



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

6th Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 23rd June 2024

Year 2024, Issue #26

The Gospel

Matt 10: 16-25

See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Season of Pentecost



Next Sunday

7th Sunday of Pentecost

Old Testament Reading

Num 11: 16-17, 24-29

Epistle

2 Cor 3: 1-6

Gospel

Luke 10: 1-7

الإنجيل

متى ١٠: ١٦-٢٥

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ: «هَذَا أَنَا أُرْسِلُكُمْ كَالْحِرَافِ بَيْنَ الذِّئَابِ. فَكُونُوا حُكَمَاءَ كَالْحَيَّاتِ، وَوُدَعَاءَ كَالْحَمَامِ. إِحْذَرُوا النَّاسَ! فَإِنَّهُمْ سَيَسْلِمُونَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَجَالِسِ، وَفِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ يَجْلِدُونَكُمْ. وَتُسَافِرُونَ إِلَى الْوَلَاةِ وَالْمُلُوكِ مِنْ أَجْلِي، شَهَادَةً لَهُمْ وَلِلْأُمَّمِ. وَحِينَ يُسْلِمُونَكُمْ، لَا تَهْتَمُّوا كَيْفَ أَوْ بِمَاذَا تَتَكَلَّمُونَ، فَإِنَّكُمْ سَتُعْطَوْنَ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ مَا تَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِهِ. فَلَسْتُمْ أَنْتُمْ الْمُتَكَلِّمِينَ، بَلْ رُوحُ أَبِيكُمْ هُوَ الْمُتَكَلِّمُ فِيكُمْ. وَسَيَسْلِمُ الْأَخُ أَخَاهُ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، وَالْأَبُ ابْنَهُ، وَيَتَمَرَّدُ الْأَوْلَادُ عَلَى وَالِدِيهِمْ وَيَقْتُلُونَهُمْ. وَبُغْضُكُمْ جَمِيعُ النَّاسِ مِنْ أَجْلِ اسْمِي، وَمَنْ يَصْبِرُ إِلَى الْمُنْتَهَى يَخْلُصُ. وَإِذَا أَضْطَهَدُوكُمْ فِي هَذِهِ الْمَدِينَةِ، أَهْرُبُوا إِلَى غَيْرِهَا. فَالْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ تَبْلُغُوا آخِرَ مَدِينِ إِسْرَائِيلَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ. لَيْسَ تَلْمِيزٌ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ مُعَلِّمِهِ، وَلَا عَبْدٌ مِنْ سَيِّدِهِ. حَسَبُ التَّلْمِيزِ أَنْ يَصْبِرَ مِثْلَ مُعَلِّمِهِ، وَالْعَبْدُ مِثْلَ سَيِّدِهِ. فَإِنْ كَانَ سَيِّدُ الْبَيْتِ قَدْ سَمَّوَهُ بَعْلَ زَبُولٍ، فَكَمْ بِالْأَحْرَى أَهْلُ بَيْتِهِ؟

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 Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

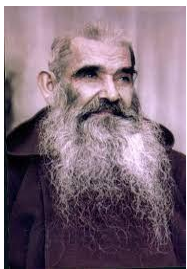
This Sunday's Gospel highlights the difficulties and contradictions Christians will endure because of Christ and His Gospel, emphasizing the need to resist and persevere to the end. Jesus assured us, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Mt 28:20), but He did not promise an easy path. On the contrary, He said, "You will be hated by everyone because of me" (Mt 10:22).

The Church and the world are sometimes two realities that can be difficult to reconcile. As baptised Christians, we do not renounce our citizenship in this world, nor do we refuse to contribute to its support and improvement. Civic duties are also Christian duties. We do not belong to the world unconditionally; we belong completely to Jesus Christ and the Church, our true spiritual homeland, which leads us from here on earth to our ultimate home in heaven.

This dual citizenship—belonging to both the world and the Church—often results in conflict between good and evil. Our beliefs may not be accepted, which is not a new challenge. What was true for the first disciples remains true for us today. We do not need to isolate ourselves from society. Instead, we are called to proclaim God's love, bear witness to His Word, and welcome and love others in their diversity.

