



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

5th Sunday of the Resurrection

Sunday 28th April 2024

Year 2024, Issue #18

The Gospel

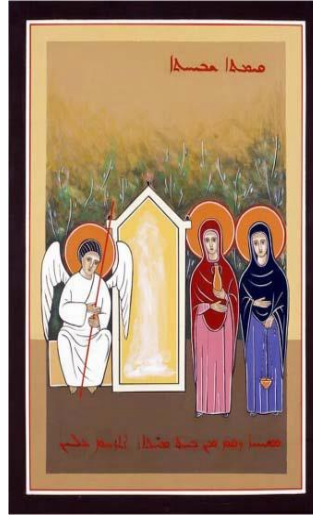
John 21: 15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Season of the Resurrection

الإنجيل

يو ٢١: ١٥-١٩



بَعْدَ الْعَدَاءِ، قَالَ يَسُوعُ لِسِمْعَانَ بُطْرُسَ: «يَا سِمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا، أَتُحِبُّنِي أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا يُحِبُّنِي هؤُلاءِ؟». قَالَ لَهُ: «نَعَمْ، يَا رَبِّ، أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي أُحِبُّكَ». قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِرْعَ حُمْلَانِي». قَالَ لَهُ مَرَّةً ثَانِيَةً: «يَا سِمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا، أَتُحِبُّنِي؟». قَالَ لَهُ: «نَعَمْ يَا رَبِّ، أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي أُحِبُّكَ». قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِرْعَ نِعَاجِي!». قَالَ لَهُ مَرَّةً ثَالِثَةً: «يَا سِمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا، أَتُحِبُّنِي؟». فَحَزَنَ بُطْرُسُ، لِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ قَالَ لَهُ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ: أَتُحِبُّنِي؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: «يَا رَبِّ، أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، وَأَنْتَ تَعْرِفُ أَنِّي أُحِبُّكَ». قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِرْعَ خِرَافِي! الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكَ: حِينَ كُنْتَ شَابًّا، كُنْتَ تَشُدُّ حِرَامَكَ بِيَدَيْكَ وَتَسِيرُ إِلَى حَيْثُ تُرِيدُ. وَلَكِنْ حِينَ تَشِيخُ، سَتَبْسُطُ يَدَيْكَ وَآخَرُ يَشُدُّ لَكَ حِرَامَكَ، وَيَذْهَبُ بِكَ إِلَى حَيْثُ لَا تُرِيدُ». قَالَ يَسُوعُ ذَلِكَ مُشِيرًا إِلَى الْمِيتَةِ الَّتِي سَيَمَجِّدُ بِهَا بُطْرُسُ اللَّهَ. ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ: «إِتَّبِعْنِي!».

Next Sunday

6th Sunday of the Resurrection

Old Testament Reading

Deut 31: 1-3, 6-9

Epistle

Rom 10: 1-13

Gospel

Luke 24: 36-48

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

5th Sunday of the Resurrection

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We prepare to enter into the month of May consecrated by the Catholic Church to Mary. The veneration of Mary, the Mother of God, is very prominent in the tradition of the Maronite Church. She is devoutly honoured in the liturgies, hymns, and culture of the Maronite Church.

Maronites have always praised and depicted the blessed Mother in connection with Christ her Son. Though the journey has been marked by challenges, persecution and martyrdom, the Maronites have always carried with them their deep faith in God and their veneration to Mary, the Mother of God. It is no coincidence then - that since their arrival in Australia in the 19th Century - the Maronites have kept this tradition alive and have built three Maronite Churches, so far, dedicated to Our Lady of Lebanon.

Mother of God - "Yoldat Aloho" (Syriac)

This is the chief epithet of Mary in the Maronite tradition, for the basis of the honour we accord her is her motherhood of Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

The earliest known Syriac text mentioning "Yoldat Aloho," the Mother of God, dates back to around 100AD in Hymn 19 of the *Odes of Solomon*. These hymns represent some of the earliest witnesses to Christianity outside of the New Testament. In this particular ode, Mary is praised for her divine maternity as the Mother of God, and for her roles as a parent and an Apostle.

