



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

Resurrection Sunday

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

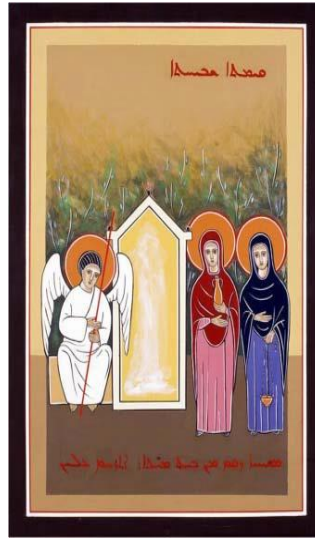
Year 2024, Issue #14

## The Gospel

Mark 16: 1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## Season of the Resurrection



## الإنجيل

مر ١٦ : ١-٨

لَمَّا أَنْقَضَى السَّبْتِ، أَشْتَرَتْ مَرِيَمُ الْمَجْدَلِيَّةُ، وَمَرِيَمُ أُمُّ يَعْقُوبَ، وَسَالُومَةَ، طَيُّوبًا لِيَأْتِيَنَّ وَيُطَيِّبَنَّ جَسَدَ يَسُوعَ. وَفِي يَوْمِ الْأَحَدِ بَاكِرًا جِدًّا، أَتَيْنِ إِلَى الْقَبْرِ مَعَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ. وَكُنَّ يَقْلُنَّ فِيمَا بَيْنَهُنَّ: «مَنْ يُدْخِرُ لَنَا الْحَجَرَ عَنْ بَابِ الْقَبْرِ؟». وَتَفَرَّسْنَ فَشَاهَدْنَ الْحَجَرَ قَدْ دُحِرَ، وَكَانَ كَبِيرًا جِدًّا. وَدَخَلْنَ الْقَبْرَ، فَرَأَيْنَ شَابًّا جَالِسًا عَنِ الْيَمِينِ، مُتَوَشِّحًا حُلَّةً بَيْضَاءَ، فَأَنْذَهَلْنَ. فَقَالَ لَهُنَّ: «لَا تَنْذَهَلْنَ! أَنْتُنَّ تَطْلُبْنَ يَسُوعَ النَّاصِرِيِّ الْمَصْلُوبِ. إِنَّهُ قَامَ، وَهُوَ لَيْسَ هُنَا. وَهَذَا هُوَ الْمَكَانُ الَّذِي وَضَعُوهُ فِيهِ. أَلَا أَذْهَبَنَّ وَقُلَّنَّ لِتِلَامِيذِهِ وَلِبَطْرُسَ: إِنَّهُ يَسْتَقِفُّكُمْ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ. وَهُنَاكَ تَرُونَهُ، كَمَا قَالَ لَكُمْ». فَخَرَجْنَ مِنَ الْقَبْرِ وَهَرَبْنَ مِنْ شِدَّةِ الرُّعْدَةِ وَالذُّهُولِ. وَمِنْ خَوْفِهِنَّ لَمْ يَقْلُنَّ لِأَحَدٍ شَيْئًا.

Next Sunday

New Sunday

Old Testament

Reading

Isa 52: 7-12

Epistle

2 Cor 5: 11-21

Gospel

John 20: 26-31

### 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 and Fridays 9:00am - 5:00pm; Wednesdays and Thursdays 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

#### Message of Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay on the occasion of The Feast of the Resurrection, Easter 2024



Dearly Beloved, Sons and Daughters of our Maronite Eparchy;

***“Jesus came, although the doors were shut” (John 20:26)***

Each year, the celebration of the Glorious Resurrection of Christ brings us spiritual joy, both as individuals and as the Church. It fills our hearts with happiness, for we firmly believe that Christ is risen, and finally conquered sin, evil, and death.

Our faith in the Resurrection opens our lives to receive the fruits of the Paschal Mystery. The most prominent of these fruits is that Christ, by His death, freed us from death, and by His Resurrection, freed us from sin and paved for us the way to new life. Through our repentance, He justified us, and in this way, the grace of God entered again into our hearts and lives.

As St Paul says, "So by our baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too should begin living a new life." (Romans 6:4).

