



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

Sunday of the Haemorrhaging Woman

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

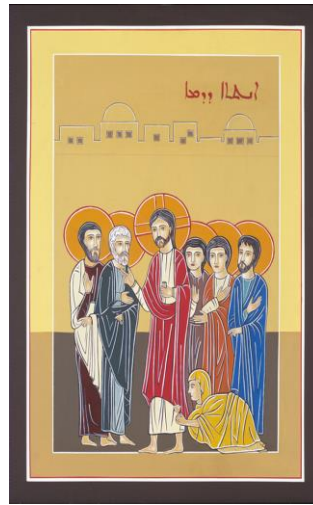
Year 2024, Issue #9

## The Gospel

Luke 8: 40-56

When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her haemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, 'Who touched me?' When all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.' But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.' When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.' While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer.' When Jesus heard this, he replied, 'Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved.' When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, 'Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, 'Child, get up!' Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

## Season of Lent



### Next Sunday Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### Old Testament Reading

Zech 3: 1-7

### Epistle

2 Cor 13: 5-13

### Gospel

Luke 15: 11-32

## الإنجيل

لو ٨: ٤٠-٥٦

لَمَّا عَادَ يَسُوعُ، اسْتَقْبَلَهُ الْجَمْعُ، لِأَنَّهُمْ جَمِيعُهُمْ كَانُوا يَنْتَظِرُونَهُ. وَإِذَا بَرَجُلٍ اسْمُهُ يَائِيرُسُ، وَكَانَ رَيْسَ الْمَجْمَعِ، جَاءَ فَارْتَمَى عَلَى قَدَمَيْ يَسُوعَ، وَأَخَذَ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ بَيْتَهُ، لِأَنَّ لَهُ ابْنَةً وَحِيدَةً، عُمُرُهَا نَحْوُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، فَذُ اسْتَرَفَتْ عَلَى الْمَوْتِ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ ذَاهِبٌ، كَانَ الْجُمُوعُ يَزْحَمُونَهُ. وَكَانَتْ أُمْرَأَةً مُصَابَةً بِنَزْفِ دَمٍ مُنْذُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، وَلَمْ يَقْدِرْ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَشْفِيَهَا. دَنَتْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ يَسُوعَ، وَلَمَسَتْ طَرَفَ رِدَائِهِ، وَفَجَاءَتْ وَقَفَتْ نَزْفُ دَمِهَا. فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ: «مَنْ لَمَسَنِي؟» وَأَنْكَرَ الْجَمِيعُ. فَقَالَ بَطْرُسُ وَمَنْ مَعَهُ: «يَا مُعَلِّمُ، إِنَّ الْجُمُوعَ يَزْحَمُونَكَ وَيُضَايِقُونَكَ!» فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ: «إِنَّ وَاحِدًا فَقَدْ لَمَسَنِي! فَإِنِّي عَرَفْتُ أَنَّ قُوَّةً قَدْ خَرَجَتْ مِنِّي!» وَرَأَتْ الْمَرْأَةُ أَنَّ أَمْرَهَا لَمْ يَخْفَ عَلَيْهِ، فَدَنَتْ مُرْتَعِدَةً وَأَرْتَمَتْ عَلَى قَدَمَيْهِ، وَأَعْلَنْتْ أَمَامَ الشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ لِمَاذَا لَمَسَتْهُ، وَكَيْفَ شُوِّغَتْ لِلْحَالِ. فَقَالَ لَهَا يَسُوعُ: «يَا ابْنَتِي، إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ! إِذْهَبِي بِسَلَامٍ!» وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ، وَصَلَ وَاحِدٌ مِنْ دَارِ رَيْسِ الْمَجْمَعِ يَقُولُ: «مَاتَتْ ابْنَتُكَ! فَلَا تُزْعِجِ الْمُعَلِّمَ!» وَسَمِعَ يَسُوعُ فَأَجَابَهُ: «لَا تَخَفْ! يَكْفِي أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ فَتُحْيَا ابْنَتُكَ!» وَلَمَّا وَصَلَ إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، لَمْ يَدْعُ أَحَدًا يَدْخُلُ مَعَهُ سِوَى بَطْرُسَ وَيُوحَنَّا وَيَعْقُوبَ وَأَبِي الصَّيِّبَةِ وَأُمِّهَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَنْكُورُونَ عَلَيْهَا وَيَقْرَعُونَ صُدُورَهُمْ. فَقَالَ: «لَا تَبْكُوا! إِنَّهَا لَمْ تَمُتْ. لَكِنَّهَا نَائِمَةٌ!» فَأَخَذُوا يَضْحَكُونَ مِنْهُ لِعِلْمِهِمْ بِأَنَّهَا مَاتَتْ. أَمَّا هُوَ فَامْسَكَ بِيَدِهَا وَنَادَى قَائِلًا: «ابْنَتُهَا الصَّيِّبَةُ، قُومِي!» فَعَادَتْ رُوحَهَا إِلَيْهَا، وَفَجَاءَتْ نَهْضَتْ. ثُمَّ أَمَرَ بِأَنْ يُطْعِمُوهَا. فَدَهَشَ آبَاؤُهَا، وَأَوْصَاهُمَا يَسُوعُ أَلَّا يُخْبِرَا أَحَدًا بِمَا حَدَثَ.

