



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Resurrection

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Year 2024, Issue #20

## The Gospel

Mark 16: 15-20

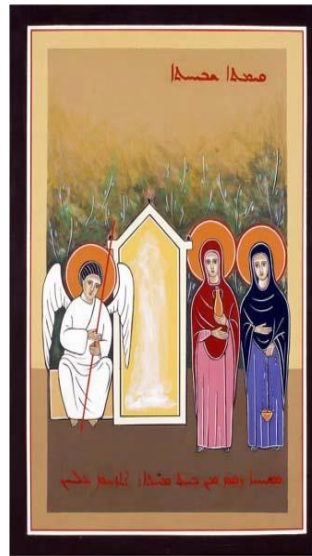
Jesus said to his disciples, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

## Season of the Resurrection

## الإنجيل

مر ١٦: ١٥-٢٠

في ذلك الزمان: تراءى يسوع للأحد عشر وقال لهم: «اذهبوا في العالم كله، وأعلنوا البشارة إلى الخلق أجمعين. فمن آمن واعتد يخلص، ومن لم يؤمن يحكم عليه. والذين يؤمنون تصحبهم هذه الآيات: فباسمي يطردون الشياطين، ويتكلمون بلغات لا يعرفونها، ويمسكون الحيات بأيديهم، وإن شربوا شراباً قاتلاً لا يؤذيهم، ويضعون أيديهم على المرضى فيتعافون. وبعد ما كلمهم الرب يسوع، رفع إلى السماء، وجلس عن يمين الله. فذهب أولئك يبشرون في كل مكان، والرب يعمل معهم ويؤيد كلمته بما يصحبها من الآيات.



Next Sunday

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Old Testament**

**Reading**

**Gen 11: 1-9**

**Epistle**

**Acts 2: 1-21**

**Gospel**

**John 14: 15-20**

### 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](http://www.stgeorgemcc.org.au) Email: [info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)

## Bishops Message Year of Prayer

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Resurrection

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Thursday was the feast of the Ascension which we celebrate today in our Maronite Divine Liturgies. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus imparts his final instructions to His disciples before His Ascension. He commands them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to the whole creation." This great missionary mandate entrusts the disciples, and through them the entire Church, with the task of proclaiming the Good News to all people.

Yet, Jesus does not merely issue this command and depart. He promises to remain with His disciples, confirming their words with miraculous signs. He promises them that He will be with them always, until the end of the world.

Christ does not abandon us. Instead, He continues to be actively present in his Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Risen Lord remains among us, teaching, healing, and guiding His people.

In his book *The Wellspring of Worship*, Fr. Jean Corbon writes that by His Incarnation, Jesus Christ weds divinity to humanity. By His Ascension, He leads humanity home to God. The Ascension is the decisive turning point... the beginning of a new time: the liturgy of the last times. This eschatological liturgy is celebrated in its fullness by the ascended Christ "seated at the right hand" of the Father.

On this feast, we remember the Lord's missionary mandate to us and we remember that although Jesus has ascended from our sight, He remains ever-present, working in and through his Church.

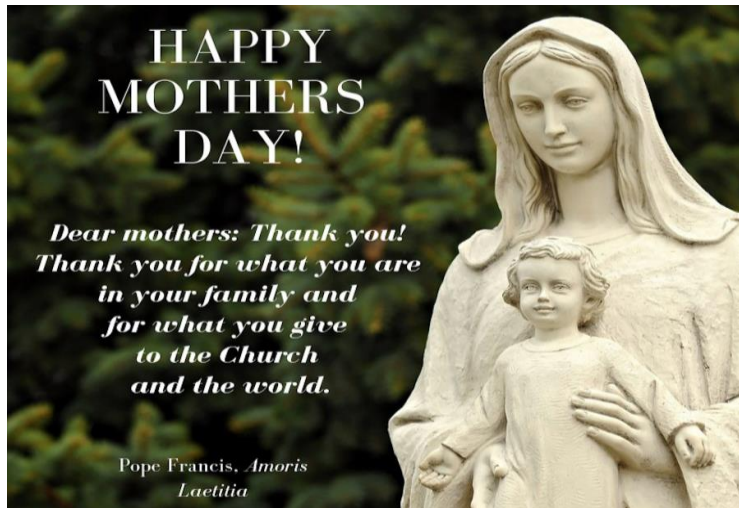
#### **Mother's Day**

As we celebrate Mother's Day this Sunday, we are reminded that Mary, the Mother of God, is a model of faith and discipleship, who points us towards the ultimate goal of our own salvation and eternal life with God.

