



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Sunday of the Blind

Sunday 17th March 2024

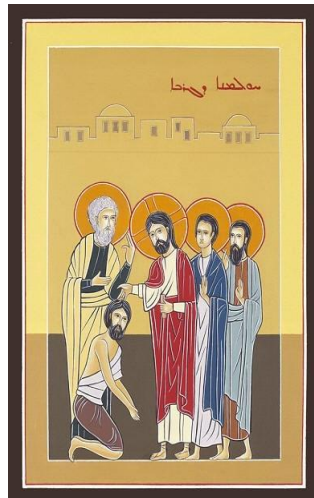
Year 2024, Issue #12

The Gospel

Mark 10: 46-52

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Season of Lent



Next Sunday
**Hosanna (Palm)
Sunday**

**Old Testament
Reading**

Zech 9: 9-11, 15a, 16-17

Epistle

Phil 1: 1-13

Gospel

John 12: 12-22

الإنجيل

مر ١٠: ٤٦-٥٢

بَيْنَمَا يَسُوعُ خَارِجٌ مِنْ أَرِيحَا، هُوَ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ وَجَمْعٌ غَفِيرٌ، كَانَ بَرْطِيمَا، أَي ابْنُ طِيمَا، وَهُوَ سَخَّادٌ أَعْمَى، جَالِسًا عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّهُ يَسُوعُ النَّاصِرِيُّ، بَدَأَ يَصْرُخُ وَيَقُولُ: «يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنَ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي!». فَأَنْتَهَرَهُ أَنْاسٌ كَثِيرُونَ لَيْسَكُتَ، إِلَّا أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَزْدَادُ صُرَاخًا: «يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي!». فَوَقَفَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ: «أَدْعُوهُ!». فَدَعَا الْأَعْمَى قَائِلِينَ لَهُ: «ثِقْ وَأَنْهَضْ! إِنَّهُ يَدْعُوكَ». فَطَرَحَ الْأَعْمَى رِدَاءَهُ، وَوَثَبَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى يَسُوعَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكَ؟». قَالَ لَهُ الْأَعْمَى: «رَابُّونِي، أَنْ أَبْصِرَ!». فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِذْهَبْ! إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ». وَلِلْوَقْتِ عَادَ يُبْصِرُ. وَرَاحَ يَتَّبِعُ يَسُوعَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ.

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

Email: info@stgeorgemcc.org.au

Bishops Message Year of Prayer

Sunday of the Blind, Beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy and Feast of Saint Joseph

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Pope Francis authorised this week the promulgation of a decree recognising the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Estephan El Douaihy paving the way for his beatification in Lebanon on the 2nd of August 2024.

Estephan El Douaihy, born in Ehden, Lebanon, in 1630, dedicated his life to the service of the Maronite Church and the pursuit of knowledge. After studying in Rome and being ordained a priest, he served diligently in various parishes and eventually became the Bishop of the Maronite Diocese of Cyprus. Known for his reforms and writings, he was elected the 57th Patriarch of the Maronite Church in 1670. He played a crucial role in preserving the traditions of the Maronite Church while facing challenges from Ottoman authorities.

The news of his upcoming beatification is cause for great joy in Lebanon and beyond. We thank the Lord for this blessing to our Church. May the prayers of Venerable Estephan El Douaihy be with us all.

Feast of St Joseph

This week, on the 19th of March, we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph, a much beloved saint. We reflect on his profound role in the life of Jesus and the Holy Family. In the Gospel narratives, Joseph emerges as a man of dreams, through which God communicates important messages to him. These dreams highlight the ongoing presence of fear and danger in his life and the important task he was entrusted with: to protect Jesus and His Mother Mary. Joseph's faith and reliance on prayer allowed him to navigate uncertainty with confidence in God's plan.

Today, we remember those burdened by life's challenges, who struggle to find hope and solace. We ask Saint Joseph to intercede for them, guiding them towards dialogue with God and illuminating their path with light and peace.

