



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

New Sunday

Sunday 7th April 2024

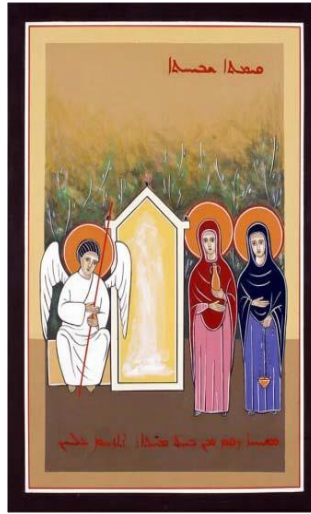
Year 2024, Issue #15

The Gospel

John 20: 26-31

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Season of the Resurrection



Next Sunday

3rd Sunday of the Resurrection

Old Testament Reading

Job 42: 1-6, 12

Epistle

2 Tim 2: 8-13

Gospel

Luke 24: 13-35

الإنجيل

يو ٢٠: ٢٦-٣١

بَعْدَ ثَمَانِيَةِ أَيَّامٍ، كَانَ تَلَامِيذُ يَسُوعَ ثَانِيَةً فِي الْبَيْتِ، وَتُومَا مَعَهُمْ. جَاءَ يَسُوعُ، وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةٌ، فَوَقَفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ: «السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ!». ثُمَّ قَالَ لِتُومَا: «هَاتِ إِصْبَعَكَ إِلَى هُنَا، وَأَنْظُرْ يَدَيَّ. وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ، وَضَعْهَا فِي جَنْبِي. وَلَا تَكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ كُنْ مُؤْمِنًا!». أَجَابَ تُومَا وَقَالَ لَهُ: «رَبِّي وَإِلَهِي!». قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «لَأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَنِي آمَنْتَ؟ طُوبَى لِمَنْ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَآمَنُوا!». وَصَنَعَ يَسُوعُ أَمَامَ تَلَامِيذِهِ آيَاتٍ أُخْرَى كَثِيرَةً لَمْ نُدَوِّنْ فِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ. وَإِنَّمَا دُوِّنَتْ هَذِهِ لِكَيْ تُؤْمِنُوا أَنَّ يَسُوعَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، وَلِكَيْ تَكُونَ لَكُمْ، إِذَا آمَنْتُمْ، الْحَيَاةُ بِأَسْمِهِ.

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 New Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our Maronite tradition, the week directly after the Sunday of the Resurrection is called the Week of the *Hawareeyeen* and this Sunday marks the end of this week. Certain linguists teach that this word is Syriac and suggests the idea of "white" and or "justification". It refers either to the angels in white at the empty tomb, who announced the Lord's Resurrection, or to the Lord's disciples who believed in His Resurrection and thus, were clothed in "justification", or also to the newly baptised members of the Church, who have received the "light of divine mercy" in their baptism and wore white garments as a symbol of their new life in Christ. In the early Church, baptisms would typically take place on Resurrection Sunday and the week that followed. Regardless of the exact interpretation, this week is a reminder that we have emerged from a period of fasting, abstinence and penance, and we have been cleansed, and clothed in white once more. We are thus called to live in righteousness, to be disciples who have put on Jesus.

On this New Sunday, we are reminded of St Thomas, who upon encountering the Risen Christ, exclaimed that Jesus is Lord and God. These words capture the very heart of our faith - the divinity of Jesus Christ. As Pope John Paul II expressed, "Jesus is true God and true man! Like the Apostle Thomas, the Church is constantly invited by Christ to touch his wounds, to recognise, that is, the fullness of his humanity taken from Mary, given up to death, transfigured by the Resurrection... Like Thomas, the Church bows down in adoration before the Risen One, clothed in the fullness of his divine splendour, and never ceases to exclaim: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28) (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 21).

