



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

1st Sunday after the Glorious Cross

Sunday 15th September 2024

Year 2024, Issue #38

The Gospel

Mark 10: 35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Season of the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

2nd Sunday after the Glorious Cross

Old Testament Reading

Jl 2: 1,10-13,15-16a

Epistle

1 Cor 15: 19-34

Gospel

Matt 24: 1-14

الإنجيل

مر ١٠: ٣٥-٤٥

دَنَا مِنْ يَسُوعَ يَعْقُوبُ وَيُوحَنَّا، ابْنَا زَبَدَى ، وَقَالَ لَهُ: «يَا مُعَلِّمَ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ تَصْنَعَ لَنَا كُلَّ مَا نَسْأَلُكَ». فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: «مَاذَا تُرِيدَانِ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكُمَا؟». قَالَا لَهُ: «أَعْطِنَا أَنْ نَجْلِسَ فِي مَجْدِكَ، وَاحِدٌ عَنْ يَمِينِكَ، وَوَاحِدٌ عَنْ يَسَارِكَ». فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعَ: «إِنَّكُمَا لَا تَعْلَمَانِ مَا تَطْلُبَانِ: هَلْ تَسْتَطِيعَانِ أَنْ تَشْرَبَا الْكَأْسَ الَّتِي أَشْرَبُهَا أَنَا؟ أَوْ أَنْ تَتَعَمَّدَا بِالْمَعْمُودِيَّةِ الَّتِي أَتَعَمَّدُ بِهَا أَنَا؟». قَالَا لَهُ: «نَسْتَطِيعُ». فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعَ: «الْكَأْسُ الَّتِي أَنَا أَشْرَبُهَا سَتَشْرَبَانِيهَا، وَالْمَعْمُودِيَّةُ الَّتِي أَنَا أَتَعَمَّدُ بِهَا سَتَتَعَمَّدَانِ بِهَا. أَمَّا الْجُلُوسُ عَنْ يَمِينِي أَوْ عَنْ يَسَارِي، فَلَيْسَ لِي أَنْ أَمْنَحَهُ إِلَّا لِلَّذِينَ أَعَدَّ لَهُمْ». وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْعَشْرَةُ الْآخَرُونَ، بَدَأُوا يَغْتَاظُونَ مِنْ يَعْقُوبَ وَيُوحَنَّا. فَدَعَاهُمْ يَسُوعَ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ الَّذِينَ يُعْتَبَرُونَ رُؤَسَاءَ الْأُمَمِ يَسُودُونَهُمْ، وَعَظَمَاءَهُمْ يَتَسَلَّطُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ. أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَلَيْسَ الْأَمْرُ بَيْنَكُمْ هَكَذَا، بَلْ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيكُمْ عَظِيمًا، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمْ خَادِمًا. وَمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْأَوَّلَ بَيْنَكُمْ، فَلْيَكُنْ عَبْدًا لِلْجَمِيعِ؛ لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ أَيْضًا لَمْ يَأْتِ لِيُخْدَمَ، بَلْ لِيُخْدَمَ، وَيَبْدُلَ نَفْسَهُ فِدَاءً عَنْ كَثِيرِينَ».

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter the Season of the Holy Cross with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on the 14th of September, we are invited to reflect on the paradox at the heart of our Christian faith: "The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor 1:18). The Cross, where suffering becomes triumph and death leads to life, is not merely a symbol of Christ's suffering but a powerful sign of His victory over sin, darkness, and death.

Without the Cross, Christ would not have been crucified, and the fountain of life - His blood and water - would not have opened for the world. The debt of sin would remain unpaid, and humanity would still be separated from God. The Cross, therefore, stands as the bridge that reconnects us with God, tearing down the barriers that once separated us from Him. It is on the Cross that the devil was defeated, death was conquered, and the gates of hell were broken. The Cross is the glory of Christ.

In the Cross, we see the fulfilment of Jesus' mission on earth: the moment when love and obedience meet suffering and death, leading to the ultimate triumph of life. As Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him" (John 13:31). The Cross is not a sign of defeat but of hope; it teaches us that in our own sufferings and trials, we too can find glory if we unite them with Christ's sacrifice.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16). It is in the light of this love, which surpasses understanding, that we contemplate the Cross, the sign of God's immense love for humanity, a love stronger than death. This love is received through faith, and by contemplating the Cross, we accept the saving love revealed in Jesus Christ and the salvation it brings.

