted over one thousand six hundred years by St Maroun and his disciples. We can say these have come to fruition in this land enabling the establishment of an Eparchy led by a Bishop, and making it possible for the Maronites of Australia to accomplish all the wonderful things they have. The lives of St Maroun and his disciples, and the people of the Maronite Church were indeed journeys of holiness and openness. Just as our forebears prepared the harvest which we now bring in, what harvest are we preparing for those who come after us?

In 1973 and with the arrival of our first Bishop, we had four priests, and three religious sisters. In 2023, we have 58 priests and 20 religious sisters. In 1973, we had 4 parishes, two of them without a parish Church, and one wonderful school. In 2023, we have 21 churches and chapels, eight schools, five aged care centres; and the vision for our Eparchy reflected in our pastoral priorities (2021-2027), has a lot of potential for a better future for our Church community.

I am very grateful for all of you the Maronite faithful, for all what you have done to ensure we continue our journey together forward. Here I mean everyone, from all the staff and volunteers, those who have donated in one way or another, those who bake and make meals and sweets, those who help maintain our parishes, those whose hearts burn with love for our church regardless of the challenges. I am also very grateful for the priests and religious monks and nuns, from the very first who set foot on this land, to the newest, for their work and dedication to our mission.

We must always remind ourselves that the journey of holiness and openness begins right here, right now, with us. However, it does not end with us. It is for our children, their children, and our brethren all over the world.

I pray with you and with all the Australian Maronites so that, in this year, we become even more aware of the responsibility which God has given us in this blessed land. I wish you all a Blessed Jubilee Year!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week: "Faithful Departed"

In this is the final week of commemorations, we dedicate it to all the faithful departed (known as All Souls Day in the Roman Catholic Church). We acknowledge all who have passed away and the importance of their life of good works on earth.

Our Gospel passage is the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus. It reminds us of last Sunday's Gospel where those who cared for the least were praised and those who failed to, were condemned. In today's Gospel we focus on a particular example. The poor man Lazarus did not receive any empathy from his neighbour and died in poverty. However, he then lived an eternal life of joy. The rich man did nothing in his life to help the poor. He slipped into a life of torment and eternal misery.

There is the saying, what we sow is what we reap, and what goes round, comes round. Yet, more than this, the lesson for us as Christians is to come to the realisation, sooner rather than later, that we will always have the poor with us and that we need to do something about it. Our whole life lies ahead of us. Are we going to live it making a positive difference to the lives of others?

There is a matter of urgency in this parable. We need to change our self-centred ways before it is too late. We need to welcome and enfold those around us with care and love. That action alone will make much more difference to us and the world than all our wealth ever can. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

Remembering Our Faithful Departed

The Maronite Catholic Church today celebrates all the faithful Christians who have departed this life in the faith. It is a Christian obligation for us to help our brothers and sisters through our prayers and our offering of the Divine Mysteries for their salvation. The Faithful Departed are called to ultimately enter the kingdom of light and peace. Our intercession can bring them nearer to the day of eternal happiness. We should pray in a special way for those who have been near us in our lives and have gone to God and living in his Kingdom. Why do we pray for the faithful departed who have left us? We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.



كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

نترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر العتيق. هذا هو ايماننا ورجاؤنا نعلنه خاصة اليوم في تذكار الموتى. بعد احد الابرار والصدقيين الاسبوع الماضي، والذين يؤلفون الكنيسة المنتصرة في السماء، نذكر اليوم الكنيسة المتألّمة في المطهر، فنصلي لامواتنا الذين سبقونا وهم بانتظار التمتع بالملكوت السماوي. في قراءات اليوم دعوة الى السهر واليقظ، فالمؤمنون يعرفون ان الموت يأتي بغتة لأنهم ابناء النور؛ وفيها ايضا مثل لعازر والغني ورهبة المصير. الموت يضع حداً لحياة الانسان على الارض. يتكلم العهد الجديد على الدينونة عند مجيء المسيح الثاني. لكنه يؤكد ايضا الدينونة المباشرة بعد الموت. فمثل لعازر والغني اليوم ونصوص غيرها تثبت ذلك. وبالنهاية كل انسان ينال مصيره الابدي، إما الدخول مباشرة الى سعادة السماء، وإما عبر التطهير، وإما الهلاك الفوري والدائم. وفي مساء حياتنا سوف تُدان على المحبة.