Like Thomas, we may be tempted to doubt and ask; "How can this man, who endured such a cruel death, be the Son of God?" But it is precisely in Christ's wounds that we see the depth of God's love for us. In Him, we encounter the very face of God who loves us so deeply that He took upon Himself our wounds and our pain.

So let us not merely proclaim, "Christ is Risen," but let us live it out in our daily lives. Let us be true disciples of Christ, clothed in white, living in righteousness, and proclaiming His Resurrection to all we meet.

I also wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support of our Lenten Appeals for our brothers and sisters in Lebanon. Whether through the charity boxes aiding students in Lebanese schools or the Hosanna Sunday appeal for Caritas Lebanon, your response is always generous and heart-warming. May the Lord reward you hundredfold for your kindness and compassion.

May the joy of Easter fill our hearts, and may we always bear witness to the truth that Christ is Risen, He is truly Risen, and each one of us is a witness to this glorious reality!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



Reflection of the Week: "New Sunday"

How does one come to believe in anything today, especially with shifting sands of truth and a scientific and atheistic interpretation of life? How can we have faith in Christ, when we have never seen him face-to-face, and there is so much negativity blanketing Christianity?

Today's Gospel offers us an understanding of faith. The disciples have lost their faith in a Messiah, having witnessed the brutal death of Jesus. However, Jesus now appears to offer them a new way of believing, not in a human Messiah, but in a God who is here, always.

Note the passage starts with 'the doors were shut' (v26). We are here, not among die hard fans. We have here people who have given up, are living in doubt and have lost hope. Yet Jesus comes. Belief is possible, always, because Jesus is present, always. We can't shut Christ out. We can pretend God doesn't exist and go about life as if God is dead, but if we wish to, we can recognise God among us.

Christ says to the disciples, 'Peace be with you' (v26). Words of hope and comfort. An angry heart cannot feel God. An angry mind cannot fathom God. Christ comes gently among us and it is in the quietness that we know we are blessed. Thomas required physical touch, but Jesus says, 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe' (v29). John the Evangelist also writes, 'But these are written so that you may come to believe' (v31).

Belief in Jesus is about hearing his words and knowing in your heart and mind that the One whom I have heard, has touched my life forever profoundly. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf



كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

يخبرنا الإنجيلي يوحنا عن توما الملقب بالتوأم الذي أراد أن يرى ليؤمن، فأتاه جواب المسيح القائم من بين الأموات: "طوبى لمن لم يروا وأمنوا" (يو ٢٠: ٢٩). في وسط الحال الذي نعيشه اليوم، أما زلنا نطلب من الله أعجوبة يُخلصنا من خلالها من فيروس الكورونا لكي نؤمن به؟

هذا ليس بإيمان بل بتجارة مع الله، نطلب منه لكي نعطيه. الله حاضر معنا وهو يعمل من خلال كل الذين كرسوا حياتهم ووقتهم للدفاع عن المرضى والمهمشين كالأطباء والمرضى وكل العاملين في القطاع الصحي. كل واحد منا هو يد الله العامل في هذا العالم. نستطيع فعل الكثير كمساعدة الفقراء، كالصلاة للطواقم الطبي العامل في المستشفيات .

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.

PLATINUM \$5,000

- Banner display during feast week
- Advertising stall for your business at the Family Markets
- \$150 voucher to use at Family Markets
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 6 months
- Social Media advertisement

GOLD \$3,000

- Banner display during feast week
- \$100 voucher to use at Family Markets
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 4 months
- Social Media advertisement

SILVER \$2,000

- \$50 voucher to use at Family Markets
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 2 months
- Social Media advertisement

BRONZE \$1,000

- Certificate of Appreciation
- Advertising in the Parish Newsletter for 1 month
- Social Media advertisement

To sponsor or for more information, please contact the Parish Office (02) 9481 7388 or email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



