



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

11th Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 28th July 2024

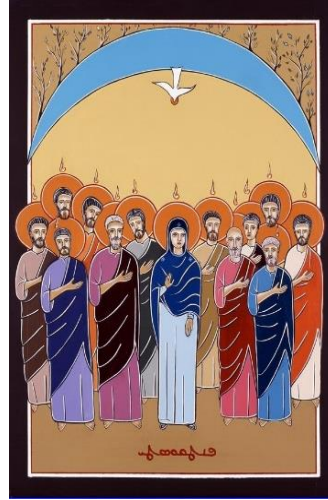
Year 2024, Issue #31

The Gospel

Luke 19: 1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Season of Pentecost



Next Sunday

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Old Testament Reading

Ruth 1: 15-19a

Epistle

Eph 3: 1-13

Gospel

Matt 15: 21-28

الإنجيل

لو ١٩: ١-١٠

دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ أَرِيحَا وَبَدَأَ يَجْتَازُهَا، وَإِذَا رَجُلٌ أَسْمُهُ زَكََّا، كَانَ رَئِيسًا لِلْعَشَّارِينَ وَغَنِيًّا. وَكَانَ يَسْعَى لِيَرَى مَنْ هُوَ يَسُوعُ، فَلَمْ يَقْدِرْ بِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ قَصِيرَ الْقَامَةِ. فَتَقَدَّمَ مُسْرِعًا وَتَسَلَّقَ جُمَيْرَةً لِكَي يَرَاهُ، لِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ كَانَ مُزْمِعًا أَنْ يَمُرَّ بِهَا. وَلَمَّا وَصَلَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى الْمَكَانِ، رَفَعَ نَظْرَهُ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «يَا زَكََّا، أَسْرِعْ وَأَنْزِلْ، فَأَسْرِعْ أَنْ أَقِيمَ الْيَوْمَ فِي بَيْتِكَ». فَأَسْرَعَ وَنَزَلَ وَأَسْتَقْبَلَهُ فِي بَيْتِهِ مَسْرُورًا. وَرَأَى الْجَمِيعُ ذَلِكَ فَأَخَذُوا يَتَذَمَّرُونَ قَائِلِينَ: «دَخَلَ لِيَبِيتَ عِنْدَ رَجُلٍ خَاطِئٍ». أَمَّا زَكََّا فَوَقَفَ وَقَالَ لِلرَّبِّ: «يَا رَبِّ، هَا أَنَا أُعْطِي نِصْفَ مُقْتَنِيَاتِي لِلْفُقَرَاءِ، وَإِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ ظَلَمْتُ أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ، فَإِنِّي أَرُدُّ لَهُ أَرْبَعَةَ أَضْعَافٍ». فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «الْيَوْمَ صَارَ الْخَلَاصُ لِهَذَا الْبَيْتِ، لِأَنَّ هَذَا الرَّجُلَ هُوَ أَيْضًا ابْنٌ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ. فَإِنَّ ابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ جَاءَ لِيَبْحَثَ عَنِ الضَّالِّينَ وَيُخَلِّصَهُ».

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 Maati 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

11th Sunday of Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our readings on this 11th Sunday of Pentecost, we see the themes of mercy, reconciliation, and transformation weaved throughout. The readings from Ezekiel, the Letter to the Ephesians, and St Luke highlight the boundless love of God and His desire for humanity to return to Him, reminding us of the power of His divine mercy. God's desire is for all to be reconciled to Him, to experience the joy of salvation, and to live in community as members of His household.

As we prepare for the week ahead, let us embrace this call, recognising the mercy of God in our lives, and extending that same mercy to others. In doing so, we become instruments of God's love in a world that desperately needs it.

350 Martyred Monks of St. Maroun

On the 31st of July, we honour the 350 Martyred Monks of St. Maroun. Following the death of St. Maroun around 410AD, many were captivated by his spirituality, ascetic life and dedication to Christ. By the fifth century, the monastery of Beit Maroun was established near his place of life, becoming a beacon of spirituality and faith. The monks of St. Maroun played a crucial role in spreading the Gospel and defending the true faith against heresies.

In a letter to Pope Hormisdas in 517, the monks recounted the hardships and persecution they faced, shedding light on the rising disunity among Christians in Antioch. This letter also detailed the tragic ambush and martyrdom of 350 monks as they journeyed to the Monastery of St. Simon the Stylite.

