



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Sunday of the Leper

Sunday 18th February 2024

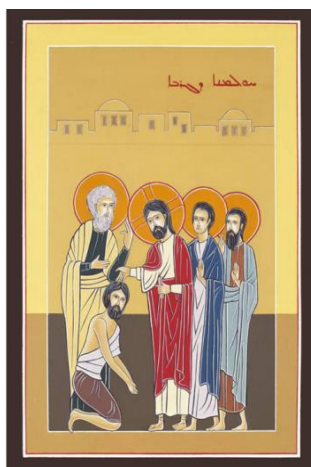
Year 2024, Issue #8

The Gospel

Mark 1: 35-43

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

Season of Lent



Next Sunday
**Sunday of the
Haemorrhaging
Woman**

**Old Testament
Reading**
Num 15: 37-41

Epistle
2 Cor 7: 4-11

Gospel
Luke 8: 40-56

الإنجيل

مر ١: ٣٥-٤٥

قَامَ يَسُوعُ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الْفَجْرِ، فَخَرَجَ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانٍ قَفْرٍ، وَأَخَذَ يُصَلِّي هُنَاكَ. وَلَحِقَ بِهِ سَمْعَانُ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَوَجَدُوهُ فَقَالُوا لَهُ: «الْجَمِيعُ يَطْلُبُونَكَ». فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِنَذْهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانٍ آخَرَ، إِلَى الْقُرَى الْمُجَاوِرَةِ، لِأُبَشِّرَ هُنَاكَ أَيْضًا، فَإِنِّي لِهَذَا خَرَجْتُ». وَسَارَ فِي كُلِّ الْجَلِيلِ، وَهُوَ يَكْرِزُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ وَيَطْرُدُ الشَّيَاطِينَ. وَأَتَاهُ أَبْرَصٌ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ، فَجَنَّا وَقَالَ لَهُ: «إِن شِئْتَ فَأَنْتَ قَادِرٌ أَنْ تُطَهِّرَنِي!». فَتَحَنَّنَ يَسُوعُ وَمَدَّ يَدَهُ وَلَمَسَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «قَدْ شِئْتُ، فَاطْهَرِ!». وَفِي الْحَالِ زَالَ عَنْهُ الْبَرَصُ، فَطَهَّرَ. فَأَنْتَهَرَهُ يَسُوعُ وَصَرَفَهُ حَالًا، وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ، لَا تُخْبِرْ أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ، بَلِ اذْهَبْ وَأَرِ نَفْسَكَ لِلْكَاهِنِ، وَقَدِّمْ عَنْ طَهْرِكَ مَا أَمَرَ بِهِ مُوسَى، شَهَادَةً لَهُمْ». أَمَّا هُوَ فَخَرَجَ وَبَدَأَ يُنَادِي بِأَعْلَى صَوْتِهِ وَيُذِيعُ الْخَبْرَ، حَتَّى إِنَّ يَسُوعَ لَمْ يَعُدْ قَادِرًا أَنْ يَدْخُلَ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ عَلَانِيَةً، بَلْ كَانَ يُقِيمُ فِي الْخَارِجِ، فِي أَمَاكِنَ مُفْتَرَةٍ، وَكَانَ النَّاسُ يَأْتُونَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ.

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

Sunday of the Leper and Feast of the 500 Martyrs of Tyre



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
We commemorate this coming week (19 February) the Feast of the 500 Martyrs of Tyre. Their martyrdom tells of the enduring witness of those early Christians who courageously stood firm in

their faith despite facing persecution.

The historical account, drawn from the writings of Eusebius of Caesarea and relayed in the Maronite Synaxarion of Book of Martyrs, as edited by Fr Najm Chehwan, portrays the harrowing ordeal endured by these martyrs during the reign of Emperor Diocletian around the year 304. In the face of brutal persecution and unimaginable suffering, they displayed remarkable endurance and steadfastness.

The Synaxarion states that in Phoenicia, Lebanon, the blessed martyrs who lived during the days of Emperor Diocletian, and by the order of the military commander, were killed one after the other, with various forms of torture. They tore their bodies apart by lashing, threw them to various ferocious beasts, and subjected them to severe tortures with fire and iron until they received the crown of martyrdom, in the year 304.

The memory of these brave martyrs has been preserved primarily within the Maronite Church, emphasising their relevance to our history and spiritual heritage. Their commemoration on February 19th each year holds a special significance, aligning with a period of remembrance for Maronite saints, including Saint Maroun and Saint John Maroun. Their example of holiness, perseverance, and unwavering faith serves as an inspiration to us across generations.

Sunday of the Leper

On this Sunday of Lent, the Maronite Church reflects on the Cleansing of the Leper as told to us in the Gospel of Saint Mark (1:35-43). One verse that drew my attention in this Year of Prayer is that Jesus rose very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Jesus needed to pray, setting an example for us about prioritising our own relationship with the Father amidst the busyness of life.

Following prayer, Jesus goes out to preach and is approached by a man afflicted with leprosy. Moved by compassion, He reaches out, touches the man, and declares him clean. This act not only restores the man's physical health but also symbolises Jesus' power to cleanse and restore our brokenness and sinfulness.

In this Lent, let us emulate the example of Jesus who reached out to the leper with love and compassion. May we also imitate Jesus' example of prayerful communion with the Father recognising that prayer sustains our spiritual life to go out to proclaim the Lord to our world.

+Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week "The Healing of the Leper"

As we delve into the Season of Lent, we are reminded in today's Gospel about the need to be a loving presence in a world that has many needs.



The Gospel commences with Jesus going in the

dark, 'to a deserted place, and there he prayed' (v35). This opening sentence is essential to what follows, where Jesus is called to neighbouring towns to proclaim the good news. Jesus' schedule was full. He was a person in great demand, and he didn't let people down. But it was his personal time that enabled him to be active among others.

