



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Sunday of the Faithful Departed

Sunday 4th February 2024

Year 2024, Issue #6

The Gospel

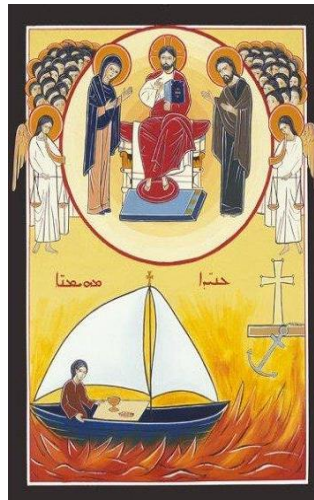
Luke 16: 19-31

"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

الإنجيل

لو ١٦: ١٩-٣١



قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعَ: «كَانَ رَجُلٌ غَنِيٌّ يَلْبَسُ الْأَرْجُوَانَ وَالكَتَّانَ النَّاعِمَ، وَيَتَنَعَّمُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ بِأَفْحَرِ الْوَلَائِمِ. وَكَانَ رَجُلٌ مِسْكِينٌ أَسْمُهُ لَعَازَرُ مَطْرُوحًا عِنْدَ بَابِهِ، تَكْسُوهُ الْفُرُوحُ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَشْبَعَ مِنَ الْفَتَاتِ الْمُنْسَاقِطِ مِنْ مَائِدَةِ الْغَنِيِّ، غَيْرَ أَنَّ الْكِلَابَ كَانَتْ تَأْتِي فَتَلْحَسُ قُرُوحَهُ. وَمَاتَ الْمِسْكِينُ فَحَمَلَتْهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ إِلَى حِضْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. ثُمَّ مَاتَ الْغَنِيُّ وَدُفِنَ، وَرَفَعَ الْغَنِيُّ عَيْنَيْهِ، وَهُوَ فِي الْجَحِيمِ يُقَاسِي الْعَذَابَ، فَرَأَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ مِنْ بَعِيدٍ، وَلَعَازَرَ فِي حِضْنِهِ. فَتَادَى وَقَالَ: يَا أَبَتِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِزْحَمْنِي وَأَرْسِلْ لَعَازَرَ لِيَبْلُ طَرْفَ إِصْبَعِهِ بِمَاءٍ وَيَبْرِدَ لِسَانِي، لِأَنِّي مُتَوَجِّعٌ فِي هَذَا اللَّهَبِ. فَقَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: يَا ابْنِي، تَذَكَّرُ أَنَّكَ نَلْتُ حَيَاتِكَ فِي حَيَاتِكَ، وَلَعَازَرُ نَالَ الْبَلَايَا. وَالآنَ هُوَ يَتَعَزَّى هُنَا، وَأَنْتَ تَتَوَجَّعُ. وَمَعَ هَذَا كُلِّهِ، فَإِنَّ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ هُوَّةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ ثَابِتَةٌ، حَتَّى إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَجْتَازُوا مِنْ هُنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ، وَلَا مِنْ هُنَاكَ أَنْ يَعْبرُوا إِلَيْنَا. فَقَالَ الْغَنِيُّ: أَسْأَلُكَ إِذَا، يَا أَبَتِ، أَنْ تُرْسِلَ لَعَازَرَ إِلَى بَيْتِ أَبِي، فَإِنَّ لِي خَمْسَةَ إِخْوَةٍ، لِيَشْهَدَ لَهُمْ، كَيْ لَا يَأْتُوا هُمْ أَيْضًا إِلَى مَكَانِ الْعَذَابِ هَذَا. فَقَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: عِنْدَهُمْ مُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءُ، فَلْيَسْمَعُوا لَهُمْ. فَقَالَ: لَا، يَا أَبَتِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، وَلَكِنْ إِذَا مَضَى إِلَيْهِمْ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ يَتُوبُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: إِنْ كَانُوا لَا يَسْمَعُونَ لِمُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، فَيَأْتِيهِمْ، وَلَوْ قَامَ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لَنْ يَقْتَنِعُوا!».

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

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 – 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

Sunday of the Faithful Departed – Feast of St Maroun

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year on 9 February, we celebrate the Feast of our patron, St Maroun. His Feast remains for us a source of spirituality and hope. Learning about the testimony and life of our father St Maroun helps us understand our identity as Maronites and encourages us to give witness to Jesus Christ amid challenges and persecution. So our calling is to always strive to bring all to Christ, as he did.

St Maroun's world in the fourth and fifth centuries was challenging; there was little security in life, regardless of wealth and social standing. Food shortages and diseases were rampant; law and order in cities faltered, with the Roman Empire in constant conflict. This led to a population shift, with many fleeing to the countryside for peace, despite the hardships.

Maroun, a monk and priest at the time, chose to leave settled life for one of solitude, living as a hermit in the open air on a mountain top in Quorrosh - North Syria. He is known for converting a pagan temple into a Church but also pagans to Christianity.

He chose a life of celibacy and poverty, inspiring many to follow his example. He lived an ascetic life, endured all challenges and made out of his life a sacrifice to God. Like a mountain resisting a hurricane, Maroun's faith remained unshaken. And so, remaining in one place, he drew men and women who came to him seeking spiritual advice and following his way of life; poverty, chastity, prayer and meditation, and most importantly love. He was passionate about spreading the message of the Gospel and zealous about the healing of 'lost souls'.