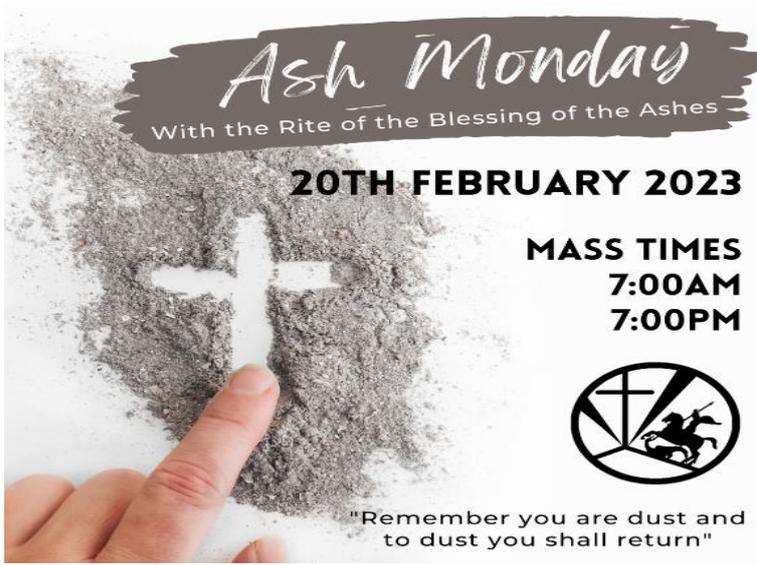
Parish News and Upcoming Events

Ash Monday

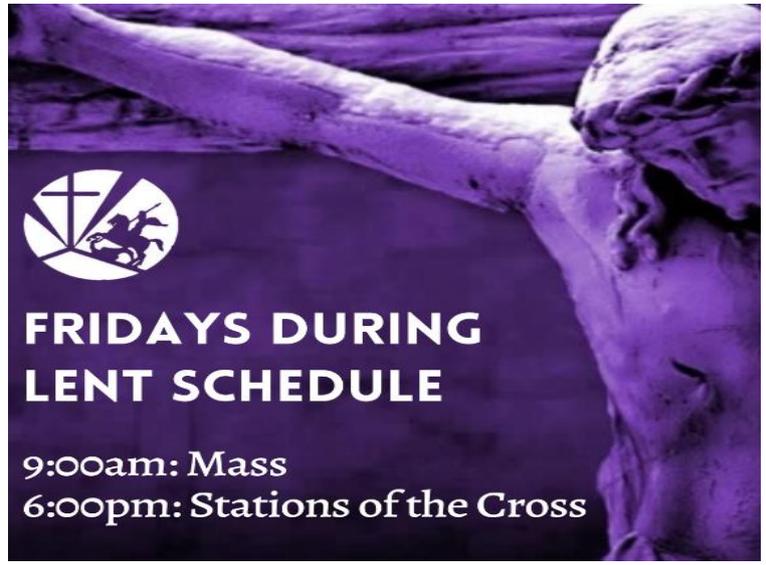
With the Rite of the Blessing of the Ashes

20TH FEBRUARY 2023

MASS TIMES
7:00AM
7:00PM




"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return"




FRIDAYS DURING LENT SCHEDULE

9:00am: Mass
6:00pm: Stations of the Cross



FERSEN

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR TEAM

MUST LOVE CHILDREN
AND HAVE A PASSION TO HELP THEM GROW IN FAITH

EVERY SATURDAY
4.00PM-5.30PM



CONTACT EVETTE ZEAITER 0406997100




SAINT GEORGE MARONITE TEENS

Weekly Teens Gathering

Every Wednesday (during School Term) for Teens 13 - 18 Years

RETURNING WEDNESDAY
15TH FEBRUARY 2023
Commencing 7:00pm





2023 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

REGISTRATIONS CLOSING END OF FEBRUARY



Aged Care Program

If anyone is interested in joining the Aged Care Program or volunteering, please contact:
Zaride 0417 427 661
Josephine 0426 239 129



ST GEORGE YOUTH HARBOUR CRUISE



SOLD OUT

17 FEB 2023



MARONITES AUSTRALIA

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

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP




JOIN THE PARISH CHOIR

We are seeking new members for our Parish Choirs to serve our weekend Masses

Saturdays 6pm
Sundays 9am, 11am, 6pm

If interested, or for more information, please contact the Parish Office.




ADORATION

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS

THIS THURSDAY
7.30PM-8.30PM

CONFESSION AVAILABLE

Jesus we trust in you






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

NOW COMMENCING IN ENGLISH.

For more information, please contact Deacon Nagi or Josephine Zeaiter

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Saturday 11 th Feb 2023	6pm	Mass for the Late Naif Hanna Moussa from Bann (passed away in Lebanon)	قداس المرحوم نايف حنا موسى من بان (توفي في لبنان)	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ١١ شباط ٢٠٢٣
Sunday 12 th Feb 2023	11am	40 th Mass for the Late Ramza Takchi Moit	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة رمزا الطقشي معيط	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٢ شباط ٢٠٢٣



A JOURNEY OF HOLINESS & OPENNESS

9 FEBRUARY - 8 DECEMBER 2023

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 06/02/2023 – 19/02/2023)

TBA

Parish Operations Account

\$72,866.79

Parish Loan Balance

\$537,579.44

To receive our eNewsletter
please email

info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



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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
lsre.com.au/pennanthills

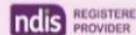


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