



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

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

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Year 2024, Issue #34

## The Gospel

Luke 10: 38-42

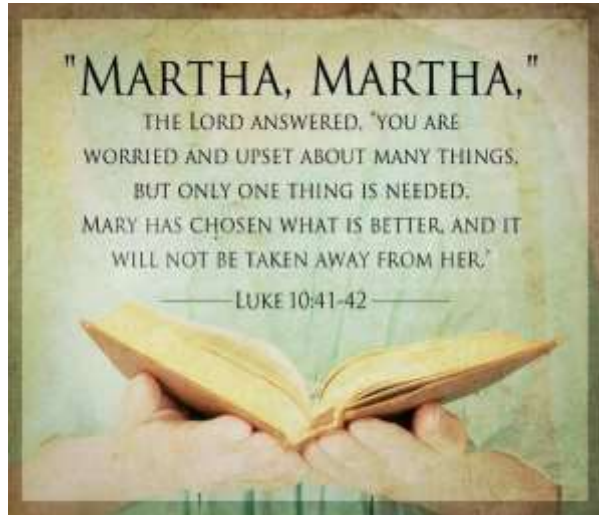
Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

## Season of Pentecost

## الإنجيل

لو ١٠ : ٣٨ - ٤٢

فِيمَا (كَانَ يَسُوعُ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ) سَائِرِينَ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ إِحْدَى الْفُرَى، فَاسْتَقْبَلَتْهُ فِي بَيْتِهَا أَمْرَأَةٌ أَسْمُهَا مَرْثَا. وَكَانَ لِمَرْثَا أُخْتٌ تُدْعَى مَرْيَمَ. فَجَلَسَتْ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيِ الرَّبِّ تَسْمَعُ كَلَامَهُ. أَمَّا مَرْثَا فَكَانَتْ مُنْهَمِكَةً بِكَثْرَةِ الْخِدْمَةِ، فَجَاءَتْ وَقَالَتْ: «يَا رَبِّ، أَمَا تُبَالِي بَأَنَّ أُخْتِي تَرْكَنِي أَخْدُمُ وَحَدِي؟ فَقُلْ لَهَا أَنْ تُسَاعِدَنِي!». فَأَجَابَ الرَّبُّ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «مَرْثَا، مَرْثَا، إِنَّكَ تَهْتَمِينَ بِأُمُورٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَتَضْطَرِّبِينَ! إِنَّمَا الْمَطْلُوبُ وَاحِدٌ! فَمَرْيَمُ اخْتَارَتْ اللَّصِيبَ الْأَفْضَلَ، وَلَنْ يُنْزَعَ مِنْهَا».



Next Sunday

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

Old Testament Reading

Mic 7: 7-9, 18-20

Epistle

1 Thess 1: 1-10

Gospel

Luke 7: 36-50



### 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)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the 15th of August, we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, a day of great significance in the life of the Church.

As St. John the Beloved neared the end of his long life, he was granted a vision of the end of times and the fulfilment of God's plan: "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and... She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron..." (Revelation 12:1-2, 5).

In his vision, St. John beheld the Mother of God, assumed into heaven, radiant as the sun, giving birth to the One who will rule the world. The Feast of her Assumption reminds us of the triumph of Christ, her Son, over all evil and suffering. As the Venerable Patriarch Elias Howayek, founder of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, beautifully said: "The Blessed Virgin Mary is the mirror of Divine beauty, and likewise, she is the custodian of our hope." St. John's vision reveals both of these elements: the beauty of heaven and the hope that we have through her, in Christ.

Our hope is further renewed by the significant events of this special year for our Maronite Church: the Beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy on the 2nd of August 2024 in Lebanon, and the upcoming canonisation of the Massabki brothers on the 20th of October in Rome. Reflecting on these holy men, who loved God and His Church above all else, we are reminded that heaven is our true home. We are called to work here on earth, so that we can truly pray to God the Father: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as in heaven."

This is the great mission of the Church - its clergy, religious, and laity - to labour tirelessly for the coming of the Kingdom. As the Mother of God, Mary is a spotless role model for us, demonstrating how to pray with true faith and a willingness to sacrifice all for the sake of holiness. Her Assumption into heaven is a testament to the dignity and sanctity of human life, affirming that our ultimate destiny is to be with God in eternal glory.

On this Feast, we bring our petitions before her, Queen of Peace, asking that the blessing of fraternal cooperation and peaceful coexistence descend upon our homeland. We also pray for an immediate ceasefire and a peaceful resolution in Gaza, and for Lebanon to be spared the atrocities of war. This feast is a celebration of the dignity of every human being, of our bodies and souls. As Mary was assumed into heaven, body and soul, we are reminded of the sacredness of all human life and the need to protect it at all costs.

We raise a prayer of thanksgiving for the presence of the Virgin Mary in our Church and in our lives, whether as individuals or as communities of faith. We entrust ourselves to her care, love, and motherhood. We ask the Virgin to teach us to love her Son Jesus as she loved Him, and to help us be worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Today's Gospel passage is the well known (and often debated) Martha and Mary. Two women who were very dear to Jesus and great role models for women everywhere.