From the event of the Resurrection to the event of the Ascension, the Lord Jesus chose to be reunited with His apostles and those whom He loved, to confirm their faith in His Resurrection, and to send them forth to evangelise.

John the Evangelist tells the story of Jesus' encounter with the disciples, when they were gathered and hiding in fear of the Jews. The Lord Jesus Christ entered the room while the doors were shut, and He said to them, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so do I send you" (John 20:21).

After His Resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples to also express His desire for them to go out and preach the Gospel of Life and the Kingdom of God. However, there is a clear contradiction; while the apostles had barred the doors in fear and confusion, Jesus revealed Himself in order to dispel their fear and instil courage and hope in their hearts. He commands them to open the doors and go forth into the world to proclaim, through the power of the Holy Spirit, repentance for sins, salvation of souls, and His true peace.

However, after the apostles had witnessed the death of Jesus on the Cross, intense sadness and pain had pierced their hearts, and great fear had invaded their lives. They did not know what to do or what would happen to them after the death of Jesus. So, they gathered in a hidden room and locked the doors. But the Lord Jesus Christ knew exactly where to find them and how to reach them to rescue them from their state of sadness and despair. By themselves, the apostles did not know what they wanted or what to do, but deep in their hearts, they had wished to see Jesus again. Yet, at the same time, they knew this was beyond human power and logic. However, "nothing is impossible for God." (Matthew 19:26)

For Jesus to seek them out and come to them while they were in this state of sadness, fear, and despair is a sign of hope and the key to new life and the beginning of evangelisation.

Dearly Beloved,

It is when the doors are shut in our faces and we do not know how to open them, and when we are in a state of fear and we do not know to respond, that we try to distance ourselves and seek a safe place. It is then that we fully realise that closed doors, fear, and confusion cannot stop the Lord Jesus from seeking us out, reaching out to us in order to save us and to heal us with His overflowing love, granting us His compassion and peace, and opening before us the path of truth and life.

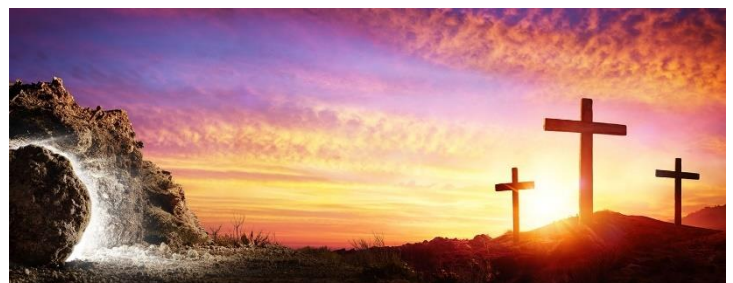
Today, as well, the Risen Christ enters our homes and hearts, even though the doors may sometimes be closed. He enters and He reconciles us with His Father and with one another, giving us joy, peace, and hope - gifts that we desperately need to be born anew and truly become sons and daughters of God in spirit and in truth.

In this year, the Year of Prayer as declared by Pope Francis, we pray with each other and for each other. We pray that the Lord will give us the strength to open closed doors in our lives, doors of mercy and reconciliation with others, accepting them as they are. We pray that the doors of peace be opened, and that wars cease, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine. We pray for Lebanon and its suffering people, asking the Lord Jesus to appear to us today despite closed doors, hidden rooms, and fear for the future, saying: "Peace be with you, my peace I give you!" (John 14:27)

With the gift of peace that the Lord Jesus Christ grants us on this blessed feast, let us open the doors and go forth with the courage and joy of believers, proclaiming with one voice:

***“Christ is Risen ... He is truly Risen  
And we are witnesses to that.”***

**+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay  
Maronite Bishop of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania  
Easter Sunday, 31 March 2024**



# Parish News and Upcoming Events



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

## 2024 FEAST WEEK

MONDAY 14TH APRIL - TUESDAY 23RD APRIL

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking potential sponsors to assist in hosting our events for our Feast Week celebrations. With the support of our sponsors, we hope to cover the expenses for our events.