### 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](http://www.stgeorgemcc.org.au) Email: [info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)

## Bishops Message Year of Prayer

### Sunday of the Haemorrhaging Woman & Feast of Sts Koura and Marana, Disciples of St Maroun

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Maronite Church celebrates on 28 February the Feast of Saints Koura and Marana, the disciples of St Maroun. Like their contemporaries in the early Maronite monastic tradition, these saints embraced a life of extraordinary austerity and devotion.

In his accounts of the two saints, Theodoret of Cyrillus paints a vivid picture of their commitment to asceticism and contemplation, which went beyond the ordinary bounds of human endurance. Choosing a small, open-air enclosure outside town, Saints Koura and Marana lived a life of seclusion amidst the elements. Their dwelling, devoid of a roof, exposed them to nature yet, they found joy in their chosen path. Marvelling at their resilience, Theodoret notes that even the heavy chains they bore as a form of penance neither deterred their spirits. Fuelled by an all-transcending and intense love for the Divine, they saw every trial and hardship as an opportunity to draw closer to their beloved Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

The lives of Saints Koura and Marana remind us that the essence of Christian discipleship lies in our capacity to love and be loved by God. It is this love that compels us to seek heaven, and to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ. In the end, it is through love that we find both the means and the end of our journey—a journey that leads us ever closer to the heart of Christ. Like them, we are called to embrace the path of self-denial and spiritual discipline always, not just during Lent, and not out of obligation, but rather a genuine desire to be united with the One whom we love above all else.

#### Sunday of the Haemorrhaging Woman



On this Sunday of Lent, the Maronite Church reflects on the Gospel of the Haemorrhaging Woman. Through this we see the transformative power of encountering Christ, who alone can free us from our afflictions and restore dignity. The action of the Samaritan woman underscores the ongoing process of conversion and renewal in our Christian life, fuelled by the desire for God who dwells within us.

During this Lent, let us emulate the example of the Samaritan woman who just like Saints Koura and Marana, show us that love is the essence and the driving force that propels Christian discipleship.

May we always embrace love as the foundation of our journey towards the heart of Christ. This love compels us to seek heavenly things, remain faithful to Christ's teachings, and practice self-denial and spiritual discipline. Through love, may we discover the purpose of our Christian journey but also the means to devotedly walk in the footsteps of Christ.

+Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

## Reflection of the Week "Haemorrhaging Woman"

A world where God is active. In today's Gospel passage we have two miraculous accounts, one healed unknowingly but encouraged to tell the crowds, another healing anticipated by the crowds but told to keep it hidden.

God acts but sometimes what happens in our lives is only for ourselves to dwell upon. At other times God's work is something we want to proclaim from the rooftops. What is important in either case is that we do not use the grace in our lives simply for our own self publicity or for show.

