



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

6th Sunday of the Resurrection

Sunday 5th May 2024

Year 2024, Issue #19

The Gospel

Luke 24: 36-48

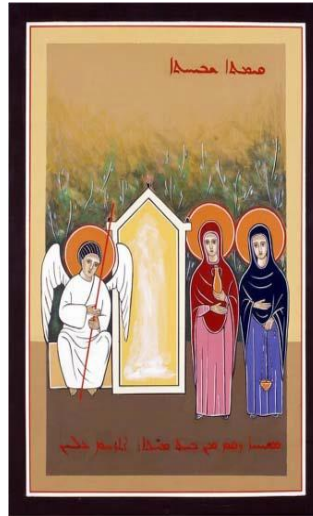
While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Season of the Resurrection

الإنجيل

لو ٢٤ : ٣٦ - ٤٨

فِيمَا الرُّسُلُ يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِهَذَا، وَقَفَّ يَسُوعُ فِي وَسْطِهِمْ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ!». فَأَرْتَاعُوا، وَأَسْتَوْلَى عَلَيْهِمِ الخَوْفُ، وَكَانُوا يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ يُشَاهِدُونَ رُوحًا. فَقَالَ لَهُمْ يَسُوعُ: «مَا بَالُكُمْ مُضْطَرِبِينَ؟ وَلِمَاذَا تُخَالِجُ هَذِهِ الأَفْكَارُ قُلُوبَكُمْ؟ أَنْظِرُوا إِلَى يَدَيَّ وَرِجْلَيَّ، فَإِنِّي أَنَا هُوَ. جُسُونِي، وَأَنْظِرُوا، فَإِنَّ الرُّوحَ لَا لَحْمَ لَهُ وَلَا عِظَامَ كَمَا تَرَوْنَ لِي!». قَالَ هَذَا وَأَرَاهُمْ يَدَيْهِ وَرِجْلَيْهِ. وَإِذْ كَانُوا بَعْدُ غَيْرَ مُصَدِّقِينَ مِنَ الفَرَحِ، وَمُتَعَجِّبِينَ، قَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَلْ عِنْدَكُمْ هُنَا طَعَامٌ؟». فَقَدَّمُوا لَهُ قِطْعَةً مِنْ سَمَكٍ مَشْوِيٍّ، وَمِنْ شَهْدٍ عَسَلٍ. فَأَخَذَهَا وَأَكَلَهَا بِمَرَأَى مِنْهُمْ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَذَا هُوَ كَلَامِي الَّذِي كَلَّمْتُكُمْ بِهِ، وَأَنَا بَعْدُ مَعَكُمْ. كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يَتِمَّ كُلُّ مَا كُتِبَ عَنِّي فِي تَوْرَةِ مُوسَى، وَالأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالمَزَامِيرِ». حِينَئِذٍ فَتَحَ أَذْهَانَهُمْ لِيَفْهَمُوا الكُتُبَ. ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَكَذَا مَكْتُوبٌ أَنَّ المَسِيحَ يَتَأَلَّمُ، وَيَقُومُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأَمْوَاتِ فِي اليَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ. وَبِأَسْمِهِ يُكْرَرُ بِالتَّوْبَةِ لِمَغْفِرَةِ الخَطَايَا، فِي جَمِيعِ الأُمَمِ، إِبْدَاءً مِنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ. وَأَنْتُمْ شُهُودٌ عَلَى ذَلِكَ.



Next Sunday

7th Sunday of the Resurrection

Old Testament Reading

Lev 19: 1-2,11-18

Epistle

Eph 1: 15-23

Gospel

John 13: 31-35

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

6th Sunday of the Resurrection

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we gather on this first Sunday of May, the Maronite Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon, patroness of Lebanon. In our prayers, we entrust to her maternal care our beloved Lebanon which continues to endure challenges and tribulations.

The Church is the assembly of saints and we believe in the communion of saints. The source of all this is the love of God who leads His people to form in Christ one holy family, the Church. This takes a special meaning for us as we celebrate this Sunday the upcoming beatification of the Venerable Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy, almost 320 years after his death on the third of May 1704.

In the Catholic Church, the death of a holy person is remembered as their "spiritual birthday" and usually becomes their feast day, because it is on that day they are born to eternal life. We pray that this great Patriarch will eventually be canonised as a saint of the Church: a model of holy living for all Christians.

