



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Sunday 3rd March 2024

Year 2024, Issue #10

The Gospel

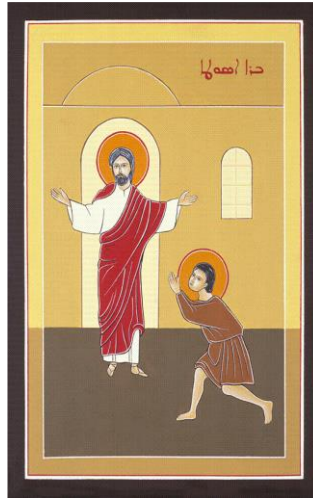
Luke 15: 11-32

The Lord Jesus says: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

Season of Lent

الإنجيل

لو ١٥ : ١١ - ٣٢



قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: «كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أُعْطِنِي حَصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَفَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرْوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْأَبْنُ الْأَصْغَرَ كُلَّ حَصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا انْفَقَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسِنُ بِالْعُوزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَوَجَأَ إِلَى وَاجِدٍ مِنَ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُقُولِهِ لِيَرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخُرُوبِ الَّتِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهَا، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهَا أَحَدٌ. فَرَجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضِلُ الْخَبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَى أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَالْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِقَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحِلَّةَ الْفَاخِرَةَ وَالسُّوسَةَ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ جِذَاءً، وَأَتُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَذْبَحُوهُ، وَلِتَأْكُلَ وَتَنْتَعِمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيْثًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَنْتَعِمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَاقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ عِنَاءً وَرَفُضًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعِلْمَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَحْوَكٌ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَاجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَجِدْمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السَّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالَفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَنَّكَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرْوَتَكَ مَعَ الرِّوَانِيِّ، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِيَ فِي كُلِّ جِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَحَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيْثًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ.»

Next Sunday
Sunday of the
Paralytic

Old Testament
Reading

Isa 35: 1-6, 8, 9b-10

Epistle

1 Tim 5: 24-6:5

Gospel

Mark 2: 1-12

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 Prodigal Son and Feast of St Youhanna Maroun

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Youhanna (John) Maroun was the first Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, elected in 685 to lead the people who came to be known as the Maronites and we celebrate his feast on the 2nd of March. Born into a noble family in 628 in Sirmaniyah (or Sarum), a village in modern-day Syria, he was initially known as John the Sarumite. His early education in Antioch and then in the Monastery of Saint Maroun equipped him with profound knowledge spanning sacred scripture, mathematics, sciences, philosophy, theology, and linguistics.

Entering monastic life and taking the name Youhanna Maroun, he was a gifted preacher, teacher, and writer. He taught and preached the Doctrine of the Council of Chalcedon, which proclaimed that in Christ there are two natures – human and divine. His style of teaching converted many to the Maronite faith. He authored the Eucharistic Prayer, which is still part of our Maronite Mass.

Amidst the tumultuous period marked by the vacancy of the Patriarchal See of Antioch from 609 to 683, the Maronites elected Youhanna Maroun as Patriarch in 685AD. He journeyed to Rome for papal approval, where he received confirmation from Pope Sergius, solidifying his position as "Patriarch of Antioch and all the East." With the Pallium bestowed upon him, Youhanna Maroun's authority became indisputable. Under his leadership, the Patriarchal See was relocated to Lebanon, unifying the Maronites and safeguarding the unique liturgical and theological identity of the Maronite Church.

St. Youhanna Maroun's unwavering commitment and leadership serve as an inspiration to confront challenges with hope and steadfast faith. Today, we seek his intercession for our Maronite Church and its leaders, invoking his example and intercession to guide us toward salvation.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Gospel of the Prodigal Son which we read this Sunday invites us to reflect on the boundless love and mercy of God. In this parable, we see a son who leaves his father's house, squandering his inheritance in reckless living. Yet, when he comes to his senses and returns, expecting only to be treated as a servant, he is met with open arms and compassion from his father.

This story reminds us that no matter how far we may wander or how grievous our sins, God's love remains steadfast. Like the prodigal son, we may find ourselves in moments of brokenness and despair, feeling unworthy of forgiveness. However, God eagerly awaits our return, ready to embrace us with unconditional love.

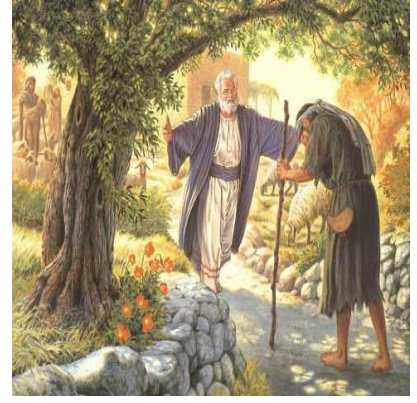
During this Season of Lent, let us reflect on whether we strayed from God's path and sought happiness in worldly pursuits. Now is the time to come back to ourselves, acknowledge our mistakes, and turn back to the loving embrace of our heavenly Father.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week

"The Prodigal Son"

We should refer to this parable as that of the overly generous father. He has two sons who need to learn what love and generosity really are! This is the most famous parable of all time and not surprisingly so, as we can identify (unfortunately) with one or the other son.