Sunday of the Blind

On this Sunday of Lent, the Maronite Church reflects on the Gospel of the healing of the blind man. The story of the healing of Bartimaeus portrays the great courage of a man who despite his disability knew exactly what he wanted. Although Bartimaeus was physically blind, his faith led him to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the chosen one, and he called out: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me". This Gospel passage is not only about the faith of Bartimaeus. It is also about the lack of faith of the disciples, who professed that Jesus was the Messiah in words, but were blinded to the fact that Jesus' mission of salvation had to go through the Cross. Although it was the disciples who called Bartimaeus, saying to him: "take heart, he is calling you", it was Bartimaeus who had the faith to see and understand who Jesus was.

Through the faith of Bartimaeus, we can see examine our faith especially in times of adversity. When fear clouds our vision and blinds us to the perspective of faith, do we, like Bartimaeus, cry out to Jesus for mercy and assistance? When fear grips us, it not only distances us from God and the Church but also isolates us from our loved ones. Regrettably, in our blindness, we may fail to recognise our family, friends, or the Church beckoning us with words of encouragement: "Take heart, get up, he is calling you."

In this Season of Lent, may we turn to God in prayer, seeking the clarity of vision to recognise His presence and the courage to respond to His call.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy

Pope Francis authorised this week the promulgation of a decree recognising the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Estephan El Douaihy paving the way for his beatification in Lebanon on the 2nd of August 2024.

Born Estephan Boutros El Douaihy in Ehden in 1630, the Venerable Patriarch became the 57th Maronite Patriarch, contributing significantly to the construction of numerous churches and monasteries while playing a pivotal role in preserving the unique identity of the Maronite Church. He was also esteemed as one of the most prominent Maronite and Lebanese historians and authors.

The beatification is scheduled to be held at the Patriarchal See in Bkerke on Friday 2 August, coinciding with the birthday of Venerable El Douaihy. Further details about the celebration will be provided in due course.

May the bells of our Maronite Churches toll in joyful celebration, Alleluia!

Feast of the Annunciation

The universal Church traditionally celebrates the Feast of the Annunciation on 25th March.

However, given that this year the Feast falls on Monday of Passion Week, His Beatitude and Eminence has directed that the Feast is to be moved to Wednesday 3rd April 2024.

St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh
2024 Holy Week & Easter Program

Sunday 17th March 2024
11:00am Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay (Ar/Eng)

Hosanna (Palm) Saturday 23rd March:
6:00pm Mass (Eng)

Hosanna (Palm) Sunday 24th 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 25th & 26th March:
6:00pm Mass, Adoration and Procession of the Cross (Ar/Eng)

Passion (Holy) Wednesday 27th March:
7:00pm Mass and Rite of the Lamp (Ar/Eng)

Holy Thursday of the Mysteries 28th 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 29th 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 30th 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 31st March:
9:00am Easter Mass (Ar)
11:00am Easter Mass (Ar/Eng)

Easter Monday 1st April:
10:00am Mass (Ar/Eng)

رعية مار جرجس المارونية طورنلي
برنامج اسبوع الالام و عيد القيامة ٢٠٢٤

أحد ١٧ آذار:
٩:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
٦:٠٠ مساءً: قداس

سبت الشعانين ٢٣ آذار:
٩:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
١١:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
٦:٠٠ مساءً: قداس

أحد الشعانين ٢٤ آذار:
٩:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
١١:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
٦:٠٠ مساءً: قداس

الاثنين والثلاثاء الالام ٢٥ و ٢٦ آذار:
٦:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
٦:٠٠ مساءً: قداس

أربعاء أيوب ٢٧ آذار:
٧:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
٦:٠٠ مساءً: قداس

خميس الأسرار ٢٨ آذار:
٧:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
٨:٣٠ مساءً: قداس