Patriarch El Douaihy is the first Maronite patriarch to be beatified. He is known as "the memory of the Maronite Church" because he, more than anyone else, made a determined effort to gather the history of our Maronite liturgy, spirituality, and history that were already being lost. His dedication ensured the continuity and preservation of our Maronite faith.

When still a bishop, he approved the process of the formation of the monastic orders in Lebanon. He gave his blessing to the efforts of three men from Aleppo, efforts which have since blossomed into the Lebanese Maronite Order and also the Marian Order of Monks.

Patriarch El Douaihy can be described as a "hero in the school of holiness." Despite facing daunting challenges, such as travelling Lebanon on foot to evade persecution, navigating treacherous terrain of hills and rocks, he remained steadfast in his leadership, faith and determination. His spirit and teachings endure, and his prayers continue to accompany us, children of the Maronite Church. He is ever-present in our Divine Liturgy, in Lebanon's history and the broader history of the Church.

The Maronite Church worldwide celebrates with joy his upcoming beatification. In Australia, our community joyfully commemorates the life and spiritual legacy of Patriarch El Douaihy with a celebration on Sunday and the unveiling of his statue at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral (Harris Park).

We pray to the Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lebanon, to bless us with more men and women of holiness from within our midst. May they guide us along the path of sanctity and support us with their prayers.

I wish you a blessed week!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



Reflection of the Week: "Understand Scripture"

The resurrected Jesus makes another appearance in this Sunday's Gospel passage but once again we read of the disciples' doubts and their struggle to believe. What does it take to believe in Christ?

Jesus does a number of things in his appearance to the disciples. Firstly, he makes a sudden appearance among them. Secondly, he offers them peace. However, these two efforts only 'startled and terrified' the disciples.

On the third, fourth and fifth attempts, Jesus talks to the disciples, shows them the scars and his hands and feet as evidence of the crucifixion and even invites them to touch his hands and feet. The disciples' response was that they were 'disbelieving and still wondering' (v41).

So, on the sixth attempt Jesus eats broiled fish before their very eyes. It doesn't seem to have convinced them for Jesus then makes a seventh attempt. Jesus 'opened their minds to understand the Scriptures' (v45). After that he promises them the gift of the Holy Spirit. So, what does it all mean?

Christ is always with us, whether we believe it or not. Christ offers us endless opportunities to come to knowledge of God. It is our willingness to see, hear and engage that will determine our depth of faith. What is most important is that we read and understand Scripture. Belief without engaging in the Bible, lacks depth. We need to constantly hear God's word, written down, for believers to deepen their faith generation after generation. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفس

ربط لوقا هذه الرواية بما سبقها. حدد كاتب الإنجيل الثالث: "وفيما هم يتكلمون بهذا"، أي فيما الحديث جار بين تلميذَي عماوس اللذين كانا يخران بما حدث في الطريق، وكيف عرفا يسوع عند كسر الخبز، وبين الأحد عشر والذين كانوا مجتمعين معهم، الذين كانوا يقولون إن الرب حقاً قام، وتراءى لسبعان. فيضع هذا الربط القارئ على بيته، من أن ما سيجري، يأتي في الخط ذاته لما جرى سابقاً. فالرب ظهر وبين أهمية الكتب المقدسة، وكشف عن ذاته عند كسر الخبز. تحتل أحداث القيامة وتراثيات الرب يسوع لتلاميذه مكانة هامة في كل الأناجيل. فمن خلال هذه التراثيات يُبين كل من الإنجيليين كيف أن يسوع أظهر ذاته لتلاميذه الذين عانوا جداً من محنة موته الرهيبة حتى كادوا يفقدون الإيمان به بعد أن حكّم عليه بالموت على الصليب.

ففي هذا النص "ظهور يسوع للرسول في العلية" والذي يُشكل خاتمة إنجيل لوقا، يشدد الإنجيلي على إدخالنا باختبار حضور يسوع الحقيقي الجديد حيث يعلن يسوع القائم من بين الأموات أن على هؤلاء التلاميذ أن يكونوا الشهود على قيامته. فلم يعد يسوع قابلاً للمعرفة بشهادة الحواس، بل إنه هو نفسه أصبح يختلف كل الاختلاف حيث أضحي حضوره حضوراً جسدياً ممجداً.

