



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

17th Sunday of Pentecost and
Feast of the Birth of the Virgin Mary

Sunday 8th September 2024

Year 2024, Issue #37

The Gospel

Luke 8: 16-21

Jesus said to his disciples, "No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away." Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Season of Pentecost



Next Sunday

1st Sunday after the
Glorious Cross

Old Testament
Reading

Deut 17: 14-20

Epistle

2 Tim 2: 1-10

Gospel

Mark 10: 35-45

الإنجيل

لو ٨: ١٦-٢١

قال يسوع لتلاميذه: وليس أحد يوقد سراجا ويغطيه بإناء أو يضعه تحت سرير، بل يضعه على منارة، لينظر الداخلون النور. لأنه ليس خفي لا يظهر، ولا مكتوم لا يعلم، ويعلمون. فانظروا كيف تسمعون، لأن من له سيعطى، ومن ليس له فالذي يظنه له يؤخذ منه. « وجاء إليه أمه وإخوته، ولم يقدرُوا أن يصلوا إليه لسبب الجمع. فأخبروه قائلين: «أمك وإخوتك واقفون خارجا، يريدون أن يروك.» فأجاب وقال لهم: «أمي وإخوتي هم الذين يسمعون كلمة الله ويعملون بها.»

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

17th Sunday of Pentecost – The Birth of Mary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday, 8 September, we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. This ancient feast, observed early in Constantinople and Jerusalem, was formalised in Rome in the 7th century.

Though the evangelists do not specify where Mary was born, tradition suggests that she may have been originally from Jerusalem. It is believed that the house of her parents, Joachim and Ann, was located there, and it is where Mary would have been born. Nearby, a church was dedicated to Mary, which later became known as the Church of St Ann. The dedication of this church was celebrated on 8 September. This feast spread to Constantinople in the 5th century and later to the West, eventually being complemented by the feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception, celebrated nine months earlier on 8 December. Theologically, Mary's birth is seen as a prelude to the great gift of salvation brought by her Son, Jesus Christ. Mary's birth was a joyful introduction to the divine plan for humanity's redemption. The feast is not only a celebration of Mary's birth but also a recognition of her role in the mystery of Christ and the Church.

Today, we honour the birth of the holiest of human creatures, uniquely loved by the Lord. Mary, the New Eve, saved by her Son, wholly dedicated to the Lord, and now glorified, has become not only the model for all believers and the image of the Church but also the mother of every disciple of her Son, Jesus. We rejoice in having such a mother and give thanks to God.

Safeguarding Sunday

This year, the Australian Catholic Church marks Child Protection Week from Monday 1 September to Sunday 8 September, with this Sunday designated as Safeguarding Sunday. The theme for this year is "Every Conversation Matters."

On this day, we reaffirm that the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, along with its parishes and affiliated organisations, is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all people, especially minors and the vulnerable. This commitment will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. We uphold a zero-tolerance policy for the abuse, neglect, and marginalisation of minors and the vulnerable, and we are dedicated to providing a safe environment where they are protected and feel secure.

We ask our Holy Mother to grant comfort to all who are wounded in life, especially the victims of all forms of abuse and their families. May she continue to guide and protect us all as we work towards creating a safer, more compassionate community of faith and hope, living according to the desires of the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ.

+ **Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**



The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8th September

The Catholic Church celebrates today the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate



Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne.

The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

These accounts, although not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about the birth of Mary.

The "Protoevangelium of James," which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves extensively and rigorously to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them.

Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said.

Source: Catholic News Agency

Safeguarding Sunday 8 September 2024: "Every Conversation Matters"

This weekend, the Maronite Catholic Diocese in Australia joins the Australian Catholic Church in marking Safeguarding Sunday. The theme for 2024, 'Every Conversation Matters', emphasises that safeguarding children and vulnerable individuals is a responsibility shared by everyone. Let us come together in faith and action to ensure every conversation leads to a safer and more compassionate world.

