



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

Sunday of the Righteous and Just

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

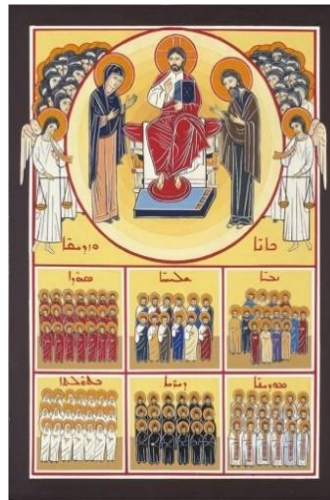
Year 2024, Issue #5

## The Gospel

Matt 25: 31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## Weeks of Commemoration



Next Sunday  
Sunday of the  
Faithful Departed

Old Testament  
Reading

Ezk 37: 1-10

Epistle

1 Thess 5: 1-11

Gospel

Luke 16: 19-31

## الإنجيل

متى ٢٥ : ٣١ - ٤٦

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: "مَتَى جَاءَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ فِي مَجْدِهِ، وَجَمِيعُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مَعَهُ، يَجْلِسُ عَلَى عَرْشِ مَجْدِهِ. وَتُجْمَعُ لَدَيْهِ جَمِيعُ الْأُمَمِ، فَيَمَيِّزُ بَعْضَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْضٍ، كَمَا يَمَيِّزُ الرَّاعِي الْخِرَافَ مِنَ الْجِذَاءِ. وَيُقِيمُ الْخِرَافَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ وَالْجِذَاءَ عَنْ شِمَالِهِ. حِينَئِذٍ يَقُولُ الْمَلِكُ لِلَّذِينَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ: تَعَالَوْا، يَا مُبَارِكِي أَبِي، رَثُوا الْمُلْكُوتَ الْمَعْدَّ لَكُمْ مِنْذُ إِنْشَاءِ الْعَالَمِ؛ لِأَنِّي جَعْتُ فَأَطْعَمْتُمُونِي، وَعَطِشْتُمْ فَسَقَيْتُمُونِي، وَكُنْتُمْ غَرِيبًا فَأَوْثَمْتُمُونِي، وَغَرِيبَانَا فَكَسَوْتُمُونِي، وَمَرِيضًا فَزَرْتُمُونِي، وَمَحْبُوسًا فَأَتَيْتُمُونِي إِلَيَّ. حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُ الْأَبْرَارُ قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبِّ، مَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ جَائِعًا فَأَطْعَمْنَاكَ، أَوْ عَطِشْنَا فَسَقَيْتْنَاكَ؟ وَمَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ غَرِيبًا فَأَوْثَمْنَاكَ، أَوْ غَرِيبَانَا فَكَسَوْنَاكَ؟ وَمَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ مَحْبُوسًا فَأَتَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ؟ فَيُجِيبُ الْمَلِكُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ: أَلْحَقْ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: كُلُّ مَا عَمَلْتُمُوهُ لِأَحَدٍ إِخْوَتِي هَؤُلَاءِ الصِّغَارِ، فَلِي عَمَلْتُمُوهُ! ثُمَّ يَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ عَنْ شِمَالِهِ: إِذْهَبُوا عَنِّي، يَا مَلَاعِينِ، إِلَى النَّارِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ الْمَعْدَّةِ لِإِبْلِيسَ وَجُنُودِهِ؛ لِأَنِّي جَعْتُ فَمَا أَطْعَمْتُمُونِي، وَعَطِشْتُمْ فَمَا سَقَيْتُمُونِي، وَكُنْتُمْ غَرِيبًا فَمَا أَوْثَمْتُمُونِي، وَغَرِيبَانَا فَمَا كَسَوْتُمُونِي، وَمَرِيضًا وَمَحْبُوسًا فَمَا زَرْتُمُونِي! حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُ هَؤُلَاءِ أَيْضًا قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبِّ، مَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ جَائِعًا أَوْ عَطِشْنَا أَوْ غَرِيبًا أَوْ مَرِيضًا أَوْ مَحْبُوسًا وَمَا حَدَمْنَاكَ؟ حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُمْ قَائِلًا: أَلْحَقْ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: كُلُّ مَا لَمْ تَعْمَلُوهُ لِأَحَدٍ هَؤُلَاءِ الصِّغَارِ، فَلِي لَمْ تَعْمَلُوهُ. وَيَذْهَبُ هَؤُلَاءِ إِلَى الْعَذَابِ الْأَبَدِيِّ، وَالْأَبْرَارُ إِلَى الْحَيَاةِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ."

### 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 Maait 0415 771 461

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays – Wednesdays 9:00am – 5:00pm; Thursdays – Fridays 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](http://www.stgeorgemcc.org.au) Email: [info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)

## Bishops Message Year of Prayer Feast of St Ephrem, The "Harp of the Holy Spirit"

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we mark the Feast Day of St. Ephrem, celebrated on January 28<sup>th</sup>, we reflect on the profound influence he had on the spiritual and liturgical life of the Maronite Church. Known as the "Harp of the Holy Spirit", St. Ephrem's life and works continue to inspire and guide our Maronite tradition.