God wants to heal us, but we also need to retain that sense of humility and deep appreciation. God wants to raise us up and gift us with self-confidence, as Jesus did with the haemorrhaging woman. Where there is too much of noise and self-proclamation, God reminds us that humility matters, as in the case of Jairus.

Our attitude to what happens to us in life, is essential. We can go through life bitter at our circumstances or become very demanding. God knows we want to live fully but reminds us that grace, patience and love is the path to fullness. Just like the haemorrhaging woman, may we walk through life in humility and trust that the God of tenderness will gently attend to our needs. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

### كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفس

في إنجيل هذا الأحد نلاحظ أن كثيرون ساروا وراء المسيح وواحدة نالت الشفاء وذلك لأنها تقدمت بإيمان بنفسها وثقة، لقد اقتربت منه في الخفاء بإنسحاقٍ لتتلامس مع الرب الشافي. وبحسب شريعة العهد القديم فنازفة الدم هي نجسة تُنجس من يتلامس معها، لكن السيد القدوس لا ينتجس من بل بتلامسه معنا يُشفيها ويُقدسنا. والسيد أعلن ما فعلته هذه المرأة ليعلن إيمانها فتتشبه بها وحتى لا ينحسب ضميرها لأنها نالت العطية خلسة، ولأن المسيح أعجب بإيمانها. هذه المرأة ترمز إلى عجز العالم عن شفائنا من أمراضنا، فقط المسيح يمنحنا الشفاء والسلام. كما نُعلمنا هذه المرأة كيفية الاقتراب من الرب بدون "ضجة إعلامية" أمام الناس، وهذا يتوافق مع قول الرب أيضًا أنه علينا أن نصلي في مخدعنا.

لقد لمستُه بإيمان، وهذه اللمسة تُخرج قوة شافية من الرب يسوع، أمام هذا المنظر الذي سحب قلوب الكل فاض عليها الرب بهبات محبته، إذ قال لها: "تقي يا ابنة، إيمانك قد شفاك، إذ هبني بسلام". هي أمنت وهو زاد إيمانها أكثر فأكثر بقوله لها: "تقي"، فالإيمان هو عطية الله لمن يسأله، والنمو في الإيمان هو هبة لمن يُمارس الإيمان. يهبنا الله الإيمان إن سألناه، ويُريد إيماننا إن عملنا في ما أعطانا إياه. كما أعلن عطية النبوة لها، هذه العطية التي تفوق كل عطية أو موهبة. هي أمنت ونالت، فمجدته بإيمانها، ويمجدها أيضًا هو بقوله: "إيمانك قد شفاك". وأخيرًا قدّم لها عطية السلام الروحي والنفسية: "أذهبي بسلام". يا للعجب، فإنه إهتم بجسدها فشفاه، وبنفسها فأعطاه السلام، وبروحها فجعلها ابنة له تشاركه أمجاده السماوية! فهل نتعلم من خطواتها؟

في هذا الحدث الإيماني يرى يائيرس، ويمتلأ إيمانًا. لقد صارت المرأة نازفة الدم معلّمة لرئيس المجمع في طريق الإيمان. ولقد أراد الرب أيضًا أن يُزيد إيمان يائيرس أكثر فأكثر، فسمح له بضيقه أمر، إذ جاء واحد من داره يقول له: "قد ماتت ابنتك لا تتعب المعلم". وقيل أن ينطق يائيرس بكلمة سمع المعلم يقول له: "لا تخف، أمن فقط فهي تُشفى".

فلنتأمل قليلاً في عالمنا اليوم، إذ كثيرون يملأون الكنائس ويزورون الأديرة وقليلون من يتلامسوا بإيمان مع الرب يسوع فينالوا الشفاء إن كان جسدياً أو نفسياً أو روحياً، فما الذي يقصهم؟ أهو إيمان تلك المرأة النازفة؟ أهو سعيهم وتقنيم بالرب؟ أم الإثنان معاً؟

[www.kobayat.org](http://www.kobayat.org)

### أخوية الحب بلا دنس نهار روعي

بزمّن الصوم المقدس تنظم أخوية الحب بلا دنس نهار روعي تحت عنوان "يا ابن داود ارحمني" في مزار سيدة الورد السرية Howes Valley وذلك يوم الجمعة ١٥ آذار ينطلق الباص الساعة ٧:٣٠ صباحاً من كنيسة مار جرجس. يتوجب على الشخص ٥٠ دولار والغداء مأمّن. لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بالسيدة جوزفين زعيتن.

