



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday 14th January 2024

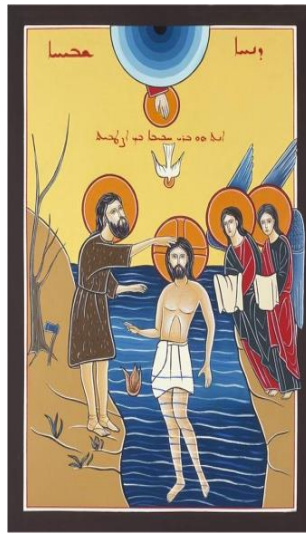
Year 2024, Issue #3

The Gospel

John 1: 35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Season of the Epiphany



Next Sunday
Sunday of the Priests

Old Testament Reading

Mal 2: 1,5-9

Epistle

1 Tim 4: 6-16

Gospel

Luke 12: 42-48

الإنجيل

يو ١: ٣٥-٤٢

في الغد أيضاً كان يُوحنا واقفاً هو وأثنان من تلاميذه. ورأى يسوع ماراً فحدق إليه وقال: «ها هو حملُ الله». وسمع التلميذان كلامه، فتبعوا يسوع. وألتفت يسوع، فراهما يتبعانه، فقال لهما: «ماذا تطلبان؟» قالا له: «رأبي، أي يا معلم، أين نقيم؟» قال لهما: «تعاليا وأنظرا». فذهبا ونظرا أين يقيم. وأقاما عنده ذلك اليوم، وكانت الساعة نحو الرابعة بعد الظهر. وكان أندراوس أخو سمعان بطرس أحد التلميذين، اللذين سمعا كلام يوحنا وتبعوا يسوع. ولقي أولاً أخاه سمعان، فقال له: «وجدنا مسيحا، أي المسيح». وجاء به إلى يسوع، فحدق يسوع إليه وقال: «أنت هو سمعان بن يونا، أنت ستدعى كيفا، أي بطرس الصخرة».

Divine Liturgy and Services

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

Mondays – Wednesdays: 9:00am Thursdays – 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: Msgr Marcelino Youssef 0404 272 272

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr Bechara Trad 0403 725 134

Deacon: Nagi Dimian 0403 750 613

Subdeacon: Jason Maati 0415 771 461

Administration: Rose Zeaiter and Mary Issa Flynn Phone: (02) 9481 7388 or 0422 275 199

Office Hours: Tuesdays - Wednesdays 9:00am - 3.00pm; Thursdays - Fridays 9:00am - 5:00pm

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we transition into 2024, we dedicate this year as the Year of Prayer in response to Pope Francis' invitation in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. We embark on a year with initiatives that emphasise the significance of both individual and communal prayer.

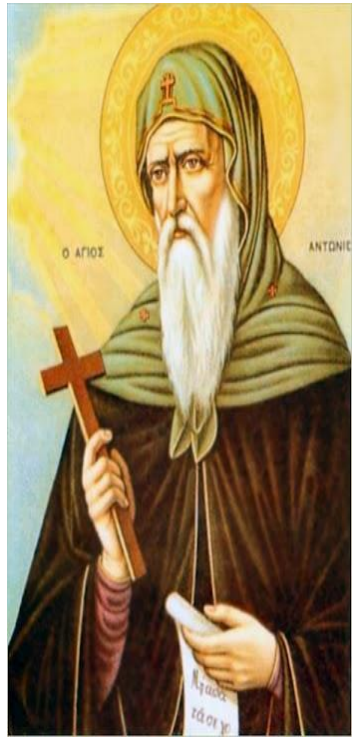
Throughout this year, every Catholic is encouraged to engage in a thoughtful examination of their prayer life: what they pray, how they pray, and why they pray. This reflection serves two primary purposes: first, to inspire a deeper commitment to prayer and a profound love for God; and second, to consider how one might guide and accompany others in prayer during this Year of Prayer.

Changes to my Newsletter Messages

As part this year, there will be a slight adjustment to my newsletter messages. Instead of the weekly messages, my messages will now coincide with Maronite major feast days and saints' feasts. These messages will centre around our Maronite spirituality and Maronite prayers.

May this year be a time of deepened connection with the Divine through a renewal of our prayer life.

