



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

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

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Year 2024, Issue #35

## The Gospel

Luke 7: 36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him that she is a sinner.' Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.' 'A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?' Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have judged rightly.' Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

## Season of Pentecost

## الإنجيل

لو ٧: ٣٦-٥٠



سَأَلَ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ يَسُوعَ أَنْ يَتَنَاوَلَ الطَّعَامَ مَعَهُ، فَدَخَلَ بَيْتَ الْفَرِيسِيِّ وَأَتَكَأ. وَإِذَا أَمْرَأَةً، وَهِيَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ حَاطِئَةً، عَلِمَتْ أَنَّ يَسُوعَ مُتَكِيٌّ فِي بَيْتِ الْفَرِيسِيِّ، فَجَاءَتْ تَحْمِلُ قَارُورَةَ طِيبٍ. وَوَقَفَتْ بِأَكْبِيَّةٍ وَرَاءَ يَسُوعَ، عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْهِ، وَبَدَأَتْ تَبْلُ قَدَمَيْهِ بِالذَّمُوعِ، وَتُنَشِّفُهُمَا بِشَعْرِ رَأْسِهَا، وَتُقَبِّلُ قَدَمَيْهِ، وَتَدَهْنُهُمَا بِالطِّيبِ. وَرَأَى الْفَرِيسِيُّ، الَّذِي دَعَا يَسُوعَ، مَا جَرَى، فَقَالَ فِي نَفْسِهِ: «لَوْ كَانَ هَذَا نَبِيًّا لَعَلِمَ أَيَّ أَمْرَأَةٍ هِيَ تِلْكَ الَّتِي تَلْمُسُهُ! إِنَّهَا حَاطِئَةٌ». فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «يَا سَمْعَانَ، عِنْدِي شَيْءٌ أَقُولُهُ لَكَ». قَالَ الْفَرِيسِيُّ: «قُلْ، يَا مَعْلَمِ». قَالَ يَسُوعُ: «كَانَ لِدَائِنِ مَدْيُونَانِ، أَحَدُهُمَا مَدْيُونٌ بِخَمْسِمِئَةِ دِينَارٍ، وَالْآخَرُ بِخَمْسِينَ. وَإِذْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لِهَئِمَّا مَا يُوفِيَانِ، سَامَحَهُمَا كُلِّيهِمَا. فَأَيُّهُمَا يَكُونُ أَكْثَرَ حُبًّا لَهُ؟». أَجَابَ سَمْعَانُ وَقَالَ: «أَطْنُ، ذَلِكَ الَّذِي سَامَحَهُ بِالْأَكْثَرِ». فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «حَكَمْتَ بِالصَّوَابِ». ثُمَّ أَلْتَفَتَتْ إِلَى الْمَرْأَةِ وَقَالَ لِسَمْعَانَ: «هَلْ تَرَى هَذِهِ الْمَرْأَةَ؟ أَنَا دَخَلْتُ بَيْتَكَ فَمَا سَكَبْتَ عَلَيَّ قَدَمَيْ مَاءٍ، أَمَا هِيَ فَقَدْ بَلَّتْ قَدَمَيَّ بِالذَّمُوعِ، وَنَشَفَتْهُمَا بِشَعْرِهَا. أَنْتَ لَمْ تَقْبَلْنِي، أَمَا هِيَ فَمُنَدٌ دَخَلَتْ لَمْ تَكْفُ عَنْ تَقْبِيلِ قَدَمَيَّ. أَنْتَ مَا دَهَنْتَ رَأْسِي بِزَيْتٍ، أَمَا هِيَ فَدَهَنْتَ بِالطِّيبِ قَدَمَيَّ. لِذَلِكَ أَقُولُ لَكَ: حَطَايَاهَا الْكَثِيرَةُ مَغْفُورَةٌ لَهَا، لِأَنَّهَا أَحَبَّتْ كَثِيرًا. أَمَا الَّذِي يُغْفَرُ لَهُ قَلِيلٌ فَيُحِبُّ قَلِيلًا». ثُمَّ قَالَ لِلْمَرْأَةِ: «مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ حَطَايَاكِ!». فَبَدَأَ الْمَتَكُونُونَ مَعَهُ يَقُولُونَ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ: «مَنْ هُوَ هَذَا الَّذِي يَغْفِرُ الْحَطَايَا أَيْضًا؟». فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِلْمَرْأَةِ: «إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ! اذْهَبِي بِسَلَامٍ!»

