



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Cana Sunday: Entrance into Lent

Sunday 11th February 2024

Year 2024, Issue #7

The Gospel

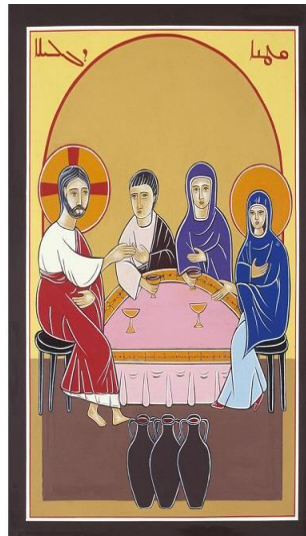
John 2: 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Season of Lent

الإنجيل

لو ١٦: ١٩-٣١



في اليَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ، كَانَ عُرْسٌ فِي قَانَا الْجَلِيلِ، وَكَانَتْ أُمُّ يَسُوعَ هُنَاكَ. وَدُعِيَ أَيْضًا يَسُوعُ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ إِلَى الْعُرْسِ. وَنَفَدَ الْخَمْرُ، فَقَالَتْ لِيَسُوعَ أُمُّهُ: «لَيْسَ لَدَيْهِمْ خَمْرٌ». فَقَالَ لَهَا يَسُوعُ: «مَا لِي وَلَكَ، يَا أَمْرَأَةً؟ لَمْ تَأْتِ سَاعَتِي بَعْدُ!». فَقَالَتْ أُمُّهُ لِلْخَدَمِ: «مَهْمَا يَقُلْ لَكُمْ فَافْعَلُوهُ!». وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ سِتَّةُ أَجْرَانٍ مِنْ حَجَرٍ، مُعَدَّةٌ لِتَطْهِيرِ الْيَهُودِ، يَسَعُ كُلُّ مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَانِينَ إِلَى مِئَةٍ وَعِشْرِينَ لِيْتْرًا، فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِلْخَدَمِ: «إِمْلَأُوا الْأَجْرَانَ مَاءً». فَمَلَأُوهَا إِلَى فَوْقِ. قَالَ لَهُمْ: «إِسْتَقُوا الْآنَ، وَقَدِّمُوا لِرَبِّيسِ الْوَلِيمَةِ». فَقَدِّمُوا. وَذَاقَ الرَّبِّيسُ الْمَاءَ، الَّذِي صَارَ خَمْرًا - وَكَانَ لَا يَعْلَمُ مِنْ أَيْنَ هُوَ، وَالْخَدَمُ الَّذِينَ أَسْتَقُوا يَعْلَمُونَ - فَدَعَا إِلَيْهِ الْعَرِيسَ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «كُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ يُقَدِّمُ الْخَمْرَ الْجَيِّدَ أَوَّلًا، حَتَّى إِذَا سَكِرَ الْمَدْعُوُونَ، قَدَّمَ الْأَقْلَّ جُودَةً، أَمَا أَنْتَ فَقَدْ أَبْقَيْتَ الْخَمْرَ الْجَيِّدَ إِلَى الْآنَ!». تِلْكَ كَانَتْ أُولَى آيَاتِ يَسُوعَ، صَنَعَهَا فِي قَانَا الْجَلِيلِ، فَظَهَرَ مَجْدَهُ، وَأَمَّنَ بِهِ تَلَامِيذُهُ.

Next Sunday
Sunday of the Leper

Old Testament
Reading

2 Kgs 5: 1-3,9-14

Epistle

Rom 6: 12-23

Gospel

Mark 1: 35-43

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: 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 Email: info@stgeorgemcc.org.au

Bishops Message Year of Prayer Cana Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday is the Wedding Feast at Cana, a biblical account of joy and feasting. While it may seem quite odd to begin the Season of Lent, a time of fasting and penance, with a wedding feast, we come to find deep theological symbolism filled with Syriac Bridal Theology in this supposedly odd relationship.

Before we even begin to understand Cana Sunday, we must first understand the importance of the three preceding weeks in the Maronite Liturgical Calendar. These are the weeks of Commemoration; of Priests, of the Righteous and Just and the Faithful Departed. The focus of the Gospels during those Sundays and the weeks that follow them, reveal to us one important concept; sanctity has been achieved by the priests, righteous and the just and the faithful departed through a focus on the other. Christ calls us to live our Christian calling with others and towards others, forming a community, the Mystical Body of Christ.

Once we are introduced to this community and shown the path that leads to sanctity, we find ourselves at a communal celebration, a wedding feast that - according to the Gospel of John (John 2:1-11) - occurs on the 'third day'. Our attention is then drawn to the Resurrection, for all feasts and celebrations point us towards the Resurrection, the fulfilment of the Paschal Mystery.

We are introduced to Christ, the New Adam, who in His 'time' institutes a New Creation perfected in His Death and Resurrection, symbolically represented by the turning of water into wine, a source of joy and gladness at weddings. In this New Eden, the woman does not convince man to fall. Rather, Mary beckons Christ to renew and provide joy and happiness for the guests, breathing life into the wedding feast.