Despite the daunting predictions we read in the Gospel, Jesus offers us reassurance. He promises that the Holy Spirit will speak through us in our times of trial. This divine support ensures that we are never alone in our struggles. Let us pray for the grace to be wise and innocent, to endure faithfully, and to trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Blessed Yacoub, the Capuchin



On 26 June, our Maronite Church commemorates the feast of Blessed Yacoub, the Capuchin. Blessed Yacoub, originally Khalil El-Haddad, was born on 1 February 1875 in Ghazir, Lebanon. He entered the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin in 1893.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Blessed Yacoub's life was his unwavering dedication to the marginalised and the poor. Inspired by the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, he founded numerous institutions to care for the sick, orphaned, and elderly. His legacy includes hospitals, schools, and orphanages that provided care to neglected individuals regardless of their age, race, or religion. He was a true pioneer in community service.

Blessed Yacoub's actions were not motivated by a desire for recognition or reward but by an intimate love for Christ and a genuine desire to serve Him in others.

On his feast, we implore his intercession for our beloved Lebanon and its struggling people, praying that the path to recovery begins soon through earnest and thoughtful socio-economic reforms and plans.

I wish you a blessed week!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week: "Troubled Times"

Times of trouble, threats and falsehoods. We seem to be putting out spot fires incessantly and in whatever direction we look, we find things going awry. There are legislations that trouble us, truths that are hidden, lies being perpetuated, ongoing attacks on religions, unfounded accusations about people's characters, and much more. Indeed, times are tough and becoming even more difficult to navigate.

Our Gospel expresses these concerns and advises, 'be wise as serpents and innocent as doves' (v16). To maintain our integrity in times of difficulties and yet to be able to wisely speak our views and challenge the claims that oppose our values. It takes knowledge, support and prayer to stand for truth in today's society, but it is necessary that we do it. 'What happens when we abrogate our responsibility and let others do the work of perceiving, assessing, discerning and deciding – in the personal, political or religious sphere – is that we drift (or rather become drifters) and the shape of the world around us is configured by others' writes Maeve Louise Heaney.

The Gospel further states, 'do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you' (vv19-20). Great words of comfort. If we remain faithful to God in our search for truth, we will be rewarded with insight and courage to say what must be said and do what must be done. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

غالبًا ما يسبب نضًا كهذا شكًا وتشكيكًا في محبة الرب لعابديه بكونه يشير بصراحة إلى حجم الشدائد التي سيسببها لهم إتباعه. ولكن، قلّة ترى فيه أمرين مهمين جدًا لتصحيح نظرنا إلى الله!

الأمر الأول هو صدق الرب، فهو يخاطب بنيه ويرشدهم إلى السبيل السويّ المستند إلى الثقة به وبحضوره الدائم معهم ووسطهم وفق ما أشار في الآيتين ١٩ و ٢٠: "وَجِئْ يَسْلُمُونَكُمْ، لَا تَهَيَّبُوا كَيْفَ أَوْ بِمَاذَا تَتَكَلَّمُونَ، فَإِنَّكُمْ سَتُعْطُونَ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ مَا تَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِهِ. فَاسْمِعُوا أَنْتُمْ الْمُتَكَلِّمِينَ، بَلْ رُوحٌ أَيْنَكُمْ هُوَ الْمُتَكَلِّمُ فِيكُمْ." صدق الرب هذا مرتبط بالواقعية فإتباع الرب ليس مبنياً على عملية تسويق جوهرها الغش والوعد بأمر لن تحدث أو بجنة على الأرض!

واقعية الرب وصدقه دفعاه إلى توصيف واضح للأمر التي ستحدث لمن سيتبعه إذ سيعاني من ظلم الأقربين والأبعدين الذين لن يتمكنوا من فهم جوهر دعوته ورسالته وهو كان أول من عانى من هذا الظلم مع أهل بلده الناصرة ومن بعدهم مع رؤساء اليهود والرومان الذين وصلوا به إلى الصلب والموت! ولكن، غالبًا ما يغفل قراء هذا النصّ المعنى العميق للآيتين ٢٤ و ٢٥: "لَيْسَ تَلْمِيزٌ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ مُعَلِّمِهِ، وَلَا عَيْدٌ مِنْ سَيِّدِهِ. حَسَبُ التَّلْمِيزِ أَنْ يَصِيرَ مِثْلَ مُعَلِّمِهِ." صحيح أن التشبيه هنا قائم على جوهر ما عناه وما كان سيعانيه يسوع ولكن، في العمق، تحمل هاتين الآيتين دعوةً كبيرة إلى الرجاء وهو الأمر الثاني الذي أشرنا إليه في مطلع شرحنا هذا.

