



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Glorious Cross

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Year 2024, Issue #40

## The Gospel

Matt 24: 23-31

If anyone says to you, "Look! Here is the Messiah!" or "There he is!" do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Take note, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, "Look! He is in the wilderness", do not go out. If they say, "Look! He is in the inner rooms", do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. 'Immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

## Season of the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Glorious Cross

Old Testament Reading

Gen 41: 38-44

Epistle

1 Thess 5: 1-11

Gospel

Matt 24: 45-51

## الإنجيل

متى ٢٤: ٢٣-٣١

قال الرب يسوع: «إِنْ قَالَ لَكُمْ أَحَدٌ: هُوَذَا الْمَسِيحُ هُنَا أَوْ هُنَاكَ! فَلَا تُصَدِّقُوا. فَسَوْفَ يَفْعَلُونَ مُسَحَاءَ كَذِبَةٍ وَأَنْبِيَاءَ كَذِبَةٍ، وَيَأْتُونَ بِآيَاتٍ عَظِيمَةٍ وَخَوَارِقَ، لِيُضِلُّوا الْمُخْتَارِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ، لَوْ قَدَرُوا. هَا إِنِّي قَدْ أَنْبَأْتُكُمْ! فَإِنْ قَالُوا لَكُمْ: هَا هُوَ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ! فَلَا تَخْرُجُوا، أَوْ: هَا هُوَ فِي دَاخِلِ الْبَيْتِ! فَلَا تُصَدِّقُوا. فَكَمَا أَنَّ الْبَرَقَ يَوْمِضُ مِنَ الْمَشَارِقِ، وَيَسْطَعُ حَتَّى الْمَغَارِبِ، هَكَذَا يَكُونُ مَجِيءُ ابْنِ الْإِنْسَانِ. حَيْثُ تَكُونُ الْجُثَّةُ هُنَاكَ تَجْتَمِعُ النُّسُورُ. وَحَالًا بَعْدَ ضَيْقِ تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، أَلْشَّمْسُ تُظْلِمُ، وَالْقَمَرُ لَا يُعْطِي ضَوْءَهُ، وَالتُّجُومُ تَتَسَاقَطُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، وَقُوَّاتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ تَتَزَعَّزَعُ. وَحِينَئِذٍ تَظْهَرُ فِي السَّمَاءِ عَلَامَةٌ ابْنِ الْإِنْسَانِ، فَتَنْتَجِبُ قَبَائِلُ الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا، وَتَرَى ابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ آتِيًا عَلَى سَحَابِ السَّمَاءِ بِقُدْرَةٍ وَمَجْدٍ عَظِيمٍ، وَيُرْسِلُ مَلَائِكَتَهُ يَنْفُخُونَ فِي بُوقِ عَظِيمٍ، فَيَجْمَعُونَ مُخْتَارِيهِ مِنَ الرِّيحِ الْأَرْبَعِ، مِنْ أَقْصَى السَّمَاوَاتِ إِلَى أَقْصِيهَا.

### 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)

# A Message from His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay to the Faithful of the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania concerning the Perilous Situation in Lebanon

*"You, O Lord, will preserve us, You will protect us from this generation, forever." (Psalm 12:8)*

Dearly Beloved in Christ, the Prince of Peace,

I am writing to you now, my beloved, as the tragic situation in our homeland Lebanon has worsened, and has become a great threat to its security and peace, its identity and culture, and its historical mission.

The Lebanese people have been carrying the heavy cross of consecutive wars and the different national crises since 1975. In accordance with our Antiochian Maronite liturgical calendar we are now in the Season of the Holy Cross. Spiritually, this Season is very rich: it illumines the mysteries of our salvation, of our final end, and of the Second Coming of Our Lord. His Cross is, of course, a symbol of salvation, but it is even more: it is a "whole of life project."

This "whole of life project" is the way for the people of Lebanon to face the culture of death and war that is threatening the very existence of Lebanese and the future of their country. As Saint Paul the Apostle wrote: "The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but for us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). The Cross is victory over evil, the light which shines from it guides our steps as we follow Our Lord Jesus Christ in faith, until that day when, pray God, we will inherit the heavenly kingdom.

The Lebanese people find themselves plunged into an unprecedented war that they did not choose, and their daily life is already full of concerns and challenges and we cannot but feel their pain. They have been afflicted by difficult and deteriorating living conditions, the banking crisis, the collapse and devalue of the Lebanese lira, the crisis of the Syrian displacement and the disruption of the governmental institutions, notably the failure to elect a new president for the Republic. In the absence of any solution for their social and living problems, today, a very painful cross has been imposed upon their shoulders, a new war which has fetched a lot of terror and horror.

But now the escalation of fighting, and Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, the Beqaa, and in Beirut, have led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries, with the displacement of hundreds of thousands from the South to safer areas in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, the North and even outside Lebanon. This tragedy adds to what the region is currently experiencing, particularly the destructive war against the Palestinian people in the Holy Land.