We seek her intercession for every mother on this special day. We offer prayers for mothers everywhere, for those who mourn, for those in war zones, for mothers separated from their children, and for women longing for motherhood.

We entrust all mothers to God's love, and to His Holy Mother. May Our Lady's example inspire all mothers to nurture their children with the same selfless devotion she showed to our Lord.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



## Reflection of the Week: "New Commandment"

In our last week in the Season of the Resurrection we are given a new commandment by Jesus, 'that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another' (v34). Next week commences the Season of Pentecost so let us equip ourselves this week with love, so that we are prepared for the life transforming Holy Spirit as we celebrate Pentecost next week.

Only one commandment was given by Jesus, and it is the greatest of all. To love. This was Jesus' parting message to all. To love. Nothing about revenging him for the suffering he had gone through, nothing about me, myself and I. The last message he gave us was an encapsulation of what Jesus did his entire life - to love.

Today the buzz word is all about wellbeing, about personal happiness, about the individual. Love today is about quick relationships, physical satisfaction, no accountability. Everything must be easy, giving me my independence and assuring me I get what I want. But Jesus says otherwise. Life is about loving one another with the life-giving love that Jesus showed.

Why commit ourselves to loving when others hate us, laugh at us, and when loving will cost us and cause us heart break? It is because love brings out the best in us and in others. It gives us meaning and hope and we see the beauty we have in us, in others and in the world. It makes us fully human and gives us a life worth living. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

### كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

أحبوا أنتم أيضاً بعضكم بعضاً. أصغينا إلى بعض الكلمات التي قالها يسوع لتلاميذه قبل أن ينتقل من هذا العالم إلى الأب السماوي، وهي كلمات تبين لنا ما معنى أن نكون مسيحيين. قال: "كما أحببتكم، أحبوا أنتم أيضاً بعضكم بعضاً" (يوحنا ١٣: ٣٤).

هذه هي الوصية التي تركها لنا السيد المسيح، وهي المعيار الأساسي لتمييز هل نحن حقاً تلاميذه أم لا: إلتها وصية المحبة. لتتوقف عند عنصرين أساسيين في هذه الوصية، هما: محبة يسوع لنا - كما أحببتكم - والمحبة التي طلب منا أن نعيشها - أحبوا أنتم أيضاً بعضكم بعضاً.

أولاً، كما أحببتكم. كيف أحبنا يسوع؟ أحبنا حتى النهاية، وحتى بذل نفسه كاملةً. من المؤثر أنه أعلن هذه الكلمات في ليلة مظلمة، بينما كان الجو في العلية مُثَقلاً بالإنفعال والقلق: بالإنفعال لأن المعلم كان يودع تلاميذه، وبالقلق لأنه أعلن أن واحداً منهم بالتحديد سوف يخونه.

يمكننا أن نتخيل حجم الألم الذي كان يحمله يسوع في نفسه، وحجم الظلمة التي كانت تزداد في قلب الرّسل، وحجم المرارة عندما رأى يهوذا الذي غادر الغرفة ليبدخ ليلة الخيانة، بعد أن تلقى اللقمة التي غمسها المعلم وناوله إياها. في ساعة الخيانة بالتحديد، أكد يسوع محبته لتلاميذه. لأنه في ظلمة الحياة وعواصفها، هذا هو الجوهر: أن الله يحبنا.

ثانياً: ليكن هذا الإعلان هو المحور عندما نعترف بإيماننا وعندما نغير عنه: "أسنا نحن أحبنا الله، بل هو أحبنا" (1 يوحنا ٤: ١٠). لا ننس هذا أبداً. لا يوجد في المحور مهارتنا وإستحقاقنا، بل محبة الله غير المشروطة والمجانبة، التي لم نستحقها.

في البداية عندما أصبحنا مسيحيين، لم تكن هناك عقائد وأعمال، بل كانت دهشتنا في إكتشافنا أننا محبوبون، قبل أي جواب منا. بينما يريد العالم غالباً أن يُقتنعنا بأنه لا قيمة لنا إلا إذا حققنا إنجازات، يذكرنا الإنجيل بحقيقة الحياة، وهي: نحن محبوبون. وهذه هي قيمتنا: نحن محبوبون. هكذا كتب معلم روعي في عصرنا، قال: "قبل أن يرانا أي إنسان، رانا الله بعيون المحبة. قبل أن يسمعا أي شخص نيكى أو نضحك، سمعا إلينا الذي هو كله آذان مُصغية إلينا. قبل أن يكلمنا أي شخص في هذا العالم، كان صوت المحبة الأبدي يكلمنا."