Further, the profound link between the Eucharist and Mary, the Mother of God, is woven into every Maronite Divine Liturgy. In the preparation for the Eucharist, two Marian hymns are sung. The first hymn connects Mary with the Incarnation of the Lord and the Eucharist: "*Of the Virgin Mary I was born, taking flesh as man; as good earth receives a seed, her womb received me.*" The second hymn extends this connection to her association with prophets, Apostles, priests (as in the *Odes of Solomon*), and the Church as a whole as we chant: "*Alleluia! Honour Mary Mother of Our Lord and God.*"

I invite you this month to honour Mary in a special way, placing your homes and families under her maternal care and protection.

Venerable Patriarch Mar Estephan Al Douaihy

As we prepare for the joyous occasion of the beatification of the Venerable Patriarch Mar Estephan Al Douaihy, you are all invited to a Divine Liturgy commemorating the 320th Anniversary of his Passing next Sunday 5 May 2024, at 11:00am at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Harris Park. Following the Liturgy, there will be an unveiling of a statue of Patriarch Al Douaihy. A documentary about his life will also be screened afterwards, followed by refreshments in the Co-Cathedral hall.

The Maronite Eparchy of Australia is also organising a pilgrimage to participate in the Solemn Mass for the beatification in Lebanon on 2 August 2024. The trip will include visits to holy sites in Rome, where the Patriarch studied for many years, as well as Greece and Lebanon. The pilgrimage will take place from 18 July to 3 August 2024. For more information, and to register your interest, please contact the Eparchy offices on 02 8831 0000. I wish you a blessed week!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week: "Our Calling"

We are often asked when we are growing up, 'What do you want to be in life?' Many struggle with an answer, being unsure of what path they want to undertake. Whatever the career we choose, what really matters is the person we become. In today's Gospel it makes clear what we should do with our lives.

Three times Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' The question is also posed to us. In loving Jesus, it transforms who we are. Can we make Jesus the centre of our lives? The Gospel passage insists that we do. Our calling in life is to follow Christ in love. Furthermore, it is to 'feed my sheep' as Jesus says (v17). We are called into depth of love in Christ and to the wide scope of loving humanity. That surely is a life fully lived.

Life includes a career, family, work and leisure, but it all needs to be woven together with meaning otherwise life becomes fragmented and we become disillusioned and dispassionate. Christ is the one that calls us to undertake whatever we do with the knowledge we are immensely loved by God and were created to love in return. This love colours the rest of our undertakings in life and adds meaning.

In this Resurrection Season, we are invited to raise our minds and hearts to a deeply loving God. We can think greater things through the knowledge of being loved and so can do better things for ourselves and others. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

"أَتَجِبُّنِي؟". إنها أول عبارة وجهها يسوع إلى بطرس في الإنجيل الذي أصغينا إليه الآن (يوحنا ٢١: ١٥). والعبارة الأخيرة كانت: "إِرْعَ خِرَافِي" (الآية ١٧). كلمات الرَّبِّ يسوع هذه: أَتَجِبُّنِي؟ إِرْعَ خِرَافِي، نَسْمَعُهَا مَوْجَّهَةً إِلَيْنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا، لِأَنَّا كَنِيسَةٌ.