Feast of St Anthony the Great



On the 17th of January, we commemorate the Feast of St. Anthony the Great. This saint, who lived in the 3rd and 4th centuries, made a profound choice to forsake his home, sell his possessions, and withdraw from the world. Venturing into the wilderness, he embraced a life of austerity, prayer, and the pursuit of spiritual virtues, witnessing to the heavenly kingdom on earth.

Saint Anthony's monastic principles inspired numerous individuals, both men and women, to abandon worldly pursuits and fully dedicate themselves to God within the confines of the monastery.

The monastic life, guided by these principles, continues to be a wellspring of grace and blessings for the church.

As we observe this feast, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Monks of the Lebanese Maronite Order on the renewal of their monastic vows. This renewal is not a mere ritual but a fresh and annual commitment to embody monastic virtues and Gospel teachings, mirroring the exemplary life of Saint Anthony.

Our prayers are lifted for God's blessings upon His church, particularly in these challenging times. May He inspire new saints, following in the footsteps of Saint Anthony the Great, embarking on a journey to live out Gospel and Christian values, fostering communities of faith and prayer, and serving as leaven in the dough of this world.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week

"Stay with Jesus"

This year the Season of the Epiphany is short, with this being last Sunday. Next week we commence the three weeks of commemorations. For today our focus will be on 'staying' with Jesus.

At the words of John the Baptist, the interest of two of his disciples are raised. They go up to Jesus, who asks them, 'What are you looking for?' Jesus always articulates the right questions. Whether we answer them or not is another matter! In this case the two disciples do not respond to the question, because they didn't as yet have an answer. Instead, they ask another question, 'Rabbi, where are you staying?' (v38). Not quite what one would expect as a response, but it is an important question.

We can't know what we are looking for if we don't spend time searching and deeply discerning. When the two disciples ask Jesus where he's staying, they know they aren't sure of what they want, but they are prepared to give time to their searching.

By spending time with Jesus on his turf, under his terms, not our terms, we are entering uncharted waters and are invited to be ready and open to whatever he has in store for us. Only by being with Jesus and leaving all we know behind, can we answer the question, 'What are you looking for?'

So, as we leave the Epiphany Season behind and enter the Season of Commemorations and Lent, let us follow Jesus in order to know ourselves better. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفس

لقد شهد يوحنا المعمدان عن يسوع أنه حمل الله، وما أن سمع تلميذا يوحنا ما قاله عن الرب حتى تبعه دون تأجيل. يدل هذا على شوق التلميذين اللذين تبعاه إلى قبول الخلاص. ومع علم الرب تمامًا بما في قلب التلميذين توجه إليهما بالسؤال: "مَآذًا تُطَلِّبان؟". فلماذا قام بذلك؟

- أولاً: ليهيئهما الثقة والشجاعة، فيعلنا بوضوح ما هي رغبتهم.
- ثانياً: ليعلن لهما أنه، من جانبه، مستعد أن يبدأ معهما لكنه لن يبدأ بدون إرادتهما الواضحة، لأنه يقدر الحرية التي وهبنا إياها.
- فاتباع المسيح ليس كافياً بحد ذاته لنكون على الدرب السليم إذ يمكن أن نتبعه بدافع من مصالحنا الخاصة وعندها نكون كمن يطلب منه أن يتبعه، لا العكس، وأن ينتظم معه لبناء دعوته الخاصة وليس دعوة المسيح إليه.
- لا بد لنا إذاً أن نفحص دوافع إتباعنا يسوع، فهل هي لمجده أم لمجدنا؟ نرى في هذا النص أيضاً اهتمام أندراوس بخلاص أخيه عبر بحثه عنه ليشركه في خبرته الجديدة التي تمتع بها من خلال لقائه مع يسوع ويقول بكل تواضع: "لقد وجدنا المسيح". لم ينسب هذا الاكتشاف لذاته بل أقر بخبرة من كانوا معه آخر. وبقوله "قد وجدنا" يتبين لنا بحث النفس عن الخلاص، وفرحها عندما يتحقق ما تبحث عنه، وإسراعها لتشارك الآخرين الخبر السار. تدعونا خبرة التلميذين إلى تجديد إتباعنا الفعلي للمسيح فكل تأجيل يمثل تضييعاً للوقت وفي ذلك خطرٌ على الروح التي تعطش دائماً على لقاء الرب والإغذاء من محبته بنعمة الروح القدس.
- علينا أيضاً أن نجيب دوماً على سؤال الرب يسوع ذاته في كل عمل وفي كل كلمة ننطق بها أو فكرٍ ننشغل به.