I am very grateful of our Australian-Lebanese community, which has always been among the first to show generosity, selflessness, and human solidarity. They are always proud to help and to support those who are poor and oppressed, whomever and wherever they may be. Therefore, and in unison with our Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai, who called for the solidarity of the Lebanese family to face the humanitarian crisis, I call upon all our faithful in all our Maronite parishes in Australia to undertake the following:

- Firstly, from now until the start of the Christmas Novena, **to devote Eucharistic Adoration nights in all our parishes**, praying that God may bring an end to the fighting in Lebanon and the Holy Land, that all disputes be resolved fairly, rationally and humanely, and that peace and stability may return to their lands.
- Secondly, **to dedicate for this purpose the intentions of our Masses on the Feast of the Rosary** (Saturday and Sunday, 5 and 6 October). The celebration of this blessed Feast is to be accompanied by processions and litanies. We also invite you to pray the Rosary in the family and alone during this blessed month.
- Thirdly, **on the feast of the Holy Rosary, the second plate collected in all Masses in all parishes, will be to help the Lebanese fleeing the South, providing them with basic humanitarian needs** (food, medicine, clothing, and shelter).
- Finally, I support the advice from the Australian government that **we should not travel to Lebanon**. Australian citizens in Lebanon are requested to **leave immediately** or to make contact with the Australian Embassy in Beirut. For further information, please visit the *Smarttraveller* advice on [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au).

My prayers are joined to yours, in beseeching God that justice may prevail, war cease, and peace return, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, the Queen of Peace and Our Lady of Lebanon. May God protect Lebanon and its people.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

+ **Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**  
**Maronite Eparch of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania**

## Reflection of the Week: "What to Look For"

There are many things to consider in this Sunday's Gospel, but we will focus on the issue of how to know a person of truth from a person who leads others astray in their religious beliefs.

The Gospel passage begins with the warning not to follow false Messiahs and prophets. In today's society where social media has great influence, this is a very timely warning. How do we know who is speaking the truth and who is taking us down the wrong path? People can be smooth talkers and there are those whose views resonate with our hidden fears. These people say what we want to hear and supposedly in the name of Christianity. So, are they prophets or soldiers for Christ? Should we heed their call? Caution is suggested when we listen to these influencers. Jesus' foundational message was that of love and deep inner peace. It is from that attitude we then understand the world and determine our views. If we approach the world with anger, hatred and fear, and demand we wage war, then that is a far cry from Jesus' message. That is not to say we remain subordinate. No. We critique situations but with wisdom and an eye to hope.

We know that we are called to faithfulness in God, but we also know how it is God who leads us and God who has the 'power and great glory' (v30). Everyone else is a follower of Christ who should inspire us to greater acts of love in God's name. Amen

**Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf**



**ST GEORGE PARISH IS  
LOOKING FOR**

**FERSAN AND TEEN LEADERS**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
MSGR MARCELINO YOUSSEF**

**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2025  
ROME**

**PARIS, LOURDES, ROME | 20 DAYS  
22 JULY - 11 AUGUST 2025**

For all Maronite Youth, Adults & Families, join our Australian Maronite WYD 2025 Group to experience an unforgettable faith journey with God's Grace as we travel to Paris, Lourdes and Rome with Monsignor Shora Mero. Join us as we join Pope Francis with Youth, Adults and Families from all over the world in Rome, a mini World Youth Day where Pilgrims will obtain a primary indulgence and are able to enter Saint Peter's Basilica by the holy door, experiencing a deep pilgrimage to Rome at a very special time.



**OPTIONAL | PRE AND POST TRIPS**

- Youth Committee in Lebanon | Pre WYD | 17th - 27th July 2025
- Our Lady of Mount Lebanon (Jounieh and Choueib) | 28th - 30th August 2025



SCAN QR CODE  
TO REGISTER



Maronite  
Youth  
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Council



**St. George Youth**

**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:  
Beille 0433 375 728  
Shirley 0439 330 028

Leila 0413 339 999  
Nina 0414 976 435





**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**

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024	11am	Mass for the Late Emile Andary	قداست المرحوم إميل العنداري	١١ : ٠٠	الأحد ٢٢ أيلول ٢٠٢٤
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Congratulations to the Newly Baptised:  
Liliana Rita Alfar, Lucymaria Mouyat, and Anthony Raymond Habkouk

<b>Parish Financial Updates</b>		To receive our eNewsletter please email <a href="mailto:info@stgeorgemcc.org.au">info@stgeorgemcc.org.au</a>	
Parish Income (fortnight 16/09/2024 – 29/09/2024) \$7,764.25			Subscribe to our Channel <a href="#">St George Maronite Catholic Church</a>
Parish Operations Account \$65,496.86	Parish Loan Balance \$379,561.55		
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)		 <b>'like' us on Facebook</b> Follow us on Instagram	

**Business Community Corner**

	 Phone: 9872 8111	
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**Laing + Simmons**

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