



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 4th August 2024

Year 2024, Issue #32

The Gospel

Matt 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Season of Pentecost

الإنجيل

متى ١٥: ٢١-٢٨



إِنْصَرَفَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي صُورَ وَصَيْدَا، وَإِذَا بِأَمْرَأَةٍ كَنْعَانِيَّةٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ النُّوَاحِي خَرَجَتْ تَصْرُخُ وَتَقُولُ: «إِرْحَمْنِي، يَا رَبِّ، يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ! إِنَّ ابْنَتِي بِهَا شَيْطَانٌ يُعَذِّبُهَا جِدًّا». فَلَمْ يُجِبْهَا بِكَلِمَةٍ. وَدَنَا تَلَامِيذُهُ فَأَحْذَوْا يَتَوَسَّلُونَ إِلَيْهِ قَائِلِينَ: «إِصْرِفْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا تَصْرُخُ فِي إِثْرِنَا!». فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: «لَمْ أُرْسَلْ إِلَّا إِلَى الْخِرَافِ الضَّالَّةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ». أَمَّا هِيَ فَآتَتْ وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ وَقَالَتْ: «سَاعِدْنِي، يَا رَبِّ!». فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: «لَا يَحْسُنُ أَنْ يُؤَخَذَ خُبْزُ الْبَنِينَ، وَيُلْقَى إِلَى جِرَاءِ الْكِلَابِ!». فَقَالَتْ: «نَعَمْ، يَا رَبِّ! وَجِرَاءِ الْكِلَابِ أَيْضًا نَأْكُلُ مِنَ الْفُتَاتِ الْمَتَسَاقِطِ عَنْ مَائِدَةِ أَرْبَابِهَا». حِينَئِذٍ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «أَيْتُهَا الْمَرْأَةُ، عَظِيمٌ إِيمَانُكَ! فَلْيَكُنْ لَكَ كَمَا تُرِيدِينَ». وَمِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ شَفِيَتْ ابْنَتُهَا.

Next Sunday

13th Sunday of Pentecost

Old Testament Reading

Gen 2: 8-10, 15-17

Epistle

1 Cor 3: 1-11

Gospel

Luke 8: 1-15

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

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Maronite Church rejoices with the most joyful celebration of the beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy on Friday 2 August.

In a world where wars, pandemics, addictions, and laws that go against the will of God are rife, we must never despair. Instead, we should pray unceasingly, placing our trust in God. Through prayer and faith, we can overcome all the challenges that life presents. The grace of the Lord is sufficient for us, and light always drives out darkness.

Despite the world's alienation from God and His Word that our world experiences, we always have hope. This hope is rooted in the eternal truth: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God ... All things came into being through Him... What has come into being in Him was life, and life was the light of all people. Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (Jn 1:1-5). The 57th Patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church, Blessed Estephan El Douaihy, is truly a saint of the Word. He is the saint who embraced the sanctity of the Word, labouring to proclaim the Word of Life and to preserve, nurture, and develop it in the hearts of his people during a time when the world faced trials not unlike those we encounter today.

It is important for all of us to learn more about this great Patriarch. Born in 1630 in Ehden, Lebanon, El Douaihy dedicated himself to a life of scholarship, prayer, and service to the Church. After studying philosophy and theology in Rome, he returned to his homeland, where he served as a preacher, youth educator, and eventually bishop of Cyprus.

In 1670, he was elected Patriarch of the Antiochian Syriac Maronite Church. One of the longest-serving Maronite patriarchs, he led his people for 34 years until 1704. During his long pontificate, Lebanon endured one of its worst and darkest periods under Ottoman rule, which lasted for centuries. Despite the numerous challenges and persecutions he faced, El Douaihy remained a tireless advocate for his flock. A man of thought, mortification, prayer, and good stewardship, he upheld the authority and dignity of the Maronite Church.

As one of the greatest thinkers and theologians of the Maronite Church, Patriarch El Douaihy ranks among the most influential figures of Maronite spiritual leadership. He is also known as "the memory of the Maronite Church" because he was the main founder of the historiography of the Maronite Church, possessing extraordinary knowledge of ancient Maronite documents. He was a pioneer in writing about Maronite liturgy, and the history of Lebanon and the Middle East. Despite facing daunting challenges, he travelled Lebanon on foot, leaving a lasting memory as a saint among his people.

Our Maronite Church is immensely blessed by the life and legacy of this remarkable man of God, who stands as a testament to the power of the Word to transform and heal our troubled world.

It is my prayer that Patriarch El Douaihy's path to sainthood will reignite the fervour of our faith, reminding us of the importance of steadfastness even in the face of adversity. Let us continue to pray for God's Word to bear fruit in our children so that more saints are born in our families.

Blessed Estephan El Douaihy, pray for us.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week:

"No Animosity"

Are our enemies really our enemies? Do we have the right to hate people because of their gender, race or creed? Who is deserving of a second chance and who isn't? Our Sunday Gospel passage of the Canaanite woman's faith is a bold announcement that each and every person has a right to be heard and their needs met.