فالمعلم لم يصل إلى الموت فقط بل غلب الموت بقيامته وبالتالي فالرب يدعونا إلى الرجاء أي إلى تجاوز الألم العابر أو الإضطهاد المرحليّ إلى الإدراك بأن الألم أو المرض أو الموت الجسديّ ليست نهاية قصة الإنسان بل هي مرحليّة ولو استمرت سنوات أو عقود وهي، وإن أثرت على الجسد، لا تستطيع أن تمسّ الروح إلا إن غرق الإنسان في اليأس!

فرجاء القديسة رفا في مواجهة الألم هو ما جعلها قديسة وليس ألمها! ورجاء الرّسولين بطرس وبولس هو ما قدّسهما وليس عذابهما... لذا، يدعونا نصّ اليوم إلى فهم معنى الرجاء وإبقاء حرارة الروح مشتعلة عبر التحديق بأيقونة يسوع المسيح الذي يقودنا، وسط درب الجلجلة، إلى القيامة والإنعاش على ما قد يبعد ضعيفي الإيمان عن ميناء الوصول إلى الوجهة الأهم وهي الإنتصار الداخليّ على الألم والإضطهاد مهما بلغ حجم الألم فالألم زائل أما موضوع رجائنا وإيماننا، أي الرب، فهو باق.

كثيرون يحلمون بحياة كاملة دون ألم ولكنهم بهذا يفتقدون إلى الواقعية فمجرد أن نعرف القليل عن علم الأحياء يجعلنا نعلم بأن خلايا جسدنا تموت ملايين المرّات كي يبقى جسدنا حيًا وقليل من المعرفة بالكيمياء تجعلنا ندرك أن تفاعل المواد هو ما يوجد موادًا جديدة...

فسؤال "لماذا" قد يقودنا إلى الشكّ ولكن بعد الشكّ ورغم الشكّ يدعونا النصّ إلى تغليب الإيمان والرجاء فيقودنا إلى الإنتصار. فماذا سنختار؟

<https://www.kobayat.org>

Parish News and Upcoming Events

Origin Game 2





26th June 7pm

\$10 Entry
Food & drinks provided

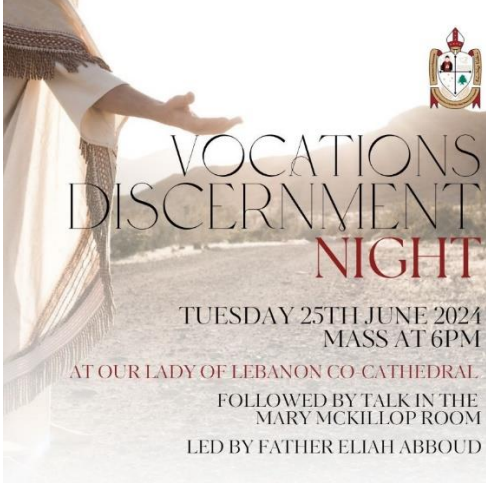
PRIZES TO BE WON!

ROSARY NIGHT



EVERY MONDAY

7.30PM IN THE CHURCH

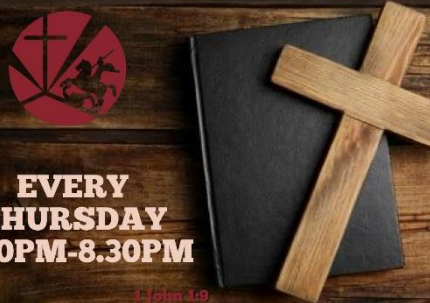


VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT NIGHT

TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2024
MASS AT 6PM

AT OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO. CATHEDRAL
FOLLOWED BY TALK IN THE MARY MCKILLOP ROOM
LED BY FATHER ELIAH ABOUD

CONFESSION



EVERY THURSDAY 7.30PM-8.30PM

1 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

ST GEORGE PLAYGROUP



EVERY FRIDAY 10am - 12pm
during school term

Children 0-5 Years

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




CREED TO COMMUNION

Discover the heart of the Catholic faith

A course that explores the teachings of the Catholic Church for those desiring to deepen their understanding of the Faith or for adults seeking the Sacrament of Baptism