The first is a self-seeking foolish youngster who really shows no appreciation for his father. Even in his most dire circumstances he only returns to the father because he was hungry. He had hit rock bottom, and we all do, but it is necessary in order to make our way up again and hopefully a second time we may become wiser!

Then we have the elder stern son who wants to make everyone accountable and has no idea of how to really live life and love others. He too needs to learn to leave his self-imposed high tower and come down in humility.

Both sons need to meet halfway. The younger needs to acknowledge he needs mercy and the elder needs to acknowledge that he is called to show mercy.

The father is the living example of what it takes to establish peace. It is not preservation of my false pride as the two sons believed, but a total self-giving of oneself as displayed generously by the father. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

نصل إلى الأحد الرابع من الصوم للتوقف عند مثل الإبن الضال، الذي يُخبرنا عن أمرين مهمين هما: التوبة ووليمة المحبة. كان الأب رجلاً سخي مع أولاده. كان يعطي ويعطي بلا تأخر مهما كان تصرف الأولاد. هل نحسب الله ذلك البخيل، يعطي لكي يسترد؟ إذا خطئنا، فهل يضربنا ويحرمنا مما وهبنا؟ وهكذا هو الله؟ طلب الإبن الأصغر من والده حصته من الأملاك وطلب الابتعاد عن البيت الوالدي. هنا تكمن بداية الخطيئة. ونحن، كم من المرات اعتبرنا الله الحي كأنه ميت في حياتنا، ولدينا الرغبة في امتلاك كل شيء ونحن في الحقيقة لا نملك إلا خطايانا؟ الأب وهو كريم في وهبه الحب والحرية، أعطى كل شيء بسخاء. فالإبن الأصغر الذي طلب الحرية قادته في النهاية إلى العبودية. أم الإبن الأكبر حسب أنه يحب أباه، فإذا به لا يحب. لماذا؟ لأنه تنكر لأخيه وأبى أن يدخل إلى الاحتفال بعودته. ما هو موقفنا تجاه إخوتنا وأخواننا، ولا سيما إذا جعلنا أنفسنا فرسين وحسينا أننا أفضل منهم؟ فقد تحن الأب على ابنه، حيث تحركت أحشائه مثل أم تجاه طفلها. ما نفهمه أخيراً هو أننا نحن جميعاً بحاجة إلى أمرين: ١- التوبة كما للخطاة كذلك لأولئك الذين يظنون أنفسهم أنهم أبرار. ٢- وليمة المحبة: إن ذكر وليمة المحبة تكررت مرات عديدة في مثل الابن الضال. عندما كانت الجماعة المسيحية الأولى تجتمع حول مائدة المساء كانت تتذكر العمل الإلهي في العشاء الأخير والفصح الجديد الذي من خلاله أنقذنا الله ورحمنا. هذه هي الكنيسة اليوم تجتمع لتصنع ذلك لذكره، هذا ما سيكونه شعب الله الذي يجب أن يتضامن ويتحد بالمحبة أيضاً إكراماً لذكره.

أخوية الحب بلا دنس نهار روعي

بزمين 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 زعيتير.

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



ROSARY NIGHT



EVERY MONDAY
IN LENT 7.30PM



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 Zeaier for more information



2024 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

Registrations close
Monday 4th March
@ 5pm



St George Youth

Help us grow our future youth by attending our

GENERAL MEETING

March 3rd
7:30PM
Church Hall

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



MARONITE



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

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

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



Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Saturday 2 nd March 2024	6pm	40 th Mass for the Late Naziha Khodeir	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة نزيهة خضير	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ٢ اذار ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 3 rd March 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Betty Merhi	قداس المرحومة بتي مرعي	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ٣ اذار ٢٠٢٤
Saturday 9 th March 2024	6pm	40 th Mass for the Late Mountaha Chamati Kashkourian	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة مونتها شاماتي كاشكورين	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ٩ اذار ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 10 th March 2024	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	الاحد ١٠ اذار ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the newly Baptised: Clare Marie Roumanos

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.



Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 19/02/2024 – 03/03/2024)
\$5,806.15

Parish Operations Account
\$68,462.69

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

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100 Yarrara Road,
Pennant Hills NSW 2120
lsre.com.au/pennanthills

Homefront
real estate

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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
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or email
info@stgeorgemcc.org.au


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& LANDSCAPING

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- HydraFacial
- Cosmetic Injectables
- iSClinical Skin Care
- Skin Needling
- Eyelash Extensions
- Eyebrows
- Waxing


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St. George
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