Ultimately, and after his death in 410AD, Beit Maroun, or the "House of Maroun," was built in 452AD. Those who followed Maroun's style of life and spirituality became known as Maronites. This spiritual movement flourished and became a Church in the 7th Century, the Maronite Antiochian Church – the only Catholic Church named after a saint.

As Maronites, we strive to embody Christ's likeness, drawing on the faith, hope, and courage of St Maroun, who teaches us to serve rather than seek to be served. Our times parallel Maroun's, and urge us to deepen our faith for our mission amidst today's challenges, insecurities and uncertainties of the world.

His example holds immense value for us today but also on this Sunday's Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. In a world that can be hostile or indifferent to the truth of the Gospel, our focus must remain on building the kingdom of God here on earth, where Christ is always offering us grace, hope and consolation in the face of the darkness of this world. Let us be reminded of the eternal life that awaits us and encourages us to hold fast to our faith without wavering, like St Maroun did. Let us seek his intercession for the repose of the souls of all those who have gone before us, so they may be ushered into heaven in accordance with the promises of Christ.

On this Feast day, I invite you to participate in the Solemn Mass at St Maroun's Cathedral (Redfern) on Thursday 8 February at 7pm, the vigil of St Maroun's Feast. I extend an invitation for the interstate communities in Brisbane and Adelaide to attend the Patronal Feast celebrations on 18 February in Brisbane and the 25th in Adelaide. I also extend blessings to all carrying the name of our spiritual father and wish you all, and your families, a blessed and joyful Feast of St Maroun.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week

"Sunday of the Faithful Departed"

Salvation is not earned or bought. It simply comes down to wanting what is good for others. That is the lesson of today's Gospel.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus offers many angles. You have the wretched man who really cannot do anything to earn his way to heaven. And that's just it. Eternal life is a gift to all, and the least of us is just as welcomed as anyone else. The poor man Lazarus lived a life of poverty and suffering. We know nothing else except that God in the end gave all that is good to Lazarus.

The rich man we know lived luxuriously but ends up in misery and torment. Thus, our next lesson is that wealth cannot buy us eternal life with God.

The rich man begs for salvation, but it is too late. So, our third lesson is that our time on earth and how we live it matters as it will determine our eternal life. Our actions here matter for the good of others and our own salvation.

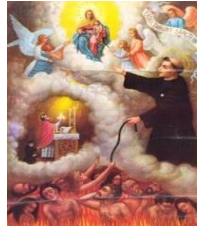
The rich man believes if someone comes from the dead to teach people of eternal life then they will listen. But no one can convince another, no matter how persuasive the rhetoric. So, our final lesson is this: salvation and eternal life is in the end each person's personal choice. Do I want to believe and hope for a blessed life for myself and others, or not?

In the end we need others for our own good. They keep us grounded and bring out the best in us. We are meant to walk each other into eternal life, or else we will be left alone in misery. 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 والصادقين 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 والنتيقظ، فالمؤمنون يعرفون ان الموت يأتي بغتة لأنهم ابناء النور، وفيها ايضا مثل لعازر والغني ورهبة المصير. الموت يضع حدا 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



ST GEORGE YOUTH HARBOUR CRUISE

SAVE THE DATE
10 FEB 2024

ASH MONDAY
ASH MONDAY

ASH MONDAY
MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

Mass including the Rite of the Blessing of the Ashes

7:00AM AND 7:00PM



ASH MONDAY

KNIGHTS OF ST GEORGE



\$20 ENTRY

FUN FOOD FAITH
MEN'S GATHERING
FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024





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 NIGHT'S 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



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 4 th Feb 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Tony Mouyat	قداس المرحوم طوني معيط	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ٤ شباط ٢٠٢٤
	11am	Mass for the Late Naim Habib	قداس المرحوم نعيم حبيب	١١ : ٠٠	
Sunday 11 th Feb 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Marie Asmar	قداس المرحومة ماري أسمر	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١١ شباط ٢٠٢٤
	2pm	40 th Mass for the Late Joseph Behzed Symin	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم جوزيف بهزاد سمعان	٢ : ٠٠	

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Amelia Grace Elias

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 22/01/2024 – 04/02/2024)
\$6,309.75

Parish Operations Account
\$65,524.94

Parish Loan Balance
\$442,504.21

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



Subscribe to our Channel
[St George Maronite Catholic Church](#)



'like' us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram

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/pennant_hills

Homefront
real estate

BUYING, SELLING or RENTING ?
Contact your local active Agent
274 Pennant Hills Road, Thornleigh
9484 0555 info@homefront.com.au



EXOTIC NURSERIES
& LANDSCAPING



ALBERT & MEYER
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
AUSTRALIAN FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

24 Hour Personal Attention

Ph: 02 9484 3992
E: director@albertmeyer.com.au



Rebecca Pincott
General Manager



ETERNITY LASER & AESTHETICS

- Laser Hair Removal
- HydraFacial
- Cosmetic Injectables
- ISClinical Skin Care
- Skin Needling
- Eyelash Extensions
- Eyebrows
- Waxing

1/500 Old Northern Rd, Dural (02) 8415 0692



traveltime

NORTHLAND
Live. Experience. Enjoy.



CONCRETE NSW
0417 216 125



INSURE P/L
www.insureus.com.au

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