EVERY MONDAY FROM 17 JUNE 2024
AT 7:30PM

LOL COMMUNITY YOUTH AND PASTORAL CENTRE
1/40-46 ALICE ST, HARRIS PARK

For enquiries, call or text Subdeacon Charbel Mourani on 0410 343 233 or email faithformation@maronite.org.au
To register, go to tinyurl.com/MaroniteCTC

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MARONITE CATHOLIC FAITH

17 June	God's Purpose for You
24 June	Belief and Faith
01 July	The Most Holy Trinity
08 July	Our Lord Jesus Christ
15 July	Our Lord's Life, Death and Purpose
22 July	The Holy Spirit
29 July	The One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church
05 August	Scripture and Tradition
12 August	Our Lady Part I
19 August	Our Lady Part II
26 August	Prayer
02 September	Virtue and Sin
09 September	The Ten Commandments
16 September	The Teachings of the Lord
23 September	The Sacrament of Confession
30 September	The Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation
07 October	The Eucharist
14 October	The Sacrament of Marriage
21 October	The Maronite Saints
28 October	Catholic Social Teaching
04 November	The Divine Liturgy - The Qurbono
11 November	Q&A Night!

Course is held at the Our Lady of Lebanon Community Youth and Pastoral Centre, 40 Alice Street, Harris Park. Classes begin at 7:30 pm and everyone is welcome.
To register, go to tinyurl.com/MaroniteCTC

WORLD Youth DAY

Rome 2025


JUBILEE OF YOUNG PEOPLE
PARIS | LOURDES | ROME (6 DAYS) | SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO
CASCIA | ASSISI | FLORENCE | PADUA | VENICE
23 JULY - 10 AUGUST 2025

OPTIONAL TOUR | MEDJUGORJE | 5 DAYS

MARONITE YOUTH DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESENTS

ONE MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE
ONE HOPE IN JESUS CHRIST
ONE PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE
COME JOIN US

SCAN THE QR TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST.
FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, EMAIL TINA AT TINASALAME@HOTMAIL.COM



MARONITE YOUTH DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESENTS A

MOVIE NIGHT INDOOR SLEEPOUT

THE CHOSEN

SEASON 4

FROM FRIDAY 12 JULY 6PM THROUGH SATURDAY 13 JULY MIDDAY

AT LOL CO-CATHEDRAL HALL, HARRIS PARK

ENTRY | \$50 PP

INCLUDES DINNER & BREAKFAST (POPCORN, CHOCOLATES & DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR SALE DURING THE NIGHT)

BRING YOUR OWN SLEEPING BAGS, BLANKETS AND PILLOWS!

UNDER 18'S WELCOME HOWEVER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT FAMILY MEMBER THROUGHOUT EVENT



TO REGISTER USE THE QR CODE OR EMAIL TINASALAME@HOTMAIL.COM
ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS WYD25

YEAR OF PRAYER 2024

BY POPE FRANCIS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RETREAT FOCUSED ON PRAYER

HEAR, O LORD AND ANSWER ME

for I am poor and needy

Psalm 86

SATURDAY 13 JULY | 9AM-4PM (MASS 8AM)
BEIT MAROUN CHAPEL
105 THE BOULEVARDE STRATHFIELD

The day will consist of a talk, activity, adoration & confession

Register via www.trybooking.com/CSEBL
Cost: \$30






DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MONTHLY FOOD RUNS

MEAL ITEMS SUCH AS:
Sandwiches, Fruit, Hot Meals, Cakes, Bread

For more information please contact:

Ann-Marie Boumerhe
0420 309 877
George Takchi
0419 651 229

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP



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.



Sodality of the Immaculate Conception welcomes new members - any ages!

NOW COMMENCING IN ENGLISH.

For more information, please contact Deacon Nagi or Josephine Zeaiter

Congratulations to the Newly Weds: Anthony Younan & Angel Tayoun

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 10/06/2024 – 23/06/2024)
\$6,526.40

Parish Operations Account
\$86,546.30

Parish Loan Balance
\$389,547.52

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



Subscribe to our Channel
[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)



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
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9484 0555 info@homefront.com.au

A & M KAZZI & SONS



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

1/500 Old Northern Rd., Dural (02) 8415 0692

THORNLEIGH Autobody SMASH REPAIRS

For more information on advertising, please contact the Parish Office 9481 7388 or email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au