How fitting is it that we begin the Season of Lent with a wedding feast and begin Passion Week with another wedding feast. For after forty days of fasting, the faithful find themselves at the Arrival at the Port or Harbour, celebrated on the eve of Hosanna Sunday. The Gospel read (Mt. 25:1-13) is that of the Wise Virgins, who having prepared themselves with enough lamp oil, enter into the wedding feast with the groom; Christ Himself! And what is this wedding feast? It is the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Resurrection, the banquet of the Eternal Wedding Feast where Christ the victorious Groom provides for His Bride, the Church.

Thus, the Weeks of Commemoration become periods of preparation, guiding us through the Gospels toward holiness and the Eternal Banquet Feast. Cana Sunday offers a glimpse of what awaits, steering us towards the fulfilment of the Paschal Mystery. Ash Monday begins our preparation with cleansing and fasting that is represented by the ashes received on our foreheads.

May this Season of Lent be a time for us to fill our lamps with enough oil and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Groom who calls us to enter into the Eternal Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week "Cana Sunday"

We are entering the Season of Lent and to welcome us, we have the Gospel passage of the Wedding at Cana. It is a story that invites us to listen carefully to God and to do God's will.

This is the first time the Gospel of John mentions Jesus' mother and she has two lines, 'They have no wine' (v3), followed by, 'Do whatever he tells you' (v5). Few words but they speak volumes.

'They have no wine.' Mary is a woman who is attentive to the happenings around her and will intervene to prevent shame. She will not stand and ignore the suffering of others. Mary teaches us to be immersed in the world, in celebrations, but also to be there when calamity threatens. To live attentively and seek to do all that can be done to resolve dilemmas.

'Do whatever he tells you.' Mary knows God is all in all and without God we can do very little. She has wholehearted trust in God as we also read in Luke's Gospel where we have Mary say in her first scene, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Mary calls us in the direction of God, the one path where we know we will be saved and where we can gain strength, courage and hope to do what has to be done.

So, as we enter the Lenten Season, we pray to better see what is happening around us and to use the strength of God to work wonders in this world. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

Maronite Eparchy Lenten Appeal

With the beginning of this Season of lent, and given the ongoing economic crisis in Lebanon, the Maronite Eparchy of Australia is collecting donations to assist students in need in Lebanese schools. You will find small appeal boxes for this campaign at the church doors. We kindly ask you to take them to your homes or workplaces to collection your donations and return them to the parish office when ready or after Easter, at the latest. We wish you and your families a Blessed Lent.

مع إنطلاقة زمن الصوم المبارك، ونظراً لإستمرار الأزمة الإقتصادية والمعيشية في لبنان، تقوم أبرشية أستراليا بجمع التبرعات لمساعدة الطلاب الأكثر حاجة في المدارس اللبنانية. نرجو منكم أخذها الى بيوتكم الكنيسة علب صغيرة مخصصة لهذه الحملة. نرجو منكم أخذها الى بيوتكم او أماكن عملكم لوضع تبرعاتكم فيها واعادتها الى مكتب الرعية عند جهوزها أو بعد عيد الفصح كحد أقصى. نتمنى لكم ولعائلاتكم صوماً مباركاً.



Parish News and Upcoming Events

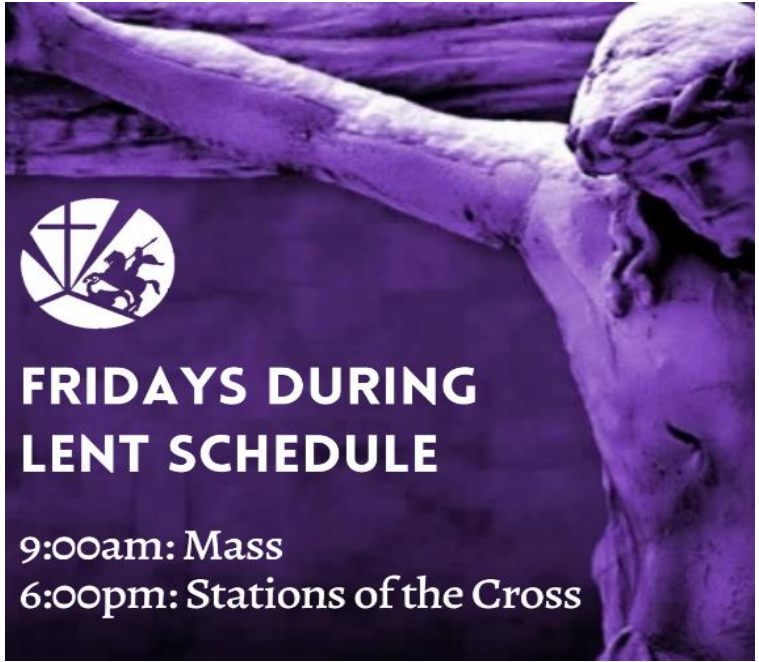

ASH MONDAY

MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

Mass including the Rite of the Blessing of the Ashes

7:00AM AND 7:00PM



FRIDAYS DURING LENT SCHEDULE

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




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 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



