



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Sunday of the Paralytic

Sunday 10th March 2024

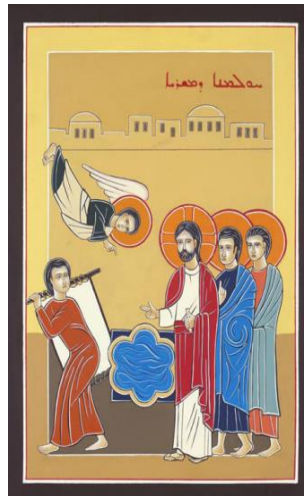
Year 2024, Issue #11

The Gospel

Mark 2: 1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' he said to the paralytic 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

Season of Lent



Next Sunday
Sunday of the
Blind

Old Testament
Reading

Isa 42: 6-8, 16-18

Epistle

2 Cor 10: 1-7

Gospel

Mark 10: 46-52

الإنجيل

مر ٢: ١-١٢

عَادَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى كَفَرْنَاحُومَ. وَسَمِعَ النَّاسُ أَنَّهُ فِي الْبَيْتِ. فَتَجَمَّعَ عَدَدٌ كَبِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ حَتَّى غَصَّ بِهِمُ الْمَكَانُ، وَلَمْ يَبْقَ مَوْضِعٌ لِأَحَدٍ وَلَا عِنْدَ الْبَابِ. وَكَانَ يُخَاطِبُهُمْ بِكَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ. فَأَتَوْهُ بِمُخَلِّعٍ يَحْمِلُهُ أَرْبَعَةُ رِجَالٍ. وَبِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ لَمْ يَسْتَطِيعُوا الْوُصُولَ بِهِ إِلَى يَسُوعَ، فَكَشَفُوا السَّقْفَ فَوْقَ يَسُوعَ، وَبَشَّوهُ، وَدَلَّوْا الْفِرَاشَ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمُخَلِّعُ مَطْرُوحًا عَلَيْهِ. وَرَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، فَقَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ: «يَا ابْنِي، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ!». وَكَانَ بَعْضُ الْكُتَّابَةِ جَالِسِينَ هُنَاكَ يُفَكِّرُونَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ: لِمَاذَا يَتَكَلَّمُ هَذَا الرَّجُلُ هَكَذَا؟ إِنَّهُ يُجَدِّفُ! مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ؟. وَفِي الْحَالِ عَرَفَ يَسُوعُ بَرُوحِهِ أَنَّهُمْ يُفَكِّرُونَ هَكَذَا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِمَاذَا تَفَكِّرُونَ بِهَذَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا هُوَ الْأَسْهَلُ؟ أَنْ يُقَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ: مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ؟ أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ: قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ وَأَمْشِ؟ وَلَكِي تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ لِابْنِ الْإِنْسَانِ سُلْطَانًا أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ»، قَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ: لَكَ أَقُولُ: قُمْ، احْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ، وَأَذْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ!. فَقَامَ فِي الْحَالِ وَحَمَلَ فِرَاشَهُ، وَخَرَجَ أَمَامَ الْجَمِيعِ، حَتَّى دَهَشُوا كُلَّهُمْ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ: «مَا رَأَيْنَا مِثْلَ هَذَا الْبَنَةِ!».

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 Maati 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 Paralytic and Feast of the 40 Martyrs

Dear Brothers and Sisters

On the 9th of March, we honour the courage of the Forty Martyrs, the brave souls, once soldiers in a Roman legion under the leadership of Lysias the pagan, who chose to follow the path of Christ despite facing persecution and death.

Originally from Sebastia, Armenia, they refused to join the Roman army to offer sacrifices to pagan idols. Refusing to renounce their Christian beliefs, the Forty Martyrs stood firm in their conviction, even when confronted by Governor Agricola. Their refusal to participate in these rituals led to imprisonment and relentless attempts to sway them from their faith, including threats of stripping them of their military ranks. However, they remained resolute. The governor ordered them thrown into a lake with freezing water. They encouraged one another, saying, "We descend forty into the water; forty of us will ascend to heaven."

The Eastern Churches honour their memory and we strive to emulate their example of unwavering faith and sacrifice. We ask for their intercessions to face any challenges with unshakeable faith and glorify the Lord through our actions.

Sunday of the Paralytic

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we reflect on a new kind of healing, unlike the other miraculous healings performed by Jesus: the Church bringing the suffering of one of its members to the Lord.

The Gospel tells us that the man rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. Strange is the case of this healed man: his only action was to carry out Jesus' command, to pick up his mat and go home. He was silent, speaking only through his compliance with the Lord's will: the Lord healed him, so he thanked Him by standing before the community, carrying his mat after years of being carried on it.

Thus, the focus of this healing was not solely on the faith of the healed man but also on the community around him. The narrative begins with the community bringing the paralysed man to Jesus but ends with the the healed man bringing faith to the community who were "astounded and glorified God."

Just as the four friends carried the paralysed man to the Lord, the Church also carries us towards healing. These arms lifting us are the prayers of the saints, the prayers of the church in heaven, our prayers for one another and our own personal prayers. Our faith is not meant to be lived alone but in a community where we support one another: family, friends, colleagues, carrying one another to Christ with humility.

This week, we ask our Heavenly Father to teach us how to unite our families and communities and care for them with love. May we encourage and support one another in our faith so that anybody who looks at our church community is astounded and glorifies God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this." (Mark 2:12)

Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week "The Paralytic"

As we enter deeper into Lent we reflect on the healing of the paralytic and what it means for us today.

