



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Year 2024, Issue #28

## The Gospel

Matt 12: 14-21

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'

## Season of Pentecost



Next Sunday

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

Old Testament Reading

Isa 61: 1-4, 8-10a

Epistle

2 Cor 5: 20-6:10

Gospel

Luke 4: 14-21

## الإنجيل

متى ١٢: ١٤-٢١

خَرَجَ الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ فَتَشَاوَرُوا عَلَى يَسُوعَ لِيُهْلِكُوهُ. وَعَلِمَ يَسُوعَ بِالْأَمْرِ فَأَنْصَرَفَ مِنْ هُنَاكَ. وَتَبِعَهُ كَثِيرُونَ فَشَفَاهُمْ جَمِيعًا، وَحَذَرَهُمْ مِنْ أَنْ يُشْهَرُوهُ، لِيَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِالنَّبِيِّ اشْعِيَا: «هُوَذَا فَتَايَ الَّذِي أَخْتَرْتُهُ، حَبِيبِي الَّذِي رَضِيتُ بِهِ نَفْسِي. سَأَجْعَلُ رُوحِي عَلَيْهِ فَيُبَشِّرُ الْأُمَّمَ بِالْحَقِّ. لَنْ يُمَاحِكَ وَلَنْ يَصِيحَ، وَلَنْ يَسْمَعَ أَحَدٌ صَوْتَهُ فِي السَّاحَاتِ. قَصَبَةً مَرْضُوضَةً لَنْ يَكْسِرَ، وَفَتِيلَةً مُدَخِّنَةً لَنْ يُطْفِئَ، إِلَى أَنْ يَصَلَ بِالْحَقِّ إِلَى النَّصْرِ. وَبِأَسْمِهِ تَجْعَلُ الْأُمَّمَ رَجَاءَهَا.»

### 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)

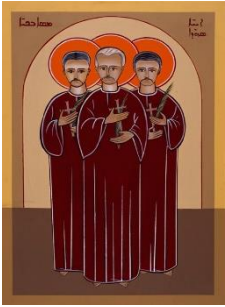
Email: [info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au)

## Bishops Message

### Year of Prayer

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

#### Feast of the Massabki Brothers



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
On Wednesday 10 July, our Maronite Church celebrates the Feast of the Massabki brothers, Francis, Abdel Moati, and Raphael. These Maronite martyrs were slain in Damascus in 1860 during a period of intense anti-Christian uprising in Syria and Lebanon during the Ottoman rule. It is estimated that some 12,000 Christians were slain in Lebanon, and 11,000 in Syria.

The Massabki brothers came from a prominent and wealthy Syrian family, known for their piety, generosity, and commitment to aiding the poor and needy. Francis, a successful silk trader, was well-known across Lebanon and Syria, even representing the Maronite Patriarch on some occasions in Syria. Abdel Moati and Raphael, each remarkable in their own right, shared a deep devotion to prayer and charitable works, much of which they carried out from the Franciscan monastery in Damascus.

In 1860, as violence swept through Damascus and other parts of Lebanon, the brothers sought refuge in the Franciscan monastery, where they prayed and celebrated the Mysteries of Reconciliation and the Eucharist for the last time. Their steadfast faith was put to the ultimate test when armed men stormed the Monastery and demanded they renounce their Christian faith.

While Francis was alone in the Church, kneeling and praying before the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows, he was seized and told: "Sheikh Abdallah has sent us to save you from death; you, your brothers, your families, and all those who depend upon you for protection, on the condition that you deny your faith and convert to Islam." Francis courageously replied: "Sheikh Abdallah can take the money I lent him, he can also take my life; but my faith, no one can make me deny. I am a Maronite Christian and in the faith of Christ I will die. As our Lord Jesus commanded, we do not fear those who can kill the body." As Francis began to pray, they massacred him. It is believed that he had lent the sheikh eight hundred thousand pounds, which was a vast fortune in those days.

Abdel Moati was seized at the chapel door and told to deny his faith in order to save his life. In a clear voice, he said: "I am a Christian, kill me, I am ready." Raphael was found and given the same order—convert or die. He fell to his knees in prayer. Each brother, with unwavering courage, chose martyrdom over denying their faith, thus sealing their eternal legacy as true servants of Christ. They were later buried with the Franciscan priests who had also been martyred.

On 10 July 1860, His Holiness Pope Pius IX declared them Venerable, and on 10 October 1926, they were beatified. In wonderful news announced last week, after approval by Pope Francis, the three Blessed Massabki brothers, Abdel Moati, Francis, and Raphael, will be canonised on Sunday 20 October 2024 in the Vatican. This canonisation, which will take place at the same time as that of eight Franciscan Friars who were martyred on the same night, is a tremendous blessing for our Church.

Their elevation to sainthood is not only a recognition of their steadfast faith and ultimate sacrifice but also a beacon of inspiration for our Maronite community and the wider Christian faithful. As we look forward to the canonisation of the Massabki brothers and the beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy on 2 August, let us continue to pray for more holy individuals within our Church and families. May the Lord be glorified through His saints, and may their intercession strengthen our faith and resolve.

+Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

## Reflection of the Week:

### "Gently"

The calmness in which Jesus went about his day is something that draws people to him. He was like all of us, pulled and challenged in every direction, and yet he always maintained his inner peace.

In today's Gospel we read that the Pharisees conspired to destroy him (v14) and that crowds followed him (v15). It was not an easy life he led. Jesus was constantly questioned about his words and actions. He was at the same time always in demand and giving of himself constantly. Yet what is amazing is that he never yielded to hate, fear or anger. Jesus was ready and open to giving himself deeply, time and time again. It is something we can all learn from him. This ability to be at deep peace with oneself stems from a relationship and knowledge much deeper than anything else – the intimate presence of a loving God in our lives.

Jesus is described as 'will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick' (v20). The essence of Jesus' charism was his ability to empathise with those who were struggling. He offered love, patience and hope. This is real strength – to deeply know the other and care for them.

Jesus has purpose in life. He knows what he wants to do and what he must do. He embraces life wholly and lovingly. Jesus is love. We are drawn to him and called outwards as people of love. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf



### كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

يمكن للإنسان أن يقوم بفحص ضميرٍ معمقٍ من خلال هذا النص...  
أولاً يطرح السؤال حول مدى وعيه لكونه مختاراً من قبل الله... وإن كان يُرضي من إختياره وإصطفاه ليحمل اسمه إلى العالم!  
ثم يسأل: هل أترك لروح الله المجال كي يعمل من خلالي فتصل كلمة الحق إلى الأمم وأولاً من هم حولي!؟

ثم يفحص قلبه ويتساءل إن كان ممن يشعرون بالسلام في محيطهم وتتنطبق عليهم الصفات المذكورة في إنجيل اليوم: "لَنْ يُمَاجِكَ وَلَنْ يَصِيحَ، وَلَنْ يَسْمَعَ أَحَدٌ صَوْتَهُ فِي السَّاحَاتِ. فَصَبَّةٌ مَرْضُوضَةٌ لَنْ يَكْبُرَ، وَفَتِيلَةٌ مُدَخَّنَةٌ لَنْ يُطْفِئُ"!

ويختتم هذا المسار الروحيّ بالسؤال: هل أثار على رسالتي إلى أن ينتصر الله في حياتي وفي حياة الآخرين من حولي فيجعل الجميع رجاءهم في المسيح يسوع!؟

[www.kobayat.org](http://www.kobayat.org)



# Parish News and Upcoming Events

## ORIGIN DECIDER

\$10 ENTRY  
FOOD & DRINKS PROVIDED

17 | JULY  
7PM

PRIZES FOR THE TAKING!

STATE OF ORIGIN  
RUGBY

ST GEORGE YOUTH

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 VERONICA: 0447 370 641

## ROSARY NIGHT

**EVERY MONDAY**

**7.30PM IN THE CHURCH**

## ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Every Thursday @ 7:30pm  
Confession Available

## 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

# 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

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

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 OLOL 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: [THASALAME@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:THASALAME@HOTMAIL.COM)  
ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS WYD25

## YEAR OF PRAYER 2024

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.retreatday.com/CSEB/](http://www.retreatday.com/CSEB/)  
(cost \$30)

For enquiries, call or text Subdeacon Charbel Mourani on 0410 343 233 or email [faithformation@maronite.org.au](mailto:faithformation@maronite.org.au)

To register, go to [tinyurl.com/MaroniteCTC](http://tinyurl.com/MaroniteCTC)



## Memorial Masses

## نوايا القداسات

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Tannous Elias Takchi	قداس السنة المرحوم طنوس الياس الطقشي	١١ :٠٠	الاحد ٧ تموز ٢٠٢٤
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	6pm	40 <sup>th</sup> Mass for the Late George Moueit	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم جورج معيط	٦ :٠٠	السبت ١٣ تموز ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	9am	40 <sup>th</sup> Mass for the Late Boulos Youssef Wehbe	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم بولس يوسف وهبه	٩ :٠٠	الاحد ١٤ تموز ٢٠٢٤
	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Joe and Josephine Moussa	قداس السنة المرحوم جو وجوزفين موسى	١١ :٠٠	

## Parish Financial Updates

**Parish Income (fortnight 24/06/2024 – 07/07/2024)**

\$6,865.66

**Parish Operations Account**

\$70,485.66

**Parish Loan Balance**

\$386,192.57

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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## Business Community Corner



**GOSFORD  
QUARRIES  
SANDSTONE**



**Laing + Simmons**

Chris Khoudair  
Principal  
0405 122 331 | 02 9875 1777  
[chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au](mailto:chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au)

Pennant Hills  
100 Yarrara Road,  
Pennant Hills NSW 2120  
[lsre.com.au/pennant\\_hills](http://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](mailto:info@homefront.com.au)



**ETERNITY LASER &  
AESTHETICS**

- Laser Hair Removal
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- Skin Needling
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- Eyebrows
- Waxing



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



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