We can think of numerous reasons why we avoid certain people or keep our distance from others. And we all know that there are people that do not quite fit into our way of living and thinking. Our first reaction is to avoid them or be suspicious of them. We believe we have a right to criticise and condemn people because of some dearly held belief that pits us against them.

In today's Gospel we are not given an easy way out. Jesus is confronted by a very demanding woman, who in actual reality should have had nothing to do with him. She was an outsider and a foreigner. She had no right to request anything for her ways and her beliefs were in contrast to Jesus. But that did not stop her, nor Jesus!

When we can stop and allow conversation to happen and permit ourselves to listen to the other without any assumptions, we soon find that we are all very much people with the same needs, requests and hopes. It doesn't matter where we are from, what we believe and how we are. What brings us together is our humanitarian sense. Mercy and love speak louder and more profoundly than anything else. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf



كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

ظاهرياً، المعجزة التي يخبر عنها إنجيل المرأة الكنعانية هي شفاء ابنة المرأة الكنعانية، إنما بالحقيقة تكمن المعجزة الحقيقية في إيمان المرأة، التي هي في الأصل وثنية، لا تعرف الله، إلا أنها برهنت عن إيمان يتخطى بكثير إيمان الذين يؤمنون بالله، حتى التلاميذ بذاتهم. تعامل التلاميذ مع المرأة ومع الرب على أساس مبدأ "الإستحقاق": هي غير مؤمنة، لا تستحق أن تقترب من الرب ولا أن تطلب منه شيئاً، وهذا ما يفسر ردة فعلهم وإنزعاجهم منها. إلا أن الغريب في الأمر هو ردة فعل الرب، الذي بدا وكأنه يتبنى هذا الفكر.

في الواقع، ليست المسألة كذلك، بل إن الرب يردّد ما يعتبره التلاميذ حقيقة ليختبر إيمان المرأة، ليس لأنه لا يعرف ماذا ستجيبه، بل لأن جوابها سيشكل درساً للرسول وللجميع، لأنه سيقدّم إيمان المرأة، التي لا تعرف الله، كإيمان نموذجي، يتخطى بكثير إيمان الرسل والشعب اليهودي، الذين يعتبرون أنفسهم مختارين ومؤمنين ويعرفون الله بالعمق. بين يسوع من خلال حوارهم مع المرأة ومن خلال جوابها أن الإقترب منه ليس مسألة إستحقاق، لأن لا أحد يستحق، وليست مسألة بأنه "يحق لي أن أطلب منه" لأنني أفضل من غيري، أو لأنني أتمم ما يطلبه مني، بل هي مسألة عطية مجانية، لا أستحقها لا بأعمالي ولا بإيماني، بل بإقترابي من الرب بثقة، منتظراً بتواضع خلاصه كما يريد هو، وليس كما أتصوّر أنا!

www.kobayat.org

Parish News and Upcoming Events

On the path to holiness



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



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Thursday 15th August 2024
 Mass @ 6:00pm followed by Adoration Evening

ST GEORGE YOUTH PRESENTS

WINTER WONDERLAND

WESTELLA SKY LOUNGE

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST | 7PM

TICKETS - 16+

\$100PP OR \$900 PER TABLE

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CONTACT DAVID: 0433 795 254 OR VERONICA: 0447 370 041



Senior Program

Wednesdays
 9:00am - 4:00pm

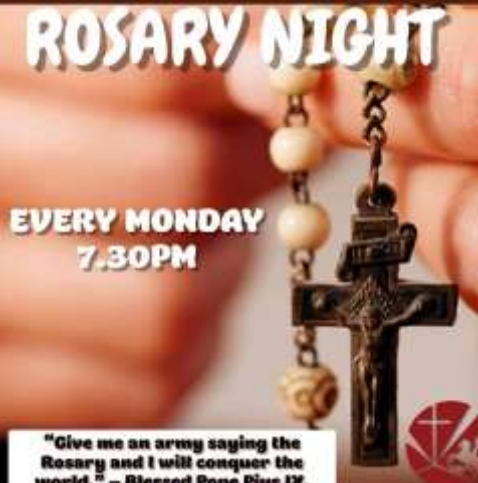
If anyone is interested in joining the Seniors Program or volunteering, please contact:
 Zaride 0417 427 661
 Josephine 0426 239 129



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



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Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

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	9am	Mass for the Late George Jawad Saad	قداس المرحوم جورج جواد سعد	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ٤ اب ٢٠٢٤
	11am	40 th Mass for the Late Anthony Hanna Tannous Baynie	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم أنطوني حنا طنوس البعيني	١١ : ٠٠	
Tuesday 6 th August 2024	10am	Funeral for the Late Anton Elias Youssef El Hajj	دفن المرحوم أنطون الياس يوسف حاج	١٠ : ٠٠	الثلاثاء ٦ اب ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Christian Ross Maait

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 22/07/2024 – 04/08/2024)
\$8,575.80

Parish Operations Account
\$82,836.84

Parish Loan Balance
\$386,192.57

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



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Donations to support our ongoing Parish mission
can be made at the Parish Office or by internet banking or
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