Jesus does not heal the man immediately. Rather Jesus forgives the man of his sins. Only later does he heal the paralytic of his physical disability. Point to take here is that God comes to heal us holistically - emotionally, spiritually and physically.

Jesus says to him, 'stand up, take your mat and go to your home' (v11). A great deal said in a few words. Let's pull this apart.

Stand up is to reclaim your dignity, presence and self-esteem. To set off on your individual journey without dependence on others. To make your own way in the world. Take your mat is to never forget your past, your struggles, your needs. Learn from your sufferings and learn to accept whatever has happened.

Go to your home is to be restored to fullness of life. It is to return to relationships and love and belonging because all of this is essential for your growth.

So, during this Lenten journey let us take heart that no matter our current burdens and hardships, we can still move forward and achieve a sense of deeper purpose.

Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

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 وعيد القيامة ٢٠٢٤

أحد ١٧ آذار:
١١:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس يترأسه صاحب السيادة المطران أنطوان-شربل طربيه (عربي / إنكليزي)

سبت الشعانين ٢٣ آذار:
٦:٠٠ مساءً: قدّاس (إنكليزي)

أحد الشعانين ٢٤ آذار:
٩:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس وزيّاح الشعانين (عربي)
١١:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس وزيّاح الشعانين (عربي / إنكليزي)
٦:٠٠ مساءً: رتبة الوصول إلى الميناء وقدّاس (عربي / إنكليزي)

الإثنين والثلاثاء الالام ٢٥ و ٢٦ آذار:
٦:٠٠ مساءً: قدّاس ومرآح درب الصليب وزيّاح (عربي / إنكليزي)

أربعاء أيوب ٢٧ آذار:
٧:٠٠ مساءً: قدّاس ورتبة القنديل (عربي / إنكليزي)

خميس الأسرار ٢٨ آذار:
٧:٠٠ مساءً: رتبة الغسل وقدّاس خميس الأسرار (عربي / إنكليزي) وزيّاح وصدمة القربان مع إعرافات (الكنيسة ستبقى مفتوحة طوال الليل)
٨:٣٠ مساءً: زيارة سبع كنائس (الحجز مطلوب)

الجمعة العظيمة ٢٩ آذار:
٧:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس رسم الكاس (عربي)
١٠:٣٠ صباحاً: رتبة سجدة الصليب (عربي / إنكليزي)
٣:٣٠ بعد الظهر: صلاة مسيحية الرحمة الإلهية (عربي / إنكليزي)
٣:٠٠ بعد الظهر: رتبة سجدة الصليب (عربي / إنكليزي)
٧:٣٠ مساءً: إعرافات
* الكنيسة ستبقى مفتوحة طوال الليل حتى الساعة ١٢ ظهراً يوم السبت النور

سبت النور ٣٠ آذار:
١٣:٠٠ بعد الظهر: صلاة الغفران مع إعرافات (عربي / إنكليزي)
٥:٠٠ بعد الظهر: قدّاس القيامة للأطفال (إنكليزي)
٧:٠٠ مساءً: قدّاس القيامة للأطفال (عربي / إنكليزي)
١١:٠٠ مساءً: رتبة السلام وقدّاس القيامة (عربي / إنكليزي)

أحد القيامة ٣١ آذار:
٩:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس القيامة (عربي)
١١:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس القيامة (عربي / إنكليزي)

إثنين العيد ١ نيسان:
١٠:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس (عربي / إنكليزي)

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



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

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

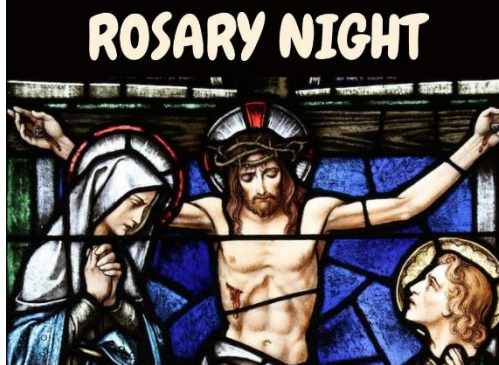


EASTER RAFFLE



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

DRAWN ON EASTER SATURDAY



ROSARY NIGHT

EVERY MONDAY IN LENT 7.30PM



ST GEORGE PLAYGROUP



Children 0-5 Years

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



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: Gianna Latif

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Saturday 9 th March 2024	6pm	40 th Mass for the Late Mountaha Chamati Kashkourian	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة منتهى شاماتي كاشكورين	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ٩ اذار ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 10 th March 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Saide Khamis	قداس المرحومة سعيدة خميس	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٠ اذار ٢٠٢٤
	11am	Mass for the Late Rachid Mouawad Mouyat, his wife Victoria, and son Tony	قداس المرحوم رشيد معوض معيط، وزوجته فيكتوريا، وابنه طوني	١١ : ٠٠	
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

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 04/03/2024 – 17/03/2024)
TBA

Parish Operations Account
\$70,862.33

Parish Loan Balance
\$436,389.63

**To receive our eNewsletter
please email**

info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



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

**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)**



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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

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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AESTHETICS**

- Laser Hair Removal
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- iSClinical Skin Care
- Skin Needling
- Eyelash Extensions
- Eyebrows
- Waxing

Eternity

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