"انظروا إلى يديّ ورجليّ فأني أنا هو" جاءت بعد مرحلة الضياع والإحباط والشك التي عاشها كل من التلاميذ فإقتنعوا في آخر الأمر بحقيقة قيامة يسوع من الموت وأصبحوا شهوداً للقيامة. عرفوه عندما ظهر في وسطهم كالمعلم بين تلاميذه حيث رأوه وسمعوه وإستطاعوا أن يلمسوه ورأوه يأكل أمامهم: "قطعة من سمك مشوي" وهو يرمز إلى الإفخارستيا "ومن شهد غسل" الذي يرمز إلى طعام الملوك في العهد القديم رمزاً لمملكة يسوع القائم والمنتصر على الموت.

كل هذا يقودنا إلى البرهان على أن يسوع قام حقاً من بين الأموات في جسده المجدد. إن كل الأناجيل تؤكد أن هذا الجسد لم يعد هو هو: فالقائم من الموت يظهر ويغيب ويجتاز الأبواب المغلقة وجسده لا يخضع لحتميات المكان والزمان: إنه جسم روحي كما يقول القديس بولس: "يزرع جسم بشري فيقوم جسماً روحياً. وإذا كان هناك جسم بشري فهناك أيضاً جسمٌ روحي" (1 قو ٤/٤٥)، هكذا يحول الله أجسادنا المائتة ويضع فيها قوة القيامة والحياة.

إن إختبار يسوع القائم من الموت هو جوهر الكيان وجوهر وجودنا نفسه. فحين يقول الرسول: "نحن شهود على هذه الأمور" (أعمال الرسل ٥/٣٢)، هذا يعني أنهم على يقين تام من أن يسوع هو حي. فهو قد فتح في شخصه أبواب الحياة الحقيقية أي أنه هو القيامة.

إن إختبار القيامة في حياتنا اليوم لا يتم إلا في إكتشاف طريق الحياة التي تمر بالموت، فلا بد لنا اليوم من أن نموت عن كبرياتنا وتسلفنا لكي نحيا. لذلك لا نستطيع أن نفهم شريعة الخلاص إلا عبر طريق المحنة والتجربة والفشل الذريع الذي يدفعنا إلى أن ندرك عمق ذواتنا.

"أنتا نُجيد التعرّف إلى العالم من حولنا ولكننا لا نحسن البحث عما يكمن في ذواتنا"، أمين .
<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




**ADORATION OF THE
EUCHARIST**
Every Thursday @ 7:30pm
Confession Available

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 tour
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




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please contact
Mary 0422 871 197




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**Wednesdays
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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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NEEDED FOR
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Meals, Cakes, Bread**

For more information
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.



NEW ST GEORGE YOUTH GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Congratulations to the new Youth
Leadership Team:**

Coordinator: **David Nammour**
Vice Coordinator: **Dominique Hassarati**
Secretary: **Carmen Maatouk**
Treasurer: **Ronnie Farhart**
Events Coordinator: **Veronica Sarkis**
Spiritual Coordinator: **Charbel Takchi**
Social Media Coordinator: **Larissa Khedair**
Executive Advisor: **Georgina Simpson**

**Thank you to our previous leadership team
for their service and work and we look
forward to working with our new team.**

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Sunday 5 th May 2024	11am	1 year Mass for the Late Mania Hanna Sarkis Boumerhe	قداس السنة المرحومة منيّة حنا سركيس بومرعي	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٥ أيار ٢٠٢٤
Monday 6 th May 2024	10:30am	Funeral for the Late Sam Massoud Nehme Aouchan	دفن المرحوم سمير مسعود نعمة عوشان	١٠ : ٣٠	الاثنين ٦ أيار ٢٠٢٤
Friday 10 th May 2024	6pm	40 th Mass for the Late Said Sarkis	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم سعيد سركيس	٦ : ٠٠	الجمعة ١٠ أيار ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 12 th May 2024	11am	Mass for the Late Marie Nassif	قداس المرحومة ماري ناصيف	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٢ أيار ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the newly Christened: Grace Waffika Khamis

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 18/03/2024 – 05/05/2024)
\$47,479.96

Parish Operations Account
\$94,560.23

Parish Loan Balance
\$400,281.73

Please note the Parish has made a payment of \$30,000 towards the loan this week.

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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or email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au