



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

16th Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 1st September 2024

Year 2024, Issue #36

The Gospel

Luke 18: 9-14

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

Season of Pentecost



Next Sunday

17th Sunday of Pentecost

Old Testament Reading

Mic 6: 6-9a

Epistle

Rom 13: 8-14

Gospel

Luke 10: 25-37

الإنجيل

لو ١٨ : ٩-١٤

قال الرب يسوع هذا المثل للناس
يثقون في انفسهم انهم ابرار،
ويحتقرون الآخرين: «رجلان صعدا
إلى الهيكل ليصليا، أحدهما فريسي
والآخر عشار. فوقف الفريسي يصلي
في نفسه ويقول: ألهم، أشكرك
لأنني لست كباقي الناس الظالمين
الزناة، ولا كهذا العشار.
إنني أصوم مرتين في الأسبوع،
وأؤدّي العشر عن كل ما أقتني. أما
العشار فوقف بعيدا وهو لا يريد
حتى أن يرفع عينيه إلى السماء، بل
كان يقرع صدره قائلا: ألهم، اصفح
عني أنا الخاطيء! أقول لكم إن هذا
نزل إلى بيته مبررا، أما ذلك فلا! لأن
كل من يرفع نفسه يواضع، ومن
يواضع نفسه يرفع.»

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

16th Sunday of Pentecost – Father's Day



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
This Sunday, as we gather to celebrate Father's Day in Australia, we honour the dads in our families but also those who embrace the role of fathers, in all its forms.

As I reflect on this special day, my thoughts turn to my own father, who, like many of the fathers in our community, remains in Lebanon. Although separated by distance, his words and influence on my life remain ever-present. I am blessed with a wonderful father, patient and holy, a man of few words but rich in action. Until the age of 12, I grew up in a home where he was my provider, my support, and my refuge.

At 12, I joined the school of the pre-novitiate of the Lebanese Maronite Order at Our Lady of Tamish. Though I deeply missed my father, I was blessed to be surrounded by men—monks and priests—who embraced a different fatherhood role with loyalty and devotion. These spiritual fathers guided me from my early formation through the novitiate, seminary, and priesthood. They looked after my well-being, also guiding me on my spiritual journey. Many of them have since passed into eternal life, and today, I remember them and pray they are in the company of our Lord and His saints.

Fatherhood takes on many forms. Fathers in our families provide for their children, offering love, security, and guidance. Spiritual fathers, such as our priests, dedicate their lives to nurturing souls and guiding us towards a relationship with God. Many men in our community take on fatherly roles as mentors, leaders and teachers, inspiring others with their example, service and kindness.

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, reflects on the fatherhood of Saint Joseph, reminding us that parenthood is not solely biological but deeply spiritual. He writes, "In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father... Fathers are not born but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person."

In the same way, true fatherhood shadows God's love in the heart of our families. It is not about authority or control, but about guiding the family members with love and care towards heaven.

On this Father's Day, let us offer our prayers and gratitude for all the fathers and father figures in our lives and I ask you, in a particular way, to pray for our priests. We also remember the fathers who have passed into eternal life and those men who long to become fathers, that they may soon be blessed with children. May all fathers continue to be a source of strength and love, drawing us closer to our Heavenly Father, the ultimate model of perfect fatherhood. Wishing you all a blessed and happy Father's Day.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Reflection of the Week

"True Prayer"

Our Sunday's Gospel passage is the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-collector. It's a story about how we see and conduct ourselves. It also questions how we pray.

The Pharisee stands by himself when he goes to pray in the Temple. This first action sets the scene for us. Prayer is personal, yes, but it is also communal, particularly in a public place of worship such as the Temple. Thus, to choose to stand by himself suggests one who is above others, and this is further reflected in the Pharisee's words, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people' (v11). But yes, you are! We are all human, with our virtues and vices. Some may lead more virtuous lives than others, but it is only through God's grace. If we are in a better position, it is to be used to help others, not lord it over them.

The Pharisee fasts twice a week and gives a tenth of all his income. He goes above and beyond in his religious practices. Yet it all means nothing if it is to earn brownie points with God. What we do should be done with love and humility. It should not to be used to puff ourselves up.

The tax-collector on the other hand stands far off. Again, there is the invitation here to come forward. We need others, we need the prayer of the congregation. The Temple (Church) should never make one feel like an outsider.

The tax-collector asks for mercy. That alone is his entire prayer, and it reflects a depth in prayer. We all need mercy for we all fall short. But in praying for mercy, we too need to be open to forgiveness, accepting the grace of God and transforming our lives for the better. Otherwise, our practice in humility is really a show before others.

Prayer is to be honest with ourselves before God, to know our failings but also to embrace grace and live greater lives. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

Clergy Retirement and Welfare Collection

As we celebrate Father's Day on this first Sunday of September, we ask you to keep all fathers in your prayers, so that they reflect the fatherhood of God the Father. We also pray for our spiritual fathers, servants of the Eucharist and the Word of God.