Let us contemplate with faith the One who is lifted up from the earth, the One before whom every knee bends. Our Lord does not subdue by force to make slaves but serves and gives His life for all to make us brothers and sisters. Then, we will see that the Cross is a bridge that crosses the wall of division separating us from God and from one another.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Cross, may we embrace our own crosses with faith, knowing that in doing so, we embrace Christ Himself, who calls us to share in His glory and His victory.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



We enter into the final Season of the Maronite Liturgical calendar. It is the Season of the Cross with a seven-week duration. Most of the Sunday Gospel passages will focus on the end times.

The 14 September is the day we commemorate the Exaltation of the Cross and recalls the importance of the symbol of the Cross as well as the story of when Emperor Constantine went to battle with his army. One night he saw a vision of the Cross and heard the words, 'With this sign you will conquer.' The Emperor then ordered that the sign of the Cross be painted on all shields of his army and they went on to win the battle. This is not to say that God is for war and slaughter. The deeper meaning of the Cross is self-sacrifice in the fight for truth.

Our Gospel passage emphasises the message of the cross with a number of important lines:

'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit' (v24).

'Those who love their life lose it' (v25).

'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself' (v32). Jesus refers to his crucifixion where he is lifted up on a cross and all will gather around to see and be transformed.

The Cross is the symbol of Christianity, a powerful symbol of what life is. It is about suffering for good, dying for truth, and rising in hope of eternal life. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

فيلبس أحد تلاميذ الرب يسوع، يتكلم اليونانية، لهذا توجه إليه اليونانيون، وطلبوا منه أن يروا يسوع ويتعرفوا عليه. وتكلم التلاميذ مع يسوع فأجابهم: "إن حبة الحنطة، إن لم تقع في الأرض وتمت، تبقى واحدة، وإن ماتت تأتي بثمر كثير". وهذا هو وضع يسوع. فحبة الحنطة ترمز إلى يسوع، والمثل يدل على أن يسوع سيمر بالموت ويعطي غلالاً وفيرة، أي أنه سيعطي الحياة لجميع البشر الذين يؤمنون به إلهًا قادرًا على بذل الذات من أجل أن يسترجع صورة الإنسان الذي شوّهته الخطيئة. وهذه الحبة هي رمز الحياة الفصحية لكل مسيحي، وعلى المسيحي أن يدخل في سرّ الخصب هذا ليثمر كثيرًا. هذه هي القاعدة في الحياة المسيحية، حيث كان يسوع مدعواً إلى التخلي عن الذات والتخلي بالحب والتجلي في مجد الأب. لذلك، لا بد لنا نحن المؤمنين أن نصبح حبات حبّ نموت لنمنح الحياة.

إن حبة الحنطة ماتت على الصليب لأجل خلاص كلّ فردٍ منا. لكن هل ننظر إلى الصليب كعلامة ألمٍ وعذاب وموت؟ أم نؤمن بأنه علامة إنتصار الرجاء على اليأس؟ فإذا رأينا في الصليب رمز إنتصار الرجاء، يصبح الصليب ضماناً حبّ الله لنا من خلال ابنه. لكن هل للصليب أهمية من دون المصلوب، بالطبع لا، فيسوع هو الذي جعل منه خشبة خلاص، به نتبارك ونبارك، هو هويتنا وشعارنا، به نبدأ ونختم صلواتنا، لأنه يجسد الحب الإلهي في أبعى صورته.

وأنا كمؤمن عندما أدخل الكنيسة أرى يسوع المصلوب موضوعاً على المذبح المقدس، فهل أستطيع أن أنظر في عيني يسوع أم أبعد نظري عنه بسبب ما إرتكبته من معصية وخطيئة؟ وهل أستطيع أن أرى خطيئتي الموجودة على جسده؟

يسوع وهو على الصليب، وكثرة خطايا العالم، نظر إلى جسده فلم يعرفه بسبب تراكم الخطايا التي علقت على جسده، لهذا قال: "يا أبتى نَجِّنِي من هذه الساعة".

إن منطق الصليب لا يقبله كل إنسان لأنه يمشي بعكس تفكيرنا البشري، لكن الذي وضع ثقته بالله وبابنه يسوع، يقدر أن يرى محبة الله من خلال الصليب.