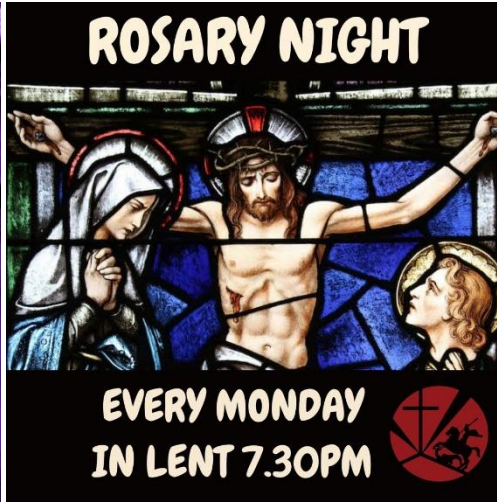


## Parish News and Upcoming Events



**FRIDAYS DURING LENT SCHEDULE**

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



**ROSARY NIGHT**

**EVERY MONDAY IN LENT 7.30PM**

YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP ENSURE WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THOSE IN NEED WITH QUALITY COUNSELLING AND PASTORAL CARE.

FUNDRAISING DINNER | SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024 6.30PM

**MARONITECARE**

THE GRAND BALLROOM@ THE RENAISSANCE | 3 NEW ST EAST, LIDCOMBE, NSW

\$150 PER PERSON | OR \$1,500 PER TABLE OF 10

DONOR PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE & ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

TO SECURE YOUR TABLE OR DONOR PACKAGE CONTACT OUR OFFICE @

1300 627 227 | ADMIN@MARONITECARE.ORG.AU



**ROSA MYSTICA**

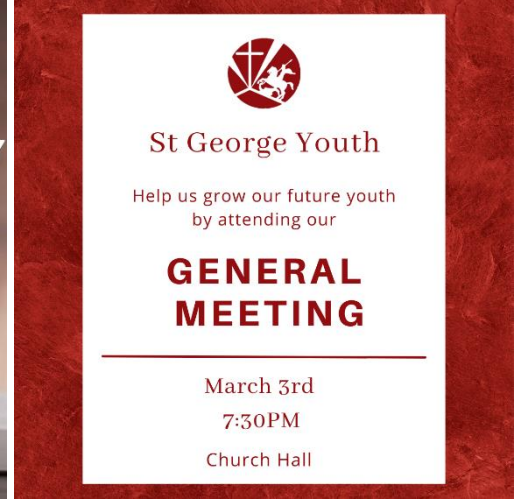
**SPIRITUAL DAY TO HOWES VALLEY HOSTED BY THE SODALITY**  
"O Son of David, Have Mercy on Me"

Friday 15th March 2024  
Departing at 7:30am from St George Parish  
\$50 per person - includes bus and lunch.  
Contact Josephine Zeaiter for more information



**2024 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

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



**St George Youth**

Help us grow our future youth by attending our

**GENERAL MEETING**

March 3rd  
7:30PM  
Church Hall



**ST GEORGE PLAYGROUP**

EVERY FRIDAY 10am - 12pm during school term

ALL WELCOME

For more information, please contact Mary 0422 871 197



**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



**Weekly Parish Activities**

**Mondays** 7:30pm Rosary Evening

**Wednesdays** 9:00am - 4:00pm Seniors Program  
7:00pm Teens Gathering

**Thursdays** 7:30pm Adoration of the Eucharist

**Fridays** 4:30pm - 5:30pm Lebanese Lessons for Children

## MaroniteCare Dinner

MaroniteCare is holding a fundraising dinner on Saturday 9 March 2024 at The Renaissance Lidcombe. Tickets are \$150 per person or \$1500 for a table of ten. Donor packages are available and may be tax-deductible. All funds raised will go towards providing free counselling and support to those in need in our community. This includes domestic violence, addiction recovery, mental health awareness, family and youth counselling. It is only through fundraising and donations that MaroniteCare can continue providing these essential services. For more information and for tickets, contact MaroniteCare at [admin@maronitecare.org.au](mailto:admin@maronitecare.org.au) or on Facebook or call the Maronite Chancery on 02 8831 0000.