أولاً: أَتَجِبُّنِي؟ إنه سؤال، أسلوب يسوع لا يقوم فقط بتقديم الإجابات. كان يُلقَى الأسئلة أَيْضًا، أسئلة توظف الحياة. والرَّبُّ يسوع، الذي "بِقِيَضِ مَحَبَّتِهِ لِلبَشَرِ، يُكَلِّمُهُمْ كَأَحِبَّاءٍ وَيَتَحَدَّثُ إِلَيْهِمْ" (دستور عقائدي في الوحي الإلهي، كلمة الله، ٢)، يسأل أَيْضًا، يسأل دائمًا الكنيسة، عروسه: "أَتَجِبُّنِي؟" هناك دائمًا التجربة لننطلق من الـ"أنا" بدلًا من الله، ونضع أجداننا قبل الإنجيل، ونسمح لأنفسنا بأن تجرّفنا رياح الرُّوح الدنيويّة لإتباع موضة العصر، أو أن نرفض الزمن الذي تمنحنا إيّاه العناية الإلهية حتى نلتفت إلى الوراء. لنكن متنتهين: سواء التقديميّة التي تستند إلى العالم، أو المحافظة - أو الرجوع إلى الوراء - التي تتحسر على عالم مضى، كلاهما ليسا دليلًا على المحبة، بل على عدم الأمانة.

أَتَجِبُّنِي؟ إِرْعَ خِرَافِي. الكلمة الثّانية هي إِرْعَ: عبّر يسوع بهذا الفعل عن المحبة التي يطلّبها من بطرس. لنفكر في بطرس: كان صياد سمك، ويسوع حوّلَه إلى صيادٍ للبشر (راجع لوقا ٥: ١٠). والآن كلفه بخدمة جديدة، هي خدمة الرّاعي، التي لم يمارسها قطّ. وهذه نقطة تحوّل، لأنّ صياد السمك يأخذ الصّيد لنفسه، يجذب إلى نفسه، أمّا الرّاعي فإنّه يهتم بالآخرين، ويرعى الآخرين. علاوة على ذلك، يعيش الرّاعي مع القطيع، ويُطعم الخراف، ويتعلّق بها. يقف الرّاعي أمام الشعب ليحدّد لهم الطريق، وفي وسط الشعب مثل واحد منهم، وخلف الشعب ليكون قريبًا من هؤلاء المتأخّرين. الرّاعي لا ينسأى فوق الشعب مثل صياد السمك، بل هو في وسطه.

أَتَجِبُّنِي؟ وإختتم الرَّبُّ يسوع كلامه بقوله: إِرْعَ خِرَافِي. لم يقصد بعضًا من الخراف فقط، بل كلّ الخراف، لأنّه يحبّها كلّها، ويدعوها كلّها بمودة "خرافي". الرّاعي الصّالح يرى قطيعه ويريد أن يكون موحّدًا، بقبادة الرّعاة الذين أعطاهم إيّاهم. يريد أن ننظر معًا.

أيّها الرَّبُّ يسوع، أنت الذي تحبّنا، حرّرنا من إدعائنا باكتفاننا الذاتي ومن روح الإنتقاد الدنيوي. حرّرنا من إقصاننا الذاتي من الوحدّة. أنت الذي ترعدنا بحنان، أخرجنا من أسوار المرجعيّة الذاتية. أنت الذي تريدنا قطيعًا موحّدًا، حرّرنا من مكيدة الإستقطاب الشيطانيّة، ومن "المذاهب". ونحن، كنيستك، مع بطرس ومثل بطرس نقول لك: "يا رَبِّ، أنت تعلم كلّ شيء، أنت تعلم أنّنا نُجِبُّكَ" (راجع يوحنا ٢١: ١٧).

<https://www.kobayat.org>



Parish News and Upcoming Events




**Month of May
Month of Mary**

**VISITATION
OF MARY TO
YOUR HOME**

For bookings,
please register
your details at the
Church Door or
contact the Parish
Office

**ROSARY NIGHT
MONDAY'S 7.30PM**




**FERSAN 2024
COMMENCING
FRIDAY 3RD MAY
4-5.30PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 0406997100



**Mother's Day
High Tea**

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

SOLD OUT

\$65 per person
(BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL)

Limited numbers apply.
Children are welcome to attend.




