



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

2nd Sunday after the Glorious Cross

Sunday 22nd September 2024

Year 2024, Issue #39

The Gospel

Matt 24: 1-14

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, 'You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' Jesus answered them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am the Messiah!" and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs. "Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But anyone who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Season of the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

3rd Sunday after the Glorious Cross

Old Testament Reading

Dan 7: 9-14

Epistle

Phil 3: 17-4:1

Gospel

Matt 24: 23-31

الإنجيل

متى ٢٤: ١-١٤

خَرَجَ يَسُوعُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ وَمَضَى. فَدَنَا مِنْهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ يُلْفِتُونَ نَظْرَهُ إِلَى أُنْبِيَةِ الْهَيْكَلِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «أَلَا تَنْظُرُونَ هَذَا كُلَّهُ؟ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ يُتْرَكَ هُنَا حَجَرٌ عَلَى حَجَرٍ إِلَّا وَيُنْقَضُ». وَفِيمَا هُوَ جَالِسٌ عَلَى جَبَلِ الزَيْتُونِ، دَنَا مِنْهُ التَّلَامِيذُ عَلَى أَنْفِرَادٍ قَائِلِينَ: «قُلْ لَنَا مَتَى يَكُونُ هَذَا، وَمَا هِيَ عَلَامَةُ مَجِيئِكَ وَنِهَآيَةِ الْعَالَمِ؟». فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «إِحْذَرُوا أَنْ يُضَلَّكُمْ أَحَدًا! فَكَثِيرُونَ سَيَأْتُونَ بِأَسْمِي قَائِلِينَ: «أَنَا هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ! وَيُضِلُّونَ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَسَوْفَ تَسْمَعُونَ بِحُرُوبٍ وَبِأَخْبَارِ حُرُوبٍ، أَنْظُرُوا، لَا تَرْتَعِبُوا! فَلَإِنَّ بَدَأَ أَنْ يَحْدُثَ هَذَا. وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَتْ النِّهَآيَةُ بَعْدَ! سَتَقُومُ أُمَّةٌ عَلَى أُمَّةٍ، وَمَمْلَكَةٌ عَلَى مَمْلَكَةٍ، وَتَكُونُ مَجَاعَاتٌ وَزَلْزَلٌ فِي أَمَاكِنَ شَتَّى، وَهَذَا كُلُّهُ أَوَّلُ الْمَخَاضِ. حِينَئِذٍ يُسَلِّمُونَكُمْ إِلَى الصَّبِقِ، وَيَقْتُلُونَكُمْ، وَيُبَغِضُكُمْ جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ مِنْ أَجْلِ أَسْمِي. وَحِينَئِذٍ يَرْتَدُّ الْكَثِيرُونَ عَنِ الْإِيمَانِ، وَيُسَلِّمُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا، وَيُبَغِضُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا. وَيَقُومُ أَنْبِيَاءُ كَذِبَةٌ كَثِيرُونَ وَيُضِلُّونَ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَلِكثَرَةِ الْإِثْمِ تَقْتَرُ مَحَبَّةُ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَمَنْ يَصْبِرْ إِلَى النِّهَآيَةِ يَخْلُصُ. وَيُكْرَزُ بِإِنْجِيلِ الْمَلَكُوتِ هَذَا فِي الْمَسْكُونَةِ كُلِّهَا شَهَادَةً لَجَمِيعِ الْأُمَمِ، وَحِينَئِذٍ تَأْتِي النِّهَآيَةُ.

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,
On this Second Sunday of the Holy Cross, we are reminded that this season points us towards the kingdom to come. The readings of this Sunday give us a message of hope,

repentance, and a reminder to focus on what truly matters: our eternal life with God.

In the Old Testament reading from the Prophet Joel, we are called to repentance. It is an invitation to return to God sincerely and humbly, knowing that He is merciful and compassionate. In the Epistle, Saint Paul addresses the question of life after death, emphasising that Christ's resurrection is our victory over death. Because Christ rose from the dead, death has lost its power, becoming the gateway to eternal life.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus offers a vision of the end times. He speaks of wars, famines, and persecutions, which may fill us with fear. Yet, He urges us to endure, reminding us that "the one who endures to the end will be saved" (Matt 24:13). These words teach us not to be overly attached to worldly things, for all will pass away.

The Jews who returned from exile sought to rebuild God's temple under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. This temple, renewed centuries later under King Herod, became a magnificent structure, completed and dedicated in 60 A.D. In this Gospel passage, Jesus' disciples marvelled at the temple's grandeur, but Jesus saw beyond the physical building, foretelling its destruction in 70 A.D.

The physical structure, though magnificent, would soon be reduced to rubble, thus showing us the futility of clinging to earthly things, for in the end, everything will fade. Only the proclamation of the Gospel will endure, saving those who persevere.

Through this passage, we understand that Jesus is the true temple. He is the temple that will never be destroyed, and our union with Him is eternal. Our life on earth, no matter how long, is but a moment compared to eternity. None of us can guarantee how long we will remain in this life or extend it by even a moment.

We are called to strive for heavenly glory, not earthly pursuits. Our time here is brief, and our focus should be on gathering treasures that last. Jesus invites us to prepare our hearts for His return, not with fear, but with joyful anticipation.

But how are we preparing for this encounter? Are we living in a way that reflects our love for Christ, or are we distracted by the things of this world? True preparation for Christ's return involves living in love and humility. If we harden our hearts, clinging to power, wealth, or pleasure, we distance ourselves from the joy that Christ offers.