We start with the first positive: 'Martha welcomed him into her home' (v38). This is a woman, independent, confident, generous with her time, who knows how to make others feel belonged. She opens us up to the world and boldly welcomes all in. Martha is one of many women who knew how to make their homes a place for all to come.

Then we have Mary, 'who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying' (v39). She values wisdom and shares a very deep appreciation for Jesus. She gives of herself in order to deeply know the one before her. She enacts respect and love and appreciation. She values life and knows its worth.

Both women display exceptional qualities but like anyone, they have their flaws. 'Martha was distracted by her many tasks' (v40). And we all are. We take too many things on and want to excel in them but when we struggle, we lash out at others. Jesus tells us to take things one at a time. It is not about impressing others. It is about doing things with love and care. To take time out to simply sit and be in the presence of the other.

Like many women around the world who juggle so much in order to feed and please others, we are called to stop and learn that welcoming is more than feeding guests. We are invited to know the other deeply. Mary did the right thing by giving her total attention to Jesus, but maybe she too could have enabled her sister the same opportunity by assisting her to get past the other tasks. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

### كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفس

غالبًا ما يطرح نص مرتا ومريم علامات إستفهام كثيرة، خصوصًا مع موقف يسوع الذي يبدو وكأنه يعطي "الطوبى" لمريم، ويبدو وكأنه لا يُقدّر مرتا وتضحياتها التي فعلتها في سبيله. أكثر من ذلك، من المستغرب بأن حضور يسوع بحد ذاته سبب خلافًا بين الأختين، هذا الحضور الذي كان من المفترض أن يوحد الأختين حوله، فإذا به يُسبب خلافًا!

ليست المسألة في تفضيل الصلاة على الخدمة، ولا حتى السماع لكلمة الله على العمل من أجله. كل ما في الأمر أن مشكلة مرتا هي واحدة: جعلت كل تركيزها على عملها وخدمتها، فتحوّلت هذه الخدمة إلى هدف بحد ذاته، بدل أن تكون وسيلة للتقرب من يسوع وخدمته، وبهذا، لم يعد يسوع هو المحور، وهذا ما سبب المشكلة بين الأختين. بذلك، أضاعت مرتا الهدف، وأصبح محور إهتمامها هو عملها، وهذا ما جعلها تركز على أختها بدل أن يكون كل إهتمامها هو يسوع!

مع مرتا، أصبحت الوسيلة هدفًا بحد ذاته. أليست هذه حالة كل منّا، عندما تصبح خدمتنا للرب أهم من الرب نفسه، عندما يصبح التزامنا في الرعية والجماعة هدفًا، وليس وسيلة لخدمة الرب وبنين الكنيسة، وعندما تصبح تقوياتنا وإماتاتنا وصلواتنا هدفًا وليس وسيلة؟ أما زلنا نستغرب لماذا نتحوّل إلى ديانين لإخوتنا بمجرد أنهم لا يشاركوننا الطريقة نفسها في خدمة الرب؟ ألسنا نحول خدمتنا في هذه الحالة من نعمة إلى نقمة؟ فلنختار على مثال مريم النصيب الأفضل، وليبق الرب هدفنا الأوحد، مهما تعددت الوسائل. فلنساله كل يوم: أتريد أن أخدمك بهذه الطريقة؟



ST GEORGE YOUTH PRESENTS

# WINTER WONDERLAND

WESTELLA SKY LOUNGE

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST | 7PM

TICKETS - 16+

\$100OFF OR \$900 PER TABLE

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CONTACT DAVID: 8433 795 252 OR VERONICA: 0447 370 541

**FERN MAR GERGES**

**WE WILL BE OPEN ON**  
Friday 23rd August, Saturday 24th August and Sunday 25th August

\*\*\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED\*\*\*  
FROM THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST UNTIL AND INCLUDING SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

For more information, contact Josephine Zealter 0426 239 129




# MARONITE DIVINE OFFICE



ST. GEORGE MARONITE PARISH THORNLEIGH

TUESDAY 27TH AUGUST 7:30 PM

FOLLOWED BY SOCIAL GATHERING!



2 YARRARA RD, THORNLEIGH NSW 2120



## 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 AUSTRALIA**

**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 309 677  
George Takchi 0419 651 229

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP



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  
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## Memorial Masses

## نوايا القداسات

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Joseph Symin	قداس المرحوم جوزيف سيمين	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٨
	11am	Mass for the Late Dib Takchi	قداس المرحوم ديب الطقشي	١١ : ٠٠	اب ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Hassib Said Khamis	قداس السنة المرحوم حسيب سعيد خميس	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٢٥ اب ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the Newly Weds: Danial Cauchi and Belinda Srour

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Audrey Eden Khoudair

## Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 05/08/2024 – 18/08/2024)  
\$6,578.85

Parish Operations Account  
\$66,737.29

Parish Loan Balance  
\$382,886.33

To receive our eNewsletter  
please email  
[info@stgeorgemcc.org.au](mailto: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 direct debit - (Account Name: St George Maronite Church, BSB #062-784, Account # 16948504)



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## Business Community Corner



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**Laing + Simmons**  
Chris Khoudair  
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0405 122 331 | 02 9875 1777  
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Pennant Hills  
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Pennant Hills NSW 2120  
[lsre.com.au/pennant\\_hills](http://lsre.com.au/pennant_hills)

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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)