Parish News and Upcoming Events



BBQ & BONFIRE
to celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross
Entry via Donation
Sunday September 15th •
After 6pm mass



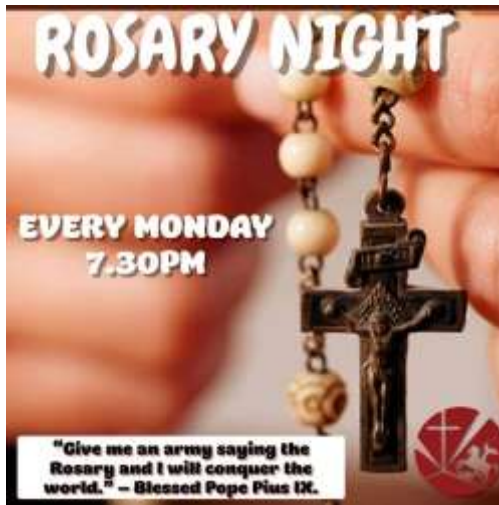
**KNIGHTS OF ST GEORGE
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FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
**6PM MASS
FOLLOWED BY SPIRITUAL
TALK AND BBQ**



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Senior Program
Wednesdays
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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.



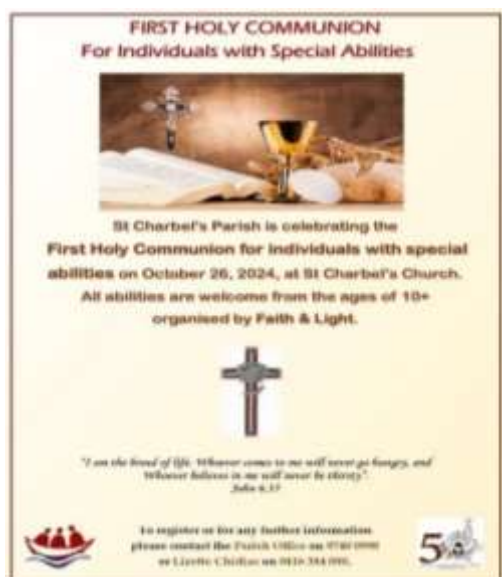
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**ADORATION OF THE
EUCHARIST**
Every Thursday @ 7:30pm
Confession Available



Maronite Ladies of the Gospel present
**A Fashion Show
Featuring Designers of
Lebanese Origin**
When: Tuesday 29 October 2024
Time: 11.30am
Where: Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral Church Hall
Cost: \$120.00 per person
(Includes Lunch & Refreshments)
Join us for an incredible day of Fun, Fashion, Raffles & Entertainment
NOV: Noelle 0433 373 720 Lalla 0415 320 880
Shirley 0409 330 028 Mona 0414 976 435

**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 0140 0100 or Lalla Charbel on 0415 344 000.

Maronite Ladies of the Gospel Spiritual Day
The Maronite Ladies of the Gospel warmly invite you to a Spiritual Day Retreat at Beit Maroun, Strathfield, on Wednesday 9 October 2024.
Arrival is at 9am, with the program beginning at 9:30am with Holy Mass, followed by a spiritual talk by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay. The day will also include a spiritual workshop, the Rosary, and Benediction, concluding at 2pm.
The cost is \$50 per person and includes morning tea and lunch. Please book by 1 October 2024.
For bookings and inquiries, contact Noelle at 0433 373 720, Shirley Wehbe at 0409 330 028, or Salwa Bader at 0410 466 773.

Memorial Masses

نوايا القداسات

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 ايلول ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 15 th Sept 2024	9am	Mass for the Late Salma Khoudair (nee Mouyat) and her departed children and grandchildren.	قداس المرحومة سلمى يوسف معيط والأطفال والأحفاد المتوفيين	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٥ ايلول ٢٠٢٤
	11am	Mass for the Late Youssef Hanna Mouait	قداس المرحوم يوسف حنا معيط	١١ : ٠٠	
	6pm	Mass for the Late George Yusef Soleh Habkouk	قداس المرحوم جورج يوسف صالح حبقوق	٦ : ٠٠	
Saturday 21 st Sept 2024	6pm	Mass for the Late Fouad and Josephine Kazzi, Milia and Michelle	قداس المرحومين فؤاد، جوزفين، ميليا، وميشال قزي	٦ : ٠٠	السبت ٢١ ايلول ٢٠٢٤
Sunday 22 nd Sept 2024	9am	1 Year Mass for the Late Lucy Flynn Tyler	قداس السنة المرحومة لوسي فلين طيلر	٩ : ٠٠	الاحد ٢٢ ايلول ٢٠٢٤
	6pm	Mass for the Late Sarkis Khoudair	قداس المرحوم سركييس خضير	٦ : ٠٠	

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Simon Zeaiter

Parish Financial Updates

Parish Income (fortnight 02/09/2024 – 15/09/2024)
\$8,665.50

Parish Operations Account
\$69,820.50

Parish Loan Balance
\$379,561.55

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 direct debit - (Account Name: St George Maronite Church, BSB #062-784, Account # 16948504)



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