They were attacked for upholding the Christology of the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. Unlike the Monophysites who recognised only one nature of Christ, the Maronite monks of Beit Maroun preached that two perfect natures, divine and human, were united in Christ's one divine person.

As we celebrate the Feast of the 350 Martyred Monks of St. Maroun, we are reminded of the strength and sacrifice required to uphold the true faith. We draw inspiration from their example, striving to live with the same courage and commitment to our Lord.

Beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy

We also prepare this week for the most joyful celebration of the beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy taking place in Bkerke on the 2nd of August. Patriarch El Douaihy was the fifty-seventh patriarch of the Maronite Church, and served for thirty-four years from 1670 to 1704, during one of Lebanon's darkest periods under Ottoman rule. As one of the greatest thinkers and theologians in our Church, he is considered among the most influential figures in Maronite spiritual leadership. He is the first Maronite patriarch to be beatified by Rome.

Our Maronite parishes in Australia will mark this joyful occasion with Thanksgiving Masses next weekend. We thank the Lord for this blessing to our Maronite Church and beseech the intercession and prayers of Patriarch El Douaihy for our Church, for our beloved Lebanon, and for the Maronites all around the world.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week:

"Look Up"

We tend to associate looking up as a positive and approving gesture, and looking down is understood to have negative connotations. In today's Gospel passage of Jesus and Zacchaeus there is much looking up and raising up, with very little of putting people down.



Zacchaeus is described as 'short in stature' (v3) so he was likely to have felt inadequate and experienced a great deal of people looking down at him. When Jesus comes along, Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see him. Although Zacchaeus makes the effort to move up, of course physically moving up is not something that will last. Jesus instead tells Zacchaeus to 'come down' (v5). We need to get off our high horse and come down to reality and look Jesus squarely in the face. Only then can we really start to look up and hold our chin high. That is exactly what happened with Zacchaeus.

Although small in stature, when Zacchaeus spent time with Jesus, things changed. Zacchaeus had a change of heart and attitude. He seeks forgiveness and acts in humility but his standing among the people has grown and he can walk among others with pride. He has placed high expectations of himself and will reach out to pursue them.

Jesus is the one who raises us up, who gives us courage and confidence to hold our heads up and then to stretch out our hands to raise others up as well. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاء للنفس

"دخل يسوع أريحا وبدأ يجتازها"

ما زال يسوع حاضراً في عالمنا، في مدننا، في قرانا وفي حياتنا، فهل نعي هذا الحضور أم إننا غير أبهين له بسبب إنشغالنا بأمور الأرض ومشاكلها ومغرياتها وتفاهتها، فلا ننتبه لإجتيازه في وسطنا؟ يا سيدي، أعطني النعمة كي أدرك حضورك في حياتي.

"كان يسعى ليرى من هو يسوع"

كانت لديه الرغبة لرؤية يسوع، وأنا ألدِّي هذه الرغبة؟ هل أريد أن أقرب منه؟ هل أشتاق للاقائه؟ هل أريده أن يروي عطشي ويُعيد المعنى لحياتي؟ هل أنا مستعدٌّ لتخطي كل العقبات والحوجز التي تمنعني عن رؤيته؟ يا سيدي، زد شوقي ورغبتني للقاءك.

"فأسرع ونزل واستقبله في بيته مسروراً"

كان يمكن لركا أن يبقى متفرجاً مصفحاً بين الجماهير، غير أبيه بندا يسوع، لكنه بكل فرح أطاع، بكل إندياع نزل ودون ترددٍ أو مُماطلةٍ إستقبل يسوع في بيته وكان قلبه كان ينتظر هذه الإشارة، وأنا؟ أنا أنتظر هذه الإشارة أم أناك مترددًا في تلبية النداء؟ وأي صوت أنتظر؟ صوت الرب أم غير أصوات؟ يا رب أسكت كل صوت يجعلني أتردد في تلبية نداك وإستقبالك.

"ها أنا أعطي نصف مقتنياتي للفقراء، وإن كنت قد ظلمتُ أحدًا بشيء، فأبني أرد له أربعة أضعاف"

أعلن توبته وإصلاح مسيرة حياته وهذه هي علامة فرح إستقبال يسوع، فمن إستقبل يسوع تتغير حياته نحو الأفضل، يتطهر وينتقى، يتأسن وتزيد محبته ورغبته في عمل الخير. فهل أنا أستقبل حقيقةً يسوع في حياتي؟ هل ألمس التغيير الذي يُتقني ويرفعني نحو الله؟

يا رب أعطني النعمة التي أعطيتها لركا، فأتحرر من خوفي وأفرح بأن أعطيك كل شيء.

