



St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

# Our Parish

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

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Year 2024, Issue #42

## The Gospel

Matt 25: 1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## Season of the Holy Cross



Next Sunday

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

Old Testament Reading

Prov 6: 6-11

Epistle

Gal 6: 1-10

Gospel

Matt 25: 14-30

## الإنجيل

متى ٢٥: ١-١٣

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: «يُشْبِهُ مَلَكُوتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ عَشْرَ عَذَارَى أَخَذْنَ مَصَابِيحَهُنَّ وَخَرَجْنَ إِلَى لِقَاءِ الْعَرِيسِ، خَمْسٌ مِنْهُنَّ جَاهِلَاتٌ، وَخَمْسٌ حَكِيمَاتٌ. فَالْجَاهِلَاتُ أَخَذْنَ مَصَابِيحَهُنَّ وَلَمْ يَأْخُذْنَ مَعَهُنَّ زَيْتًا. أَمَّا الْحَكِيمَاتُ فَأَخَذْنَ زَيْتًا فِي آيَةٍ مَعَ مَصَابِيحَهُنَّ. وَأَبْطَأَ الْعَرِيسُ فَتَنَعَسْنَ جَمِيعُهُنَّ، وَرَقَدْنَ. وَفِي مُنْتَصَفِ اللَّيْلِ، صَارَتِ الصَّيْحَةُ: هُوَذَا الْعَرِيسُ! أُخْرَجُوا إِلَى لِقَائِهِ! حِينَئِذٍ قَامَتِ أُولَئِكَ الْعَذَارَى كُلُّهُنَّ، وَزَيَّنَّ مَصَابِيحَهُنَّ. فَقَالَتِ الْجَاهِلَاتُ لِلْحَكِيمَاتِ: أَعْطِينَا مِنْ زَيْتِكُنَّ، لِأَنَّ مَصَابِيحَنَا تَنْطَفِئُ. فَأَجَابَتِ الْحَكِيمَاتُ وَقُلْنَ: قَدْ لَا يَكْفِينَا وَيَكْفِيكُنَّ. إِذْهَبْنَ بِالْأُخْرَى إِلَى الْبَاعَةِ وَأَبْتَعْنَ لِكُنَّ. وَلَمَّا ذَهَبْنَ لِيَبْتَعْنَ، جَاءَ الْعَرِيسُ، وَدَخَلَتِ الْمُسْتَعِدَّاتُ إِلَى الْعَرْسِ، وَأَغْلَقَ الْبَابَ. وَأَخِيرًا جَاءَتِ الْعَذَارَى الْبَاقِيَاتُ وَقُلْنَ: يَا رَبُّ، يَا رَبُّ، أَفْتَحْ لَنَا! فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: أَلْحَقْ أَقُولُ لِكُنَّ، إِنِّي لَا أَعْرِفُكُنَّ! إِسْهَرُوا إِذًا، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ الْيَوْمَ وَلَا السَّاعَةَ.

### 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)

## Bishops Message Year of Prayer Fifth Sunday of the Cross

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the end of our Liturgical Year, we reflect on these final weeks of the Season of the Cross. The readings during this Season call us to be vigilant and ready for the coming of the Lord.

This Sunday, we hear the parable of the wise and foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). We are invited to examine our spiritual lives, renew our commitment to faith, and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. Our journey of faith is one of constant readiness, where we are called to stay awake, foster love, and become instruments of peace in a world that deeply needs it.

In our pursuit of peace, the Maronite Eparchy of Australia hosted the Middle-Eastern Churches for a Prayer for Peace in Lebanon and the World on 9 October 2024. This gathering coincided with the 47th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Charbel Makhlof, canonised on 9 October 1977. At the time, Lebanon was in the midst of civil war, and in his homily, Pope Paul VI shared these poignant words: "The pain of recent events has carved deep wrinkles on the face of Lebanon and cast a grave shadow over the path of peace. Yet Lebanon, and the Maronite Church in particular, can take pride in Saint Charbel as an extraordinary peacemaker, for he sought peace in God alone."

These words resonate today as we continue to pray for peace in Lebanon, the Holy Land, Sudan, Ukraine, and other nations in conflict. The passage of time does not bring peace, but following the example of peacemakers like Saint Charbel guides us toward justice, truth, and reconciliation.

Lebanon today is enduring the most dangerous phase of its modern history, due to a war imposed on it both from within and from outside. Its people have become hostages to external and internal forces that know neither justice nor mercy, violating the lives of the innocent and defenceless. Our prayers, through the intercession of Saint Charbel, are for peace and protection. We join the people of Lebanon in saying: *O Charbel, help us. O Charbel, protect us. O Charbel, protect Lebanon.*

Pope Francis, in his letter to the Catholics of the Middle East on 7 October 2024, expressed his solidarity: "With the heart of a father, I write to you, God's holy people, children of your ancient Churches... I am close to you, I am with you... You are a seed loved by God. Planted in your sacred lands, become sprouts of hope, because the light of faith leads you to testify to love amid words of hatred..."

Let us remember that true peace comes from following the examples of true peacemakers like Saint Charbel, who found peace in God alone. Together, we are all called to be peacemakers through our faith in God and love for our fellow human beings.