<b>PLATINUM</b> <b>\$5,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banner display during feast week</li> <li>Advertising stall for your business at the Family Markets</li> <li>\$150 voucher to use at Family Markets</li> <li>Certificate of Appreciation</li> <li>Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 6 months</li> <li>Social Media advertisement</li> </ul>	<b>GOLD</b> <b>\$3,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banner display during feast week</li> <li>\$100 voucher to use at Family Markets</li> <li>Certificate of Appreciation</li> <li>Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 4 months</li> <li>Social Media advertisement</li> </ul>
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<b>SILVER</b> <b>\$2,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$50 voucher to use at Family Markets</li> <li>Certificate of Appreciation</li> <li>Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 2 months</li> <li>Social Media advertisement</li> </ul>	<b>BRONZE</b> <b>\$1,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certificate of Appreciation</li> <li>Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 1 month</li> <li>Social Media advertisement</li> </ul>
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To sponsor or for more information, please contact the Parish Office (02) 9481 7388 or email [info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)

## DONATIONS FOR EASTER AND FEAST WEEK

We are seeking donations (items or monetary) to assist with our Easter and upcoming Feast Week events and activities.

List of items can be found at the church door. Please write your details against the items you are able to donate.

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

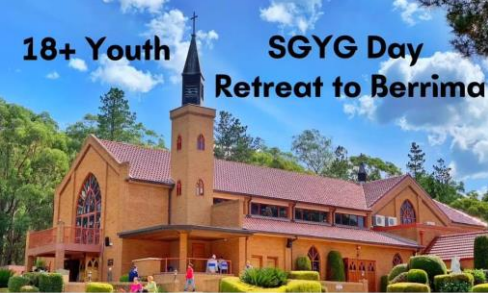


## EASTER RAFFLE



1 ticket for \$5  
6 tickets for \$20  
15 tickets for \$50

**DRAWN ON EASTER SATURDAY**



## 18+ Youth SGYG Day Retreat to Berrima

Sunday 14th April 2024

Departing 8am from St George Church and returning late afternoon



\$30 per person

Lunch provided but feel free to BYO snacks

For bookings contact Dominique on 0438 884 495



## Mother's Day High Tea

Sunday 5th May 2024  
2:00pm - 5:00pm

The Verandah  
128 Copeland Road, Beecroft

RSVP Wednesday 24th April 2024  
9481 7388  
[info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)

Limited numbers apply. Children are welcome to attend.

**\$65** per person  
(BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL)



St George Youth

Help us grow our future youth by attending our

## GENERAL MEETING

April 7th

7:30PM

Church Hall

## 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

## MARONITE Sports Day 2024

EASTER MONDAY | APRIL 1 | 7 AM

Georgina 0433 550 425 | David 0433 799 254

**BANKSTOWN BASKETBALL STADIUM, KINCH RESERVE, CONDELL PARK**

\$30 PLAYERS | \$5 SPECTATORS  
REGISTER WITH PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

## 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

## MYSAT ARABIC IS BACK!

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## Weekly Parish Activities

<b>Mondays</b> 4:45pm - 5:45pm 8:00pm	Arabic Lessons for Children Rosary Evening
<b>Wednesdays</b> 5:45pm - 6:45pm 7:00pm	Arabic Lessons for Youth and Adults Teens Gathering
<b>Thursdays</b> 7:30pm	Adoration of the Eucharist
<b>Fridays</b> 4:00pm - 5:00pm 5:00pm - 6:00pm	Arabic Lessons for Children Arabic Lessons for Children
<b>Saturdays</b> 4:00pm - 5:30pm	Fersan

# Memorial Masses

# نوايا القداسات

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	11am	Mass for the Late Youssef Chafic Khamis and his wife Wajiha.	قداس المرحوم يوسف شفيق خميس وزوجته وجيها	١١ : ٠٠	الأحد ٧ نيسان ٢٠٢٤
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St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

## 2024 Holy Week & Easter Program

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

11:00am Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay (Ar/Eng)

Hosanna (Palm) Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March:

6:00pm Mass (Eng)

Hosanna (Palm) Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March:

9:00am Mass & Procession of Palms (Ar)  
11:00am Mass & Procession of Palms (Ar/Eng)  
6:00pm Rite of Arrival at Harbour followed by Mass (Ar/Eng)