Next Sunday

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

Old Testament Reading

Am 5: 21-24

Epistle

Rom 8: 18-27

Gospel

Luke 18: 9-14

### 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

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the 15th Sunday of the Season of Pentecost, we reflect on the Gospel according to Saint Luke (7:36-50), where we read the story of the sinful woman who wept at the Lord's feet.

The Old Testament speaks extensively about the necessity and importance of repentance in a person's life. For the prophets, repentance was central to their salvific mission. John the Baptist, the last of these prophets, echoed this call at the beginning of his ministry, urging sinners: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). This theme of repentance is evident throughout the Gospels, particularly in Luke's Gospel, often referred to by biblical scholars as "The Gospel of God's Mercy."

This theme of mercy is exemplified in the story of the sinful woman. Having lived on the fringes of society, judged by others, she encountered Jesus, who restored her dignity. Luke uniquely records "the repentance of the sinful woman" without mentioning her name, allowing her to stand as a timeless example for all sinners who seek forgiveness and truth in God.

This woman demonstrated remarkable faith, courage, and boldness. Jesus became her only hope. She entered Simon the Pharisee's house, wet Jesus' feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with ointment. In her humility, she found the path to God. Jesus forgave all her sins, praised her faith, restored her to the community of God's people, and granted her peace and salvation. He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Often, like Simon the Pharisee, we are quick to pass judgment on others, focusing only on what is visible to us and ignoring the spiritual battles that others might be going through. We tend to judge by what we see with our eyes, but God judges the unseen. He created everything good, and the pinnacle of His creation is humanity, made in His image and likeness, endowed with reason, will, and freedom. God loves us with an everlasting love, even when we are incapable of loving Him. He desires to bring us to Heaven, where we will live forever in His paternal love.

The Gospel challenges us to move beyond superficial judgments and to see each person as God sees them, through the lens of mercy and love. As we reflect on this Gospel, let us open our hearts to God's mercy, and may we extend that same forgiveness and love to those around us, becoming living witnesses to the mercy of our Lord.

#### Feast of Blessed Estephan Nehme – 30 August 2024

We celebrate this Friday, 30 August 2024, the feast of Blessed Estephan Nehme, a monk of the Lebanese Maronite Order. From a young age, he devoted himself to a life of prayer and service, embracing every task as an act of worship. His motto, "God sees me," reflects his deep awareness of God's presence in every moment. His humility and joy in labour, along with his steadfast patience in trials, remind us of the sanctity found in ordinary tasks and placing our trust in God's providence. Inspired by his example, may we seek to live each day with a heart devoted to God, sanctifying every task that we do.

Blessed Estephan, pray for us.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

## Reflection of the Week

### "To Be Forgiven"

'Your sins are forgiven' (v48). Words of unmeasurable power but so rarely heard or understood today. This Sunday's Gospel passage reminds us of how important Jesus' message is to each one of us.

Matthew, Mark and John recount the event of Jesus' anointing by a woman towards the end of his life. Luke is the only one who places it early on in his Gospel, for it is an important story to tell and an important lesson to learn – the vital necessity of forgiveness.

This woman had a messy life and we all know what it does to us personally. The guilt and shame one carries, is traumatising. In current society where the concept of sin is rarely given a hearing, the struggles that accompany a sense of guilt, are often forcibly hidden and thus cause unmeasurable damage.

The Gospel passage reveals what happens when our sins are acknowledged and put behind us. We have the woman who displays a magnificent outpouring of endless love because she knew her sins and was open to forgiveness. She wanted to be forgiven and to forgive. She wanted release from her sense of sin and shame, to find new freedom, possibility and be transformed. In contrast if we look at Simon the Pharisee, we see his bitterness, selfishness and jealousy come to the fore because he failed to acknowledge his sins or need for forgiveness.

This Gospel passage teaches us to expose, rather than to hide, our fears. To allow God to forgive and enable us to become better people. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

### كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

في هذا الأحد نتأمل الكنيسة في رحمة الله وغفرانه من خلال مثل المديونين والحوار عن المرأة الخاطئة...

الإشكالية الأساسية التي يعالجها إنجيل اليوم هي في إعتبار بعض الناس كسمعان الفريسيّ بأنهم أحقّ بمغفرة الله وبرحمته من باقي الناس وتمثلهم في النصّ هنا المرأة الخاطئة.

كثيرون منّا، متى نالوا المغفرة في سرّ التوبة، يظنون بأنّه أصبح لهم الحقّ في دينونة الآخرين...