تدعوكم مؤسسة MaroniteCare إلى عشاءها الخيري وذلك مساء السبت الواقع فيه 9 آذار 2024 في صالة Renaissance, Lidcombe. سعر البطاقة \$150 للشخص الواحد و\$1500 للطاولة.

ويمكنكم المساهمة من خلال الرعاية الإعلانية (sponsorships) التي قد تخضع لنظام الاعفاء الضريبي. يعود ريع هذا العشاء لدعم برامج MaroniteCare ومنها: الارشاد الاجتماعي المجاني، العنف الأسري، معالجة الادمان، برامج توعية للأمراض العقلية، ومرافقة وتوجيه الشبيبة والعائلات.

نعتمد على تبرعاتكم لكي تستمر MaroniteCare في تقديم هذه الخدمات الانسانية الأساسية.

لمزيد من المعلومات أو للحجز يرجى التواصل مع MaroniteCare عبر البريد الالكتروني [admin@maronitecare.org.au](mailto:admin@maronitecare.org.au) أو صفحة ال Facebook أو الاتصال بمكاتب الأبرشية على 02 88310000.



## Memorial Masses

نوايا القداست

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	6pm	40 <sup>th</sup> Mass for the Late Nazihah Khodeir	قداست ٤٠ المرحومة نزیهة خضیر	٦:٠٠	السبت ٢ اذار ٢٠٢٤
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## LEBANESE SCHOOL APPEAL

During this Season of Lent, all Maronite parishes and schools are collecting donations to help pay overdue fees of students in need in schools across Lebanon.

The Lebanese School Appeal, which was launched last year during our Eparchy's Golden Jubilee, has raised over \$530,000 to help more than 800 students in 17 schools across Lebanon.

However, the need is great so let us continue working together to help those in our homeland who need it most.

We kindly ask you to take a small appeal box home if you haven't already done so, to collect donations, and return them to the Parish when ready or during Easter week. No amount is too little and every dollar helps.

Donations can also be made at [www.maronite.org.au/appeals](http://www.maronite.org.au/appeals)

We are always grateful for your generosity and support.



# LEBANESE SCHOOL appeal

IN COLLABORATION WITH MARONITES ON MISSION



*The future of Lebanon passes first through the school.*

In the face of crises in Lebanon, children are being forced out of school. This represents the biggest threat to the education of an entire generation. Please donate to the Lebanese School Appeal

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON [WWW.MARONITE.ORG.AU/APPEALS](http://WWW.MARONITE.ORG.AU/APPEALS)  
CONTACT THE MARONITE CHANCERY ON 02 8831 0000 SHOULD YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION



## Parish Financial Updates

**Parish Income (fortnight 19/02/2024 – 03/03/2024)**  
TBA

**Parish Operations Account**  
\$79,931.72

**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](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)



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[St George Maronite Catholic Church](#)



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**Follow us on Instagram**

## 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)

Pennant Hills  
100 Yarrara Road,  
Pennant Hills NSW 2120  
[lsre.com.au/pennanthills](http://lsre.com.au/pennanthills)

### Homefront real estate

**BUYING, SELLING or RENTING ?**  
**Contact your local active Agent**  
274 Pennant Hills Road, Thornleigh  
9484 0555 [info@homefront.com.au](mailto:info@homefront.com.au)

**For more information on advertising, please contact the Parish Office**  
**9481 7388**  
**or email**  
[info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)



**EXOTIC NURSERIES**  
& LANDSCAPING



### 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