Jesus in this passage heals many but the healing of the leper is the main focus. The leper would have been disfigured, with rotten skin and disregarded by the people – a nobody that endured years of isolation and abuse. Yet he had the courage to approach Jesus.

Jesus was 'moved with pity' (v41) for the leper and heals him. This is what draws one and all to Jesus – the clean and the unclean, the respected and the ridiculed, the rich and poor. Jesus did not divide and condemn. He was a man of deep prayer and it was his relationship with God the Father, that enabled Jesus to love, heal and save everyone who approached him. Jesus was overflowing with healing love. That is a God worth approaching and knowing intimately. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفس

في هذا الأحد بعد أحد مدخل الصوم، نتأمل في إنجيل له بُعد رمزي عميق لصومنا. إن هذه الفترة التي نعيشها هي ليست مجرد إنقطاع عن الأكل، إنما هي بدرجة أولى فترة تطهر، فترة فحص ضمير وتأمل في حياتنا، ندرک أن برص الخطيئة يُبعثنا كل يوم عن الله، نصبح مثل هذا الأبرص، دون علاقة مع الله، لأننا بإرادتنا قررنا الانفصال عنه وفضلنا الشر. نجد أنفسنا منفصلين عن الكنيسة، جماعة القديسين، لأن الحياة المسيحية هي حياة سعي إلى القداسة، واختيار دائم لله في حياتنا. وأخطر ما في الخطيئة هي أنها تجعلنا نغلق على ذاتنا، مثل الأبرص في عزلته، تجعلنا نتفوق على فقرنا وعزلتنا، على جراحتنا وخطيئتنا، على تعاستنا ويأسنا. نحيا في حالة موت دائم ونعلم أن حياتنا هي في المسيح وفي الجماعة، نعلم ولا نبادر، نتقصنا الشجاعة لنعترف بخطتنا، ونعود. المسيح يريد أن يشفيها، ينتظرنا، كما إنتظر كلمات الأبرص فلمسه. الصوم هو تقشيش عن لمسة المسيح في حياتنا، ننالها من خلال معرفة محدوديتنا وخطيئتنا، ننالها بفعل ثقة وإيمان.

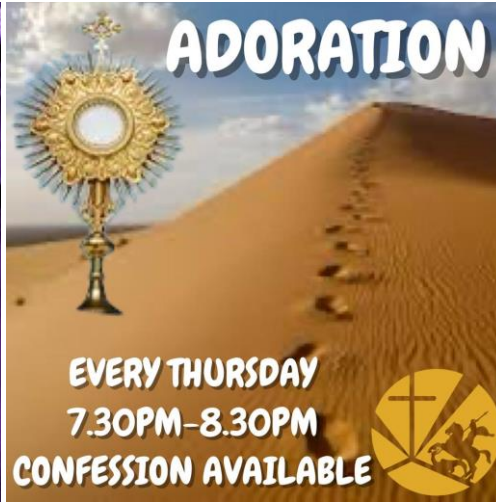
كل واحد منا يجد ذاته في صورة هذا الأبرص، إنما كل واحد منا يمارس قسوة الجماعة التي تفصل الخاطي أيضًا. كم من الأشخاص هم اليوم مثل هذا الأبرص في حياتنا وفي مجتمعنا؟ كم من الأشخاص نهتمش ونعزل؟ نترك الخاطي خارج باب قلبنا، لأنه خاطي، نهتمش بحكمنا الفردي والجماعي، نزيد ألم جراحه بعزله. كم من الأشخاص يموتون روحياً كل يوم لأننا نتركهم وحيدين؟ نعزلهم لأن في ماضيهم وصمة ما، نتحاشاهم لأنهم قد إقترفوا خطأ ما، لأن المجتمع يصمهم بوصمة ما، وصمة غفرها المسيح ولا نزال نذكرها نحن. نعزل الآخر لأنه مختلف، لأنه يخالفني الرأي والمعتقد أو السياسة أيضًا؟ ننقد مجتمع إسرائيل البدائي ومجتمعاتنا المتمدنة تمارس عزلاً وتهميشاً أخطر وأشمل: كم من فقراء يعانون الجوع والبرد؟ كم من أيتام وأرامل لا يُعَارون إهتماماً؟ كم من مرضى في مستشفيات لا يزورهم أحد؟ كم من أشخاص حولنا يحتاجون إلى مجرد لمسة، إلى كلمة تعزية وتشجيع، إلى أن نذكرهم أنهم ليسوا وحيدين في العالم، فإله إلى جانبهم من خلالنا؟ لا نخافن حُكم المجتمع في وقتنا إلى جانب من وصمه المجتمع بعلامة سوداء، فدينونة السيد سوف تكون: "ماذا فعلت لإخوتي الصغار؟".

Parish News and Upcoming Events



FRIDAYS DURING LENT SCHEDULE

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



ADORATION

EVERY THURSDAY
7.30PM-8.30PM

CONFESSION AVAILABLE

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

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1300 627 227 | ADMIN@MARONITECARE.ORG.AU



2024 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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



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 Takchl 0419 651 229

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP



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



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.

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 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 أو صفحة Facebook أو الاتصال بمكاتب الأبرشية على 02 88310000.

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Sunday 18 th Feb 2024	11am	40 th Mass for the Late Mariette Youssef Saliba	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة ماريات يوسف صليبا	١١:٠٠	الاحد ١٨ شباط ٢٠٢٤
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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. تجدون على مدخل 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 Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 05/02/2024 – 18/02/2024)
\$14,413.35

Parish Operations Account
\$70,519.35

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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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/pennanthills

Homefront
real estate

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

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



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