St. Ephrem was a deacon and little is known about his life. Born around the year 306, he likely originated from the vicinity of Nisbis, then a city in Persia. Some historians infer from his writings that he came from a Christian family and was baptised as an adult. St. Ephrem, also an ascetic, had St. James of Nisbis as his spiritual father, to whom he dedicated a hymn. In about 364, he entered solitude on Mount Edessa, a practice not uncommon in Antioch and Edessa at the time. The Maronite community grew out of this commitment to asceticism and monasticism, inspired by our spiritual father, St. Maroun. St. Ephrem passed away on 9 June 373.

Writing in Syriac, St. Ephrem used hymns and powerful poetic imagery to address the heresies of his time. Recognising the power of music as an educational tool, he emphasised its role for both young and old alike. St. Ephrem also had a particular devotion to the Virgin Mary, dedicating a hymn, the Hymn on the Nativity, to her.

In the Syriac Churches, poetry and hymns serve as primary vehicles for teaching theology, a fact evident in Maronite Liturgy where a significant portion is sung by both the celebrant and the congregation. The rich imagery and poetry of the liturgy leave a lasting impression. It is so often that a Maronite child who attends Mass from a young age can be heard chanting the "Qadishat" at home. This is because hymns stay with children and they can learn from them.

### Preserving Our Traditions



St. Ephrem's example teaches us that in our liturgy, hymns are not mere music to listen to; they are powerful praying and teaching tools integral to our Maronite tradition. Whether you are aware or not, if you attend the Maronite Mass, you are using the words of St Ephrem. Let us live, sing, and teach these hymns to our children and in our Masses, going beyond

passive listening to the choir during liturgy. Let the words of the hymns resonate within us, actively participating in this beautiful aspect of our Maronite faith.

I wish you a blessed feast day of St Ephrem – may his writings and compositions continue to resonate within our hearts, guiding us in faith and tradition.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

## Our Lady Mercy Place Aged Care Home Welcomes First Resident

Earlier this week, the Our Lady Mercy Place residential aged care home in Harris Park officially welcomed its first resident as it opened its doors in Harris Park.

This long-anticipated day is the realisation of a vision set forth by Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, in collaboration with the board members of Our Lady Aged Care Centre (OLACC).

Bishop Tarabay was on hand - along with distinguished guests - to welcome Mrs Saad and present her with a Rosary. Bishop Tarabay said, "We are here to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Juliette Saad, as her arrival signals the commencement of a new chapter in residential aged care for elderly people in Harris Park."

Mr Barry Barakat, Chairperson of OLACC said, "This is a significant milestone for our community and marks a pivotal step in meeting the increasing demand for aged care services in a home environment that addresses practical and health requirements but also ensures the fulfilment of the pastoral and spiritual needs of our older community members."

Helping welcome Mrs Saad were The Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for the Arts, Dr Andrew Charlton, Member for Parramatta, Lord Mayor Pierre Esber, Parramatta City Council, Deputy Mayor Rachelle Harika, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Ms Catherine Davies, Director, People & Corporate at Multicultural NSW, representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care and representatives from Mercy Health; Ms Virginia Bourke, Chair of the Board, Ms Angela Nolan CEO and Ms Clare Douglas, Chief Executive Residential Aged Care.

Anyone interested in residential care at Our Lady Mercy Place Harris Park is encouraged to contact Mercy Health on 1300 159 265.



# Parish News and Upcoming Events

## ST GEORGE YOUTH HARBOUR CRUISE



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**10 FEB 2024**

## ASH MONDAY

MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

Mass including the Rite of the Blessing of the Ashes

7:00AM AND 7:00PM



## KNIGHTS OF ST GEORGE

\$20 ENTRY



**FUN FOOD FAITH**  
**MEN'S GATHERING**  
**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.



## 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.




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

Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Kalim Sarkis Saliba	قداس المرحوم كلیم سركيس صلیبا	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ٢٨ ك ٢٠٢٤
	11am	Mass for the Late Georgette Roumanos Zeaiter	قداس المرحومة جورجیت رومانوس زعیتر	١١ : ٠٠	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Tony Mouyat	قداس المرحوم طوني معیط	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ٤ شباط ٢٠٢٤
	11am	Mass for the Late Naim Habib	قداس المرحوم نعیم حبيب	١١ : ٠٠	

## Parish Financial Updates

**Parish Income (fortnight 22/01/2024 – 04/02/2024)**  
TBA

**Parish Operations Account**  
\$68,324.18

**Parish Loan Balance**  
\$442,504.21

**To receive our eNewsletter  
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[info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto: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  
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## 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)

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Pennant Hills NSW 2120  
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