Mother's Day High Tea

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

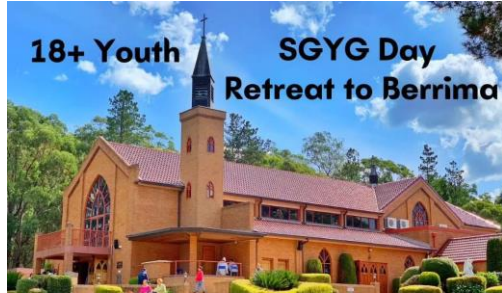
The Verandah
128 Copeland Road, Beecroft

RSVP Wednesday 24th April 2024
9481 7388
info@stgeorgemcc.org.au

Limited numbers apply.
Children are welcome to attend.

\$65
per person
(BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL)

18+ Youth SGYG Day Retreat to Berrima



Sunday 14th
April 2024



\$30 per person

Lunch provided but feel free to BYO snacks

Departing 8am from St George Church and returning late afternoon



For bookings contact Dominique on 0438 884 495



St George Youth

Help us grow our future youth by attending our

GENERAL MEETING

April 7th
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



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Weekly Parish Activities

Mondays
4:45pm - 5:45pm Arabic Lessons for Children
8:00pm Rosary Evening

Wednesdays
5:45pm - 6:45pm Arabic Lessons for Youth and Adults
7:00pm Teens Gathering

Thursdays
7:30pm Adoration of the Eucharist

Fridays
4:00pm - 5:00pm Arabic Lessons for Children
5:00pm - 6:00pm Arabic Lessons for Children

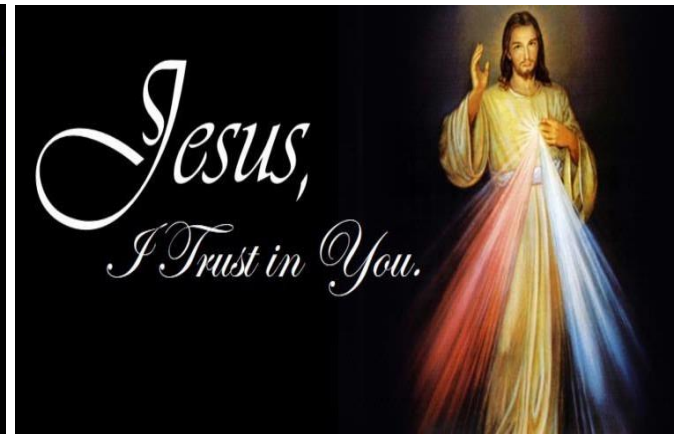
Saturdays
4:00pm - 5:30pm Fersan



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

*Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity of Your
dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord, Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world.*



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU



*Jesus,
I Trust in You.*

Memorial Masses			نوايا القداصات		
Sunday 7 th April 2024	11am	Mass for the Late Youssef Chafic Khamis and his wife Wajiha.	قداس المرحوم يوسف شفيق خاميس وزوجته وجيها	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٧ نيسان ٢٠٢٤
Saturday 13 th April 2024	6pm	1 Year Mass for the Late Anthony Baynie	قداس السنة المرحوم أنطوني البعيني	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ١٣ نيسان ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 14 th April 2024	9am	Mass for the Late John and Kharma Sukari, their son Louie, and their son-in-law Joe Maait	قداس المرحومين حنا وخرما سكر وإبنهم لووي سكر وصهر جو معيط	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٤ نيسان ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised:
Olivia Antoinette Halabi; Charlotte Seint-Georges; Jacob Matthew Stanton

Parish Financial Updates		To receive our eNewsletter please email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au	
Parish Income (fortnight 18/03/2024 – 07/04/2024) TBA		 Subscribe to our Channel St George Maronite Catholic Church	 'like' us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram
Parish Operations Account \$76,948.10	Parish Loan Balance \$433,306.41		
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)			

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


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& LANDSCAPING**

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AESTHETICS**

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- Eyebrows
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**St. George
Maronite Catholic Church**