فرح ركا هو ثمرة طاعته لك وهو تأكيدٌ أنه يسير على الدرب الصحيح الذي هو دربك، فإملأني يا سيدي من فرحك لأسير على دربك وأشهد لك بكل أمانة. آمين.

Parish News and Upcoming Events

ST GEORGE YOUTH PRESENTS

WINTER WONDERLAND

WESTELLA SKY LOUNGE

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST | 7PM

EARLY BIRD TICKETS - 16+

\$90PP OR \$850 PER TABLE

DRESS CODE: FORMAL

CONTACT DAVID: 0433 799 254 OR YERONICA: 0447 370 041

On the path to holiness



Blessed Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy

Saturday 3rd August and Sunday 4th August

All Masses will be offered as a Thanksgiving Mass on the occasion of the Beatification of Venerable Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy



Senior Program

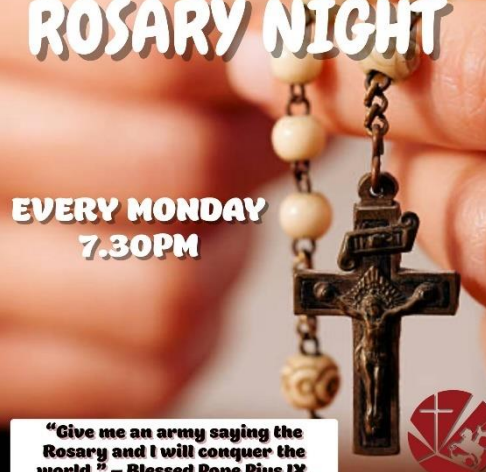
Wednesdays
9:00am - 4:00pm

If anyone is interested in joining the Seniors Program or volunteering, please contact:
Zaride 0417 427 661
Josephine 0426 239 129




ROSARY NIGHT

EVERY MONDAY
7.30PM



"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." - Blessed Pope Pius IX.



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




ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Every Thursday @ 7:30pm

Confession Available



Maronites on Mission

ELEVEN YEARS

ANNUAL GALA 2024

FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

6:30PM | LE MONTAGE
38 FRAZER STREET, LILLYFIELD 2040

TICKETS \$200
SCAN TO BOOK
EARLY BIRD \$175
Applies at checkout
Ends 2nd Aug 2024



FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT
NADIA 0403 257 330 | MARIAM 0415 441 414





THE MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND AND OCEANIA



VOCATIONS RETREAT

CALLED & CHOSEN

"You did not choose me but I chose You."

JOHN 15:16

23 AUGUST - 25 AUGUST 2024

FOR MEN AND WOMEN DISCERNING THEIR VOCATION

RETREAT DIRECTOR: FATHER JOSHUA SCOTT

BENEDICT XVI RETREAT CENTRE

COST: \$300

REGISTER BY 15 AUGUST 2024

For bookings contact
Elie Fares | 0490 933 481 | fares_eliea@hotmail.com

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Sunday 28 th July 2024	11am	40 th Mass for the Late Karma Youssef Edaith Chahine	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة كرمه يوسف قديح شاهين	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٢٨ تموز ٢٠٢٤
	6pm	Mass for the Late Michel and Rosette Morad	قداس المرحومين ميشال وروزيت مراد	٦ : ٠٠	
Saturday 3 rd August 2024	6pm	40 th Mass for the Late Youssef Jreige	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم يوسف جريج	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ٣ اب ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 4 th August 2024	11am	40 th Mass for the Late Anthony Hanna Tannous Baynie	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم أنطوني حنا طنوس البعيني	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٤ اب ٢٠٢٤

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 22/07/2024 – 04/08/2024)
TBA

To receive our eNewsletter please email

info@stgeorgemcc.org.au

Parish Operations Account
\$75,114.93

Parish Loan Balance
\$386,192.57



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)



'like' us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram

Business Community Corner



**GOSFORD
QUARRIES
SANDSTONE**



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



ETERNITY LASER & AESTHETICS

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



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



CAPITALISE MONEY

0411 573 411
trent@capitalisemoney.com.au
www.capitalisemoney.com.au

Business Advisory | Commercial Finance | Home Loans



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