- فهل نطلب المسيح في كل تصرف؟
 - هل ننشغل بإستارتنا بروحه القدوس؟ هل نشتهي حضن الأب؟
 - هل نطلب بنياننا ونموننا في المعرفة الصادقة، وتقديس ذواتنا وبحثنا عن مجد الله دوماً أو بشكلٍ متقطع؟
 - هل نطلب ما هو خلاص النفوس ولمجد الله وبنيان الكنيسة؟
- هذه هي حال من يطلب الرب: فلا يكفي أن نتبع الرب يسوع بين حين وآخر، وإنما يلزمنا أن نمكث معه على الدوام.

www.kobayat.org

Parish News and Upcoming Events



**ST GEORGE YOUTH
HARBOUR CRUISE**

**SAVE THE DATE
10 FEB 2024**



**2024
CALENDAR**

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KNIGHTS OF ST GEORGE



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FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024**



2024 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

**ROSARY NIGHTS
EVERY MONDAY**



STARTING MONDAY 15th JANUARY 7.30PM

MARONITES ON MISSION 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



Senior Program

**Wednesdays
9:00am - 4:00pm**

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

ST GEORGE PLAYGROUP

**EVERY FRIDAY
10am - 12pm
during school term**

Children 0-5 Years

ALL WELCOME

For more information, please contact
Mary 0422 871 197

FERSEN 2024

EVERY FRIDAY 4PM-5.30PM

**COMMENCING TERM 2
FRIDAY 3RD MAY**

CHILDREN WILL BE TAUGHT HOW TO SPEAK ARABIC, PRAY IN ARABIC AND LEARN THE MARONITE FAITH AND WILL ALSO HAVE A 15 MINUTE BREAK TO ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH EACH OTHER

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ENROLLED BY 22ND DECEMBER
CONTACT EVETTE ZEAITER
0406997100**

CHURCH CLEANING


We are seeking volunteers to assist with the Church cleaning roster.

For more information or if you are able to assist, please contact the Parish Office.



Children's Corner: Baptism Find-a-Word and Colour in – "Jesus, the Lamb of God"

E	I	B	B	A	R	H	P	E	C	DISCIPLES
H	A	I	S	S	E	M	A	S	T	LAMB
R	E	H	C	A	E	T	R	E	M	RABBI
C	G	K	E	B	H	E	E	L	O	TEACHER
A	N	W	C	R	W	P	T	P	N	FOLLOWERS
E	I	O	S	O	E	H	E	I	R	ANDREW
T	N	L	L	T	R	T	P	C	I	BROTHER
I	R	L	A	H	D	O	E	S	G	PETER
N	O	O	M	E	N	R	T	I	N	MORNING
F	M	F	B	R	A	B	B	D	E	MESSIAH
										CEPHAS
										ROCK



Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Sunday 14 th Jan 2024	11am	Mass for the Late Youssef Fares Mouyat (passed away in Lebanon)	قداس المرحوم يوسف فارس معيط (متوفي في لبنان)	١١ :٠٠	الاحد ١٤ ك ٢٠٢٤
Friday 19 th Jan 2024	6pm	Mass for the Late Arthur Nassif Son of John Nassif (passed away in America)	قداس المرحوم آرثر ناصيف ابن جان ناصيف (متوفي في أميركا)	٦ :٠٠	الجمعة ١٩ ك ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 21 st Jan 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Joe Maroun Maait; Maroun and Damia Maait; John and Kharma Sukari and their son Louie Sukari	قداس المرحومين جو مارون معيط، مارون ودميا معيط، حنا وخرما سكر وإبنهم لوي سكر	٩ :٠٠	الاحد ٢١ ك ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Maeve Veronica Beaini
Congratulations to the Newly Weds: James Tadrosse and Olivia Muscat

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 08/01/2024 – 21/01/2024)
TBA

Parish Operations Account
\$59,377.27

Parish Loan Balance
\$442,504.21

**To receive our eNewsletter
please email**

info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



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[St George Maronite
Catholic Church](#)

**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)**



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Business Community Corner

Laing + Simmons

Chris Khoudair
Principal
Pennant Hills
100 Yarrara Road,
Pennant Hills NSW 2120
0405 122 331 | 02 9875 1777
chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au
lsre.com.au/pennant_hills

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