Let us not be anxious about tomorrow. Instead, let us live today as if we are preparing to meet Christ face to face, striving for heavenly glory and trusting in His promise of eternal life.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

'But anyone who endures to the end will be saved' (v13). We often associate endurance with physical activity, but it is very much also about one's own faith journey.

As we travel through the Season of the Cross, we will encounter many passages about the end of time and the sufferings one must go through. Today's Gospel warns of being led astray, wars, famines, earthquakes, torture and hatred, false prophets and lawlessness. The reality is life will throw many things at us, and they can be very challenging. Our faith will ask of us something completely different to what we encounter in our daily lives. Our faith will be tested.

'But everyone who endures to the end will be saved' (v13). It is about endurance. Faith will be challenged and questioned. Our faith in Christ will be a journey of change. It cannot remain stagnate or unbending. It needs to broaden and develop. It calls us to dig deeper and be honest with ourselves.

Our faith needs to have answers to the many troubling aspects that we face. It must give us greater comfort, peace and joy, than what life has to offer. Only then will we know the importance of faith and our need for it. Only then will we know how important God is to us, above and beyond all else. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

Feast of St John the Beloved

On 26th September we celebrate the feast of St John the Beloved and the Congregation of the Lebanese Maronite Missionaries celebrate their annual feast. Under the care of the Virgin Mary & St John the Beloved, all the Missionaries look up to them for intercession & protection. We congratulate the congregation, especially Fr Bechara, and pray that they may continue to serve the community and fulfil their mission.



كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

حين نسمع كلمة "إضطهاد"، يتبادر إلى ذهننا مباشرةً إضطهاد المسيحيين في القرون الأولى... ولكن، عبر العصور، مرّت الكنيسة والمسيحيون عبر إضطهادات كثيرة، منها من الخارج، ومنها من الدّاخل!

لقد تبيّن للكنيسة، خلال هذه المسيرة، بأن الإضطهادات الآتية من الدّاخل، أشدّ وطأة وإيلامًا من تلك الآتية من الخارج إذ تقوم على إبتعاد البعض عن أمومة الكنيسة إلى حوض بدع أو هرطقات تسعى في الظاهر إلى تصحيح ما تظنّه إنحرافات أو إبتعادٍ عن الجوهر ولكنّها تقود في النهاية إلى شردمة جسد المسيح! إنّ القراءة السطحية للنصّ ستجعلنا حتمًا نقلق أو نضطرب لشدة قساوة الصور الواردة فيه... ولكنّ الخاتمة تحمل الكثير من الرّجاء لأنّها تفتح أفق الخلاص عبر تأكيد إنتشار البشارة بالإنجيل في المسكونة كلّها... قد يقول أحدهم: نحن نعيش في زمان التكنولوجيا والإعلام وقد وصل الإنجيل إلى العالم كلّهُ فهل يعني ذلك أنّنا إقتربنا من النّهاية؟!

الإجابة بسيطة: نحن نعيش في زمن نهاية الشّرّ منذ إنتصار الربّ على الصليب، ولكنّ إنتشار نصّ الإنجيل لا يعني بأنّ الناس يعيشون بموجب ما ورد فيه وبالتالي نهاية البشارة هي بداية جديدة وليست نهاية مخيفة لأنّها ترتبط حكمًا بالسّلام والأمان والسعادة!

إنجيل اليوم يدعونا إلى الحذر من كلّ ما يشنّتنا عن رعيّة المسيح فالتغيير الحقيقي والترميم الصادق يبدأ من الدّاخل ويستمرّ في الدّاخل لأنّ جنوره راسخة في المحبة والتواضع! فهل أنت تستعدّ لبداية يومية مع الله، تنهي فيها، كلّ يوم، أمرًا من الأمور التي تبعدك عنه؟!

www.kobayat.org

KNIGHTS OF ST GEORGE MEN'S GATHERING



FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

6PM MASS

FOLLOWED BY SPIRITUAL TALK AND BBQ




ST GEORGE PARISH IS
LOOKING FOR

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MSGR MARCELINO YOUSSEF


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THE MODESTY TALK:

A Modern Virtue

 7:30 PM
 13th October, 2024
 Church Hall

Presented by Francis Tamer




PARISH WORKING BEE



We require as many volunteers as possible to help clean our church and improve it's maintenance.


Saturday 26th October 2024
Starting @ 7:00am

For more information, please contact the Parish Office




ROSARY NIGHT

EVERY MONDAY
7.30PM



"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." – Blessed Pope Pius IX.




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

KOVP:
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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 القداست

Saturday 21 st Sept 2024	6pm	Mass for the Late Fouad and Josephine Kazzi, Milia and Michelle	قداست 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	قداست السنة المرحومة لوسي فلين طيلر	٩ :٠٠	الاحد ٢٢ ايلول ٢٠٢٤
	6pm	Mass for the Late Sarkis Khoudair	قداست المرحوم سركييس خضير	٦ :٠٠	
Sunday 29 th Sept 2024	11am	Mass for the Late Emile Andary	قداست المرحوم اميل العنداري	١١ :٠٠	الاحد ٢٢ ايلول ٢٠٢٤

Parish Financial Updates		To receive our eNewsletter please email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au	
Parish Income (fortnight 16/09/2024 – 29/09/2024) TBA		 YouTube	Subscribe to our Channel St George Maronite Catholic Church
Parish Operations Account \$70,032.68	Parish Loan Balance \$379,561.55		 'like' us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram
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)			

Business Community Corner

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