Memorial Masses

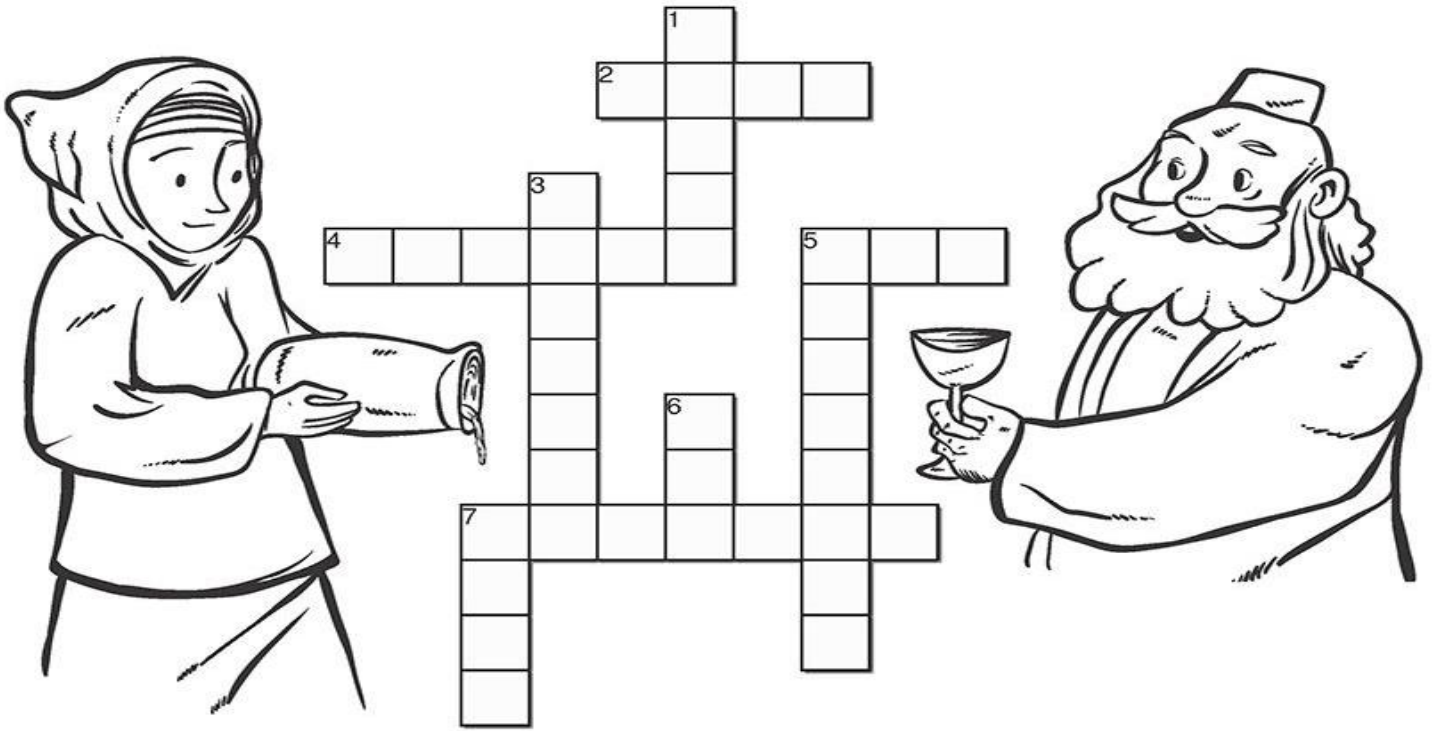
نوايا القداست

Sunday 11 th Feb 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Marie Asmar	قداست المرحومة ماري أسمر	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١١
	2pm	40 th Mass for the Late Joseph Behzed Symin	قداست ٤٠ المرحوم جوزيف بهزاد سمعان	٢ : ٠٠	شباط ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 18 th Feb 2024	11am	40 th Mass for the Late Mariette Youssef Saliba	قداست ٤٠ المرحومة ماريات يوسف صليبا	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٨ شباط ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Amelia Grace Elias

Children's Corner: Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Complete the crossword puzzle based on today's Gospel.



Across

2. When the master of the party drank the wine he said, "I am surprised that you chose to save the best for _____"
4. Witnessing what Jesus had done, made the disciples understand that he was the _____ of the world.
5. How many stone jars were there?
7. What festive occasion was being celebrated at the party? _____

Down

1. Jesus told the servants to "Fill the jars up with _____."
3. When Jesus turned the water into wine, it was his very first _____.
5. Only the _____, disciples and Mary saw the miracle.
6. If the wine ran out, the celebration would abruptly ____.
7. What was the main beverage served at the celebration?

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 05/02/2024 – 18/02/2024)
TBA

Parish Operations Account
\$69,878.61

Parish Loan Balance
\$439,536.23

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)

To receive our eNewsletter please email

info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



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