في هذه الحالة، ودون أن يدركوا ذلك حتّى، يرتكبون ما هو أشنع من خطاياهم السابقة، وهو الدينونة التي طالما حذرنا منها الربّ!

إنجيل اليوم يدعوك إلى تقبّل توبة الخطاة كما تقبّل الله توبتك أنت!

### First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following children of our Parish who will be completing this First Reconciliation this weekend as they prepare for their upcoming First Holy Communion:

SOPHIA AWAKIAN, SOPHIA BAYNIE, JOSHUA BAYNIE, ISABELLA CHEDADE, ISAAC FIONDA, JOHN GEORGES, ISAAC KHAMIS, KAIDEN LAHOUD, ZAINA LAHOUD, ANABELLA MAAIT, JOSEPH MELHEM, XAVIER RAHE, RAFQA SARKIS, ZARA SELF, TONY STEPHEN, MADELEINE SYMIN



**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



**Father's Day RAFFLE**

DRAWN ON FATHERS DAY SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024

1 ticket for \$5  
 5 tickets for \$20  
 15 tickets for \$50



**Senior Program**

Wednesdays 9:00am - 4:00pm

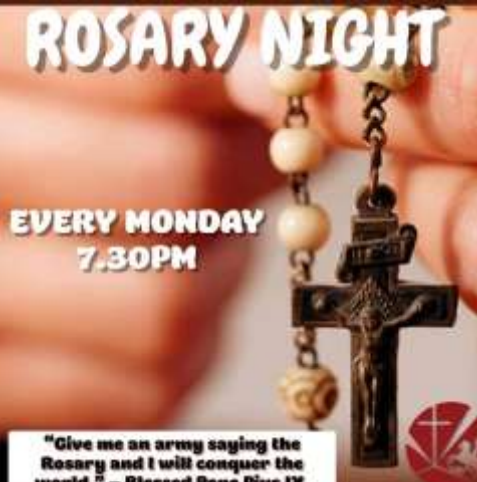
If anyone is interested in joining the Seniors Program or volunteering, please contact:  
 Zaride 0417 427 661  
 Josephine 0426 239 129




**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 AUSTRALIA**

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MONTHLY FOOD RUNS**

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

For more information please contact:  
 Ann-Marie Boumerha 0420 309 677  
 George Takchi 0419 651 229

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP



**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 the adults seeking the Sacrament of Baptism

EVERY MONDAY FROM 19 JUNE 2024 AT 7:30PM

QLOL COMMUNITY YOUTH AND PASTORAL CENTRE

For enquiries, call or text Subdeacon Charles Mouron on 0410 343 233 or email faithformation@maronites.org.au

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






**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION For Individuals with Special Abilities**

St Charbel's Parish is celebrating the First Holy Communion for individuals with special abilities on October 26, 2024, at St Charbel's Church. All abilities are welcome from the ages of 10+ organised by Faith & Light.

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

To register or for any further information please contact the Parish Office on 0730 0900 or Livette Childs on 0426 284 190.

**Our Lady Mercy Place Harris Park Open day**

You are warmly invited to visit our new aged care home

Open Saturday 31 August 2024  
 Address: 138A, Alfred Street, Harris Park NSW 2150  
 Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm  
 Phone: 02 9220 5882  
 Email: [MH@ourladymercy.com.au](mailto:MH@ourladymercy.com.au)

[mercyhealth.com.au](http://mercyhealth.com.au)



Movie on the life of Blessed Estephan Nehme

Screening on Friday 30th August 2024 8:45pm at Bankstown Sports Club

For more details and tickets <https://www.lff.org.au/film/al-rab-yarani/>

AL-RAB YARANI



## Memorial Masses

## نوايا القداسات

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
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	6pm	40 <sup>th</sup> Mass for the Late Linda Akel Georges Hassarati, wife of the Late Hanna Massoud Aouchen	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة ليندا عقل حصيراتي، زوجة المرحوم حنا مسعود عوشان	٦ :٠٠	الجمعة ٣٠ اب ٢٠٢٤
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	6pm	40 <sup>th</sup> Mass for the Late Saydie Challita Khamis	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة سيدي شليطا خميس	٦ :٠٠	السبت ٣١ اب ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Adel Wehbe	قداس المرحومة ادال وهبه	٩ :٠٠	الاحد ١ ايلول ٢٠٢٤

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Nathaniel Nassim Habkouk and Zachary Khamis

### Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 19/08/2024 – 01/09/2024)  
TBA

Parish Operations Account  
\$61,634.56

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