Passion (Holy) Monday & Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March:

6:00pm Mass, Adoration and Procession of the Cross (Ar/Eng)

Passion (Holy) Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March:

7:00pm Mass and Rite of the Lamp (Ar/Eng)

Holy Thursday of the Mysteries 28<sup>th</sup> March:

7:00pm Rite of Washing of the Feet and Mass of the Last Supper (Ar/Eng)  
followed by Procession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,  
with Confessions (Church open all night)  
8:30pm Visitation of Seven Churches (Booking Required)

Great (Good) Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March:

7:00am Signing of the Chalice (Ar)  
10:30am Rite of Adoration of the Cross (Ar/Eng)  
2:30pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Ar/Eng)  
3:00pm Rite of Adoration of the Cross (Ar/Eng)  
7:30pm Confessions

\* Church will be open all night until 12pm Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday of the Light 30<sup>th</sup> March:

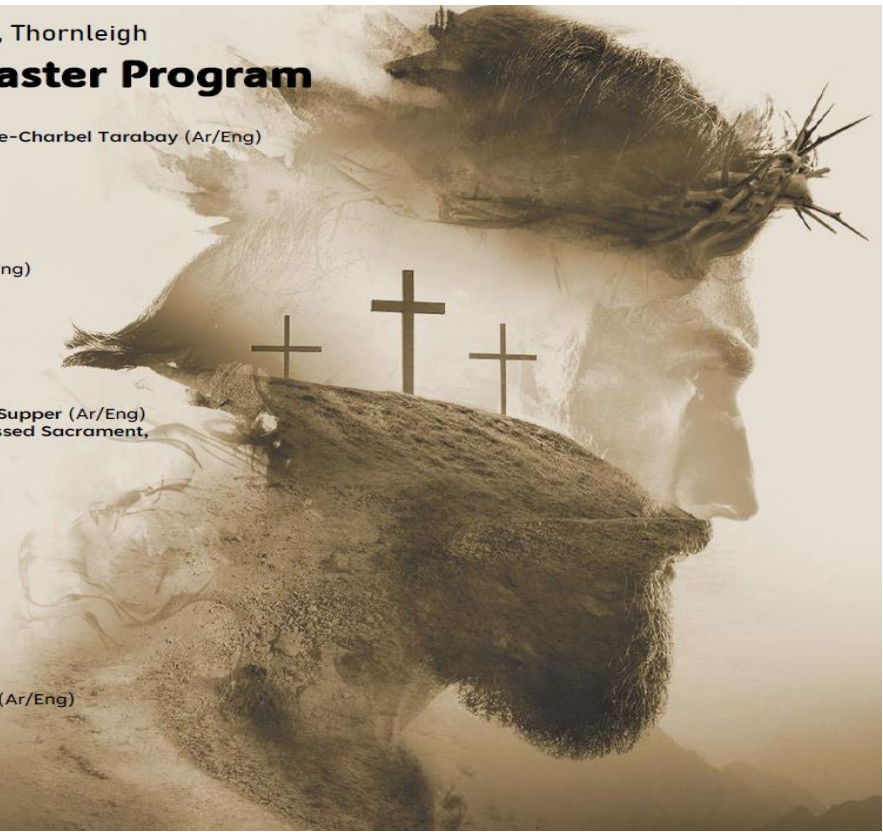
12:00pm Prayer of Forgiveness, with Confessions (Ar/Eng)  
5:00pm Children's Easter Vigil Mass (Eng)  
7:00pm Children's Easter Vigil Mass (Eng)  
11:00pm Rite of Peace & Solemn Mass of the Resurrection (Ar/Eng)

Resurrection (Easter) Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March:

9:00am Easter Mass (Ar)  
11:00am Easter Mass (Ar/Eng)

Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April:

10:00am Mass (Ar/Eng)



### Parish Financial Updates

**Parish Income (fortnight 18/03/2024 – 31/03/2024)**

TBA

**Parish Operations Account**

TBA

**Parish Loan Balance**

\$436,389.63

**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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### 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](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)**

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& LANDSCAPING**

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**St. George  
Maronite Catholic Church**