لقد أحبنا الله أولاً، وإنتظرنا. إنه يحبنا، ولا يزال يحبنا. هذه هي هويتنا: أن الله أحبنا. وهذه هي قوتنا: أن الله أحبنا. وعملياً، ماذا يعني أن نعيش هذه المحبة؟ قبل أن يترك لنا هذه الوصية، غسل يسوع أرجل تلاميذه، وبعد أن أعلن هذه الوصية، أسلم نفسه على خشبة الصليب. المحبة تعني هذا: أن نخدم ونهب حياتنا.

أن نخدم، أي ألا نضع مصالحنا في المرتبة الأولى، وأن نتطهر من سموم الجشع والمنافسة، وأن نحارب سرطان اللامبالاة ودودة المرجعية الذاتية، ونشارك الآخرين المواهب والعطايا التي منحنا إياها الله لنسأل أنفسنا، فعلياً: "ماذا أفعل أنا للأخرين؟".

هذه هي المحبة. وبعد ذلك، أعيش الأمور اليومية بروح الخدمة، وبمحبة ومن دون صخب، ومن دون أن أطالب بأي شيء. <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

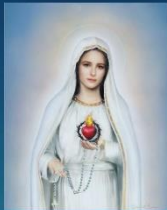
## KNIGHTS OF ST GEORGE MEN'S GATHERING



**FRIDAY 31ST MAY**  
**6PM MASS**  
**FOLLOWED BY SPIRITUAL  
TALK AND BBQ**



*Feast of our Lady of Fatima*



**ROSARY NIGHT**  
**MONDAY 13TH MAY**  
**7.30PM**

*"In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph"  
Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for Us*

## CONFESSION



**EVERY  
THURSDAY**  
**7.30PM-8.30PM**

*John 1:9  
9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and  
will forgive us our sins and purify us from all  
unrighteousness*



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [MARONITE.ORG.AU](http://MARONITE.ORG.AU)

A PILGRIMAGE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF  
THE VENERABLE ESTEPHAN EL DOUAHY

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



## 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



## Memorial Masses

## نوايا القداست

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	11am	6 Year Mass for the Late Marie Nassif and 6 Month Mass for her late husband, John Nassif	قداست 6 سنوات المرحومة ماري ناصيف وقداست 6 أشهر لزوجها المرحوم جان ناصيف	11 : 00	الاحد 12 أيار 2024
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Martha Zaiter	قداست المرحومة مرثا زعيتير	9 : 00	الاحد 19 أيار 2024
	11am	Thanksgiving Mass for all St George Feast Week Volunteers, Sponsors and Donors	قداست الشكر لجميع المساعدين والمتبرعين في أسبوع عيد مار جرجس	11 : 00	

## Parish Financial Updates

**Parish Income (fortnight 06/05/2024 – 19/05/2024)**  
\$13,706.15

**Parish Operations Account**  
\$86,902.52

**Parish Loan Balance**  
\$400,281.73

**To receive our eNewsletter  
please email**  
[info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)



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[St George Maronite  
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**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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## Thank You to Our Mother's Day High Tea Sponsors

Senior Hair Stylist  
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Mob. 0410 573 967  
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@hair\_at\_the\_san

EMAIL: info@mimsbeautyspot.com.au  
PHONE: 0416 267 049  
INSTAGRAM: @mimsbeautyspot

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New South Wales 2112  
Australia: 02 9807 4323  
Outside Australia: +61 2 9807 4323  
or +61 2 9807 4370  
<https://www.petalsofputney.com.au>

Monica Dimian  
Director  
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info@eternity.com.au  
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9651 4261  
Shop 5, 524 Old Northern Rd  
Round Corner, Dural 2157  
www.lyvonnesc.com.au

## 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

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BUYING, SELLING or RENTING ?  
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274 Pennant Hills Road, Thornleigh  
9484 0555 info@homefront.com.au

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[insureus.com.au](http://insureus.com.au)

**For more information on advertising, please contact the Parish Office 9481 7388  
or email [info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)**