To those who have suffered abuse within the Church, their families, and the wider community and workplaces: may the recognition of your pain bring some relief and a path to recovery. And we extend our gratitude to those who work tirelessly to change the culture within our Maronite Church when it comes to the care of children and those vulnerable persons. As a community, let us continue to pray for the abused, their families, and their supporters. The Maronite Eparchy of Australia and all our parishes are steadfast in our commitment to the care, wellbeing, and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable persons. Safeguarding and upholding the dignity of every individual is a responsibility shared by every adult. Together, we can build and support safe communities for all.

For any safeguarding concerns, please contact the Maronite Safeguarding Office on 02 8831 0000 or email the eparchy safeguarding@maronite.org.au

Parish News and Upcoming Events

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.




FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024 6:00PM

MASS FOLLOWED BY PROCESSION IN STREETS SURROUNDING THE CHURCH




BBO & BONFIRE

to celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross

Entry via Donation

Sunday September 15th • After 6pm mass




Senior Program

Wednesdays 9:00am - 4:00pm


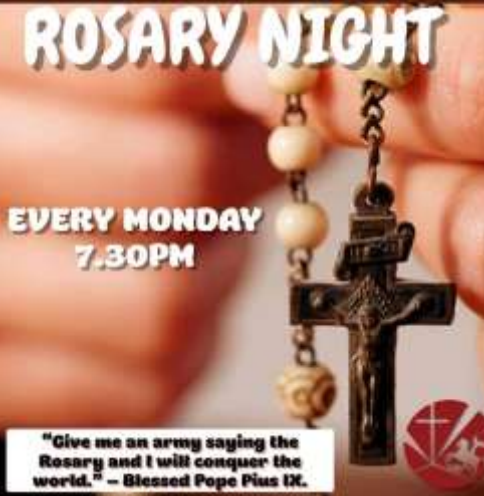
If anyone is interested in joining the Seniors Program or volunteering, please contact:
Zaride 0417 427 661
Josephine 0426 239 129




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 Boumerhe 0420 309 677
George Takchi 0419 651 229

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP





CREED TO COMMUNION

Discover the heart of the Catholic faith

EVERY MONDAY FROM 17 JUNE 2024 AT 7:30PM

OLD 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/LeonMaroniteCTC





First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the children of our Parish who will be completing their First Holy Communion this weekend:

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



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 Rev Fr Paul Vellody on 0750 0700 or Elizabeth Chellian on 0820 344 090.






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




Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

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 أيلول ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 8 th Sept 2024	11am	First Holy Communion	قداس أول قربانة	١١ :٠٠	الأحد ٨ أيلول ٢٠٢٤
	6pm	Mass for the Late Humberto Amado Flores (brother of Elizabeth Baynie)	قداس المرحوم همبرتو أما دو فلوريس (شقيق إيليزابث البعيني)	٦ :٠٠	
Saturday 14 th Sept 2024	6pm	1 Year Mass for the Late Peter Raymond Baynie	قداس السنة المرحوم بطرس ريمون البعيني	٦ :٠٠	السبت ١٤ أيلول ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 15 th Sept 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Salma Youssef Mouyat and her departed children and grandchildren.	قداس المرحومة سلمى يوسف معيط والأطفال والأحفاد المتوفيين	٩ :٠٠	الأحد ١٥ أيلول ٢٠٢٤
	11am	Mass for the Late Youssef Hanna Mouait	قداس المرحوم يوسف حنا معيط	١١ :٠٠	

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Lucia Fakhri and Victoria Rahe

Congratulations to **Yasmin Khouri** for winning our **Father's Day Raffle**.

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 02/09/2024 – 15/09/2024)
TBA

Parish Operations Account
\$67,300.48

Parish Loan Balance
\$379,561.55

To receive our eNewsletter
please email

info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



Subscribe to our Channel
[St George Maronite
Catholic Church](#)

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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SANDSTONE**



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