**ADORATION OF THE
EUCHARIST**

Every Thursday @ 7:30pm
Confession Available




**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.





**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



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please contact:
Ann-Marie Boumerhe
0420 309 677
George Takchi
0419 651 229

**JOIN OUR
WHATSAPP GROUP**



The Committee of the
Venerable Patriarch Mar Estephan Al Douaihy in Australia
invites you to a

Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the
320th Anniversary of his Passing

Celebrated by
His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay
Maronite Bishop of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

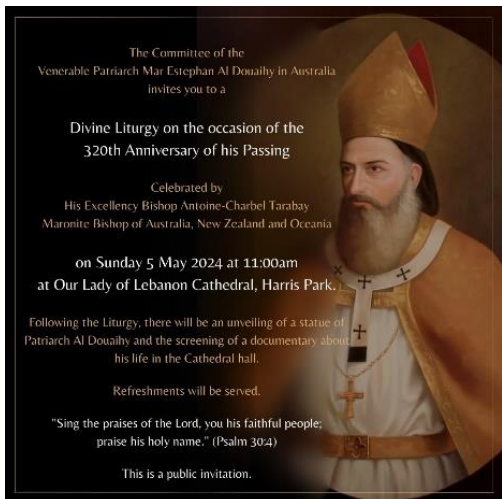
on Sunday 5 May 2024 at 11:00am
at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Harris Park.

Following the Liturgy, there will be an unveiling of a statue of
Patriarch Al Douaihy and the screening of a documentary about
his life in the Cathedral hall.

Refreshments will be served.

"Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people:
praise his holy name." (Psalm 30:4)

This is a public invitation.



بدعوة من لجنة
المكرم البطريرك مار إسطفانوس الدويهي في أستراليا

يحتفل صاحب السيادة
المطران أنطوان-شربل طربيه، راعي الأبرشية،
بالقداس الإلهي بمناسبة ذكرى ٣٢٠ سنة على وفاته

وذلك يوم الأحد ٥ أيار ٢٠٢٤ الساعة ١١ صباحاً
في كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان، هاريس بارك

يلي القداس إزاحة الستار عن تمثال المكرم الدويهي
يتبعه عرض فيلم وثائقي عن حياته في صالة الكاتدرائية
يختتم الاحتفال بكوكبيل للمناسبة.

ترفع صلوات الشكر لإعلان تطويبه في ٢ آب ٢٠٢٤
في الصرح البطريركي في بكري، لبنان

الدعوة عامة



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT MARONITE.ORG.AU

A PILGRIMAGE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF
THE VENERABLE ESTEPHAN EL DOUAIHY

The tour is under the
Patronage of His
Excellency Antoine-
Charbel Tarabay, and in
the company of our
chaplain Father Sam
Wehbe.

**ITALY, GREECE &
LEBANON**

18 JULY - 3 AUGUST 2024

Places are limited BOOKINGS CLOSE 21 JUNE 2024
COST FOR PILGRIMAGE
Flights & Acc. (per person twin share) - \$9,500
Flights & Acc. (per person single room) - \$11,590
*T&C's Apply



Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Saturday 27 th April 2024	6pm	Mass for the Late Fouad and Josephine Kazzi, Milia and Michelle	قداس المرحومين فؤاد وجوزفين قزي، ميليا وميشال	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ٢٧ نيسان ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 28 th April 2024	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Youssef Salim Nakhle Daoud	قداس السنة المرحوم يوسف سليم نخل داود	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٢٨ نيسان ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 5 th May 2024	11am	1 year Mass for the Late Mania Hanna Sarkis Boumerhe	قداس السنة المرحومة منية حنا سركيس بومرعي	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٥ أيار ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the newly Christened: Lucas Takchi & Levi Habkoug
Congratulations for receiving First Holy Communion: Jett and Joseph Habkoug

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 18/03/2024 – 28/04/2024)
TBA

Parish Operations Account
\$77,456.62

Parish Loan Balance
\$433,306.41

To receive our eNewsletter please email
info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



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[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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