الجمعة العظيمة ٢٩ آذار:
٧:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
١٠:٣٠ صياحاً: قداس
٣:٠٠ بعد الظهر: قداس
٦:٣٠ مساءً: قداس

سبت النور ٣٠ آذار:
١٣:٠٠ بعد الظهر: قداس
٥:٠٠ بعد الظهر: قداس
٧:٠٠ مساءً: قداس
١١:٠٠ مساءً: قداس

أحد القيامة ٣١ آذار:
٩:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
١١:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس

إثنين العيد ١ نيسان:
٩:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس
١٠:٠٠ صياحاً: قداس

Parish News and Upcoming Events

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



FRIDAYS DURING LENT SCHEDULE

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



Palm Sunday Candles
ON SALE NOW \$40 EACH



MASS CELEBRATED BY HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP ANTOINE-CHARBEL TARABAY
BISHOP OF THE MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OCEANIA

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024
11:00AM

7 Churches Pilgrimage

Holy Thursday, March 28th

Mass: 7:00pm
Departure @ 8:30pm

Cost: \$30pp

RSVP by: 25th March

Strictly 18+ Youth

To book contact Dominique on 0438 884 495



Palm Sunday

Sunday 24th March 2024

Masses and Procession of Palms at 9am and 11am

FOOD STALLS OPEN AFTER MORNING MASSES

FALAFEL WRAPS

HOT CHIPS

MAAMOUL

FERN MARGES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH PREPARATION ON THURSDAY 21ST MARCH, FRIDAY 22ND MARCH, SATURDAY 23RD MARCH

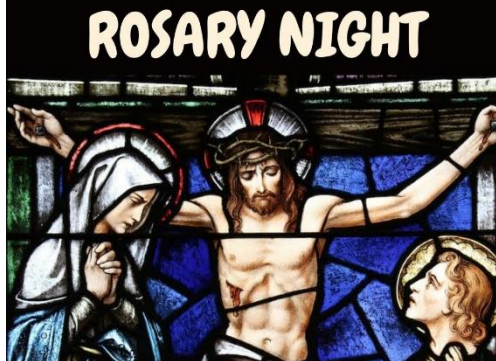


EASTER RAFFLE



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

DRAWN ON EASTER SATURDAY



ROSARY NIGHT

EVERY MONDAY IN LENT 7.30PM



KNIGHTS OF ST GEORGE LENTEN GATHERING



NO ALCOHOL

\$20 ENTRY

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 7.30PM

SPIRITUAL TALK BY MONSIGNOR MARCELINO YOUSEFF



MAAMOUL FOR SALE

\$35 per 1 kg tray

Available from Monday 18th March

To order or for more information, please contact the Parish Office
9481 7388



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



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

\$65
per person
(BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL)

Limited numbers apply.
Children are welcome to attend.





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. We are always grateful for your generosity and support.

Congratulations to the newly Baptised: Elias Youssef

Maronite Ladies of the Gospel Retreat Day

The Maronite Ladies of the Gospel invite all ladies to a retreat day on Friday 22 March 2024, to be held at St Nehmetallah Centre in Appin, including Mass and Stations of the Cross.

Buses will depart at 9:00am from Our Lady of Lebanon, Harris Park. Lunch and refreshments provided. Cost is \$60 per person. Return time will be around 3:00pm.

For reservations or inquiries, please contact Shirley Wehbe at 0409 330 028 or Noelle Zeidan at 0433 373 720.

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Sunday 17 th March 2024	9am	One Year Mass for the Late Tony Zeaiter	قداس السنة المرحوم طوني زعيتير	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٧ اذار ٢٠٢٤
Saturday 23 rd March 2024	6pm	Mass for the late Michel and Rosette Morad	قداس المرحومين ميشال وروزيت مراد	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ٢٣ اذار ٢٠٢٤

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 04/03/2024 – 17/03/2024)
\$8,422.85

Parish Operations Account
\$69,222.25

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



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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/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

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