The second plate collections taken during **VIGILS ON SATURDAY 31 AUGUST and MASSES ON SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2024** are dedicated to the clergy retirement and welfare in the diocese. We thank you for your support, wishing you God's abundant blessings.

نحتفل بعيد الأب كعادة كل سنة في الأحد الأول من شهر أيلول. ندعو الجميع للصلاة من أجل الآباء، لكي تكون الأبوة انعكاساً لأبوة الله الأب، كما نذكر أيضاً الكهنة آباءنا الروحيين، خدام القربان وكلمة الله.

ولهذه المناسبة تجمع الصنيّة الثابّية في كل الكنائس خلال قداسات نهاري السبت ٣١ آب والاحد ١ أيلول ٢٠٢٤ لدعم صندوق تقاعد الكهنة. نشكر تجاوبكم وتبرعاتكم متمنين لكم المزيد من نعم الله وبركاته.



Parish News and Upcoming Events



Father's Day RAFFLE

DRAWN ON FATHERS DAY SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024

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



St George Youth Spiritual talk

Presented by **Dr. Robert Haddad**

Topic title: **Mary's Birthday: What do we know about it?**

8th September at 7:30pm, in the church hall.



ST GEORGE TOUCH FOOTY

Every Monday evenings 7:30pm

Headen Park Sinclair Ave, Thornleigh

Ages 16 years and above

For more information, please contact
George Takchi 0419 651 229
Elie Asmar 0411 129 956




Senior Program

Wednesdays 9:00am - 4:00pm

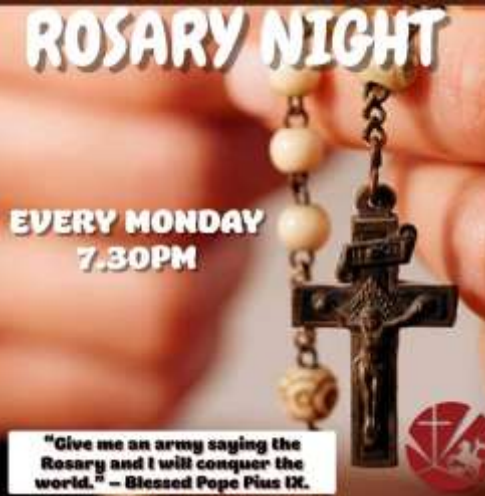
If anyone is interested in joining the Seniors Program or volunteering, please contact:
Zaride 0417 427 661
Josephine 0426 239 129




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



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 17 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 bit.ly/LeoniMaroniteCTC






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 07 94 0000 or 1 Loyola Ct, Brisbane web 0820 344 000.

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



Maronites on Mission ELEVEN YEARS

ANNUAL GALA 2024 FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

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

TICKETS \$200 SCAN TO BOOK

EARLY BIRD \$175 Applies at checkout Ends 2nd Aug 2024

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT NADIA 0403 247 330 | MARIAM 0415 441 414







Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

Friday 30 th August 2024	6pm	40 th 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 st August 2024	6pm	40 th Mass for the Late Saydie Challita Khamis	قداس ٤٠ المرحومة سيدي شليطا خميس	٦ :٠٠	السبت ٣١ اب ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 1 st Sept 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Adel Wehbe	قداس المرحومة ادال وهبه	٩ :٠٠	الاحد ١ ٢٠٢٤ ايلول
Saturday 7 th Sept 2024	6pm	40 th Mass for the Late Anton Elias Youssef Hajj	قداس ٤٠ المرحوم أنطون الياس يوسف الحاج	٦ :٠٠	السبت ٧ ٢٠٢٤ ايلول
	6pm	1 Year Mass for the Late Elias Zaiter (at OLOL Co-Cathedral)	قداس السنة المرحوم الياس زعيتر (في سيدي لبنان)	٦ :٠٠	
Sunday 8 th Sept 2024	11am	First Holy Communion	قداس أول قربانة	١١ :٠٠	الاحد ٨ ٢٠٢٤ ايلول

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised:
Giuliana Lily Merlo, Katrina Anne Kazzi, and Alena Magdalene Chahine

Parish Financial Updates		To receive our eNewsletter please email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au	
Parish Income (fortnight 19/08/2024 – 01/09/2024) \$16,113.35		 YouTube	Subscribe to our Channel St George Maronite Catholic Church
Parish Operations Account \$64,479.09	Parish Loan Balance \$382,886.33		
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

	 Phone: 9872 8111	
 Web: projectsainthood.com.au Insta: @projectsainthood Email: projectsainthoodclothing@gmail.com	 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	 BUYING, SELLING or RENTING ? Contact your local active Agent 274 Pennant Hills Road, Thornleigh 9484 0555 info@homefront.com.au
 1/500 Old Northern Rd., Dural (02) 8415 0692		 0421 855 411 trant@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