I extend my heartfelt thanks for your generous support of our recent appeal for displaced people in Lebanon. Your kindness has raised over \$25,000 which will go directly to aid those in desperate need through trusted charitable organisations in Lebanon. Your contributions are a testimony of your prayers in action.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. May we all strive to be peacemakers in our communities so that peace may reign in our world.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

## Reflection of the Week: "Responsibility"

The parable of the ten bridesmaids tells a story of preparation and enthusiasm. More importantly it is about responsibility and accountability.

In the Bible the theme of coming together and gathering as one are important. Yet there is also the pre-notion of self-awareness. Yes, we need one another but we also need to take personal responsibility for where we are, and we've done. Today's parable makes that startlingly clear. We start with the ten bridesmaids travelling together but in the end, half are left behind on their own.

We can only help others to a point. And so we should. However, we reach a time where each and every one of us has to carry their own weight and be accountable for their efforts or lack thereof.

If we focus on the foolish bridesmaids, we note they had failed to bring oil with them. When they do return after their purchase, they find it is too late. What is interesting is that at the door they simply say, 'Lord, lord, open to us' (v11). There is no sense of urgency or deep desire. There is no knocking on the door or pleading. And that may well be the problem.

Where does our passion lie? Our desires? What draws us in? In Matthew 7:1 we read, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.' Life will welcome us when we show initiative, perseverance, passion and love. So, get up and make the most of your life, instead of drifting by. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

## كلمة الحياة غذاءً للنفوس

يأتي إنجيل الأحد الخامس بعد عيد الصليب (متى ٢٥: ١-١٣) في سياق الأناجيل التي تدعو الإنسان للإستعداد الدائم لملاقاة الله في هذه الحياة أو في الحياة الثانية! الملفت أنّ إطار النصّ هو إطار فرح ومختلف عن النصوص التي أنبأت بمجيء المسيح الثاني بما تحويه من صور إضطرابات أو ما شابه. في زماننا، عندما تُطرح مسألة الأعراس وتحضيراتها، تُطرح دائماً مسألة التحضير المسبق لها...

غالبًا ما يبدأ العروسان بتحضيرات الإكليل بتجهيز البيت الزوجي ثم يقومان بإنتقاء تاريخ الزواج ومن بعده الكنيسة ويشرعان بوضع الخطط اللازمة ليومهما المميز...

هذه التحضيرات تأخذ طابعًا جدّيًا منذ اللحظة الأولى وتتصاعد وتيرتها حتّى اليوم المنتظر...

في الكتاب المقدّس، غالبًا ما وصفت علاقة الإنسان بالله بأنّها علاقة زواج حيث يتلازم العهد مع المحبة في تكوين أسس علاقة وطيدة...

في سفر الرؤيا قيل: "طوبى للمدعوين إلى وليمة عرس الحمل" (رؤيا ١٩: ٩) في إشارة إلى نهاية العالم التي غالبًا ما يخاف الناس منها فيما هي عرسٌ والعرس ملؤه الفرح لا الخوف!

في نصّ الإنجيل، نجد إشارة إلى شرطٍ وحيد يؤهّلنا لمرافقة العريس السماويّ وهو "الزيت" الذي فستره يوحنا فم الذهب بأنّه الأعمال الصالحة التي قام بها الإنسان في فترة حياته الأرضية...

إختيار الربّ لصورة العرس يشعّرنا بمدى أهميّة الإستعداد للقاءه وهو ما نهمله فعليًا حين نغرق في شجوننا وهمونا الأنيّة التي تنسينا تجهيز ذواتنا لحضورنا الأبديّ في ملكوته، أي عرس السّماء!

فلتأمل كلّ منّا اليوم في الوقت الذي يستهلكه التجهيز لعرسٍ أرضيّ ولبقارنه بالوقت المخصّص للإستعداد للقاء الدائم مع الربّ. سيدج حتمًا أنّ الفارق كبيرٌ وسيعلم بأنّ دفة الميزان تميل لصالح "الأنيّة" على حساب "الأبديّة!"

يدعوننا مثل العذارى إلى تجهيز ذواتنا ليوم لقائنا مع الله والإستفادة من كلّ لحظة تمرّ لتتميم جهوزيّتنا للعبور من دنيا المادّة إلى دنيا الرّوح. تترافق هذه الجهوزيّة مع الفرح الذي هو ميزةٌ مسيحيةٌ أساسيّة وفق ما أكدّ مار بولس: "إفرحوا في الربّ كلّ حين وأقول أيضًا: إفرحوا!" (فيلبي ٤: ٤). لذا، على الفرح والإستعداد أن يتراقفا سويّة في مسيرة الإنسان نحو الملكوت فيشعّ فرحًا مع من يلتقي بهم فيسأهم في إستعدادهم هم أيضًا للقاء الربّ في كلّ إنسان وفي كلّ الظروف!

www.kobayat.org

# Parish News and Upcoming Events



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 Maree. 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 plenary 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 Convention in Lebanon | Pre WYD | 17th - 27th July 2025
- Our Lady of Medjugorje (Bosnia and Croatia) | 10th - 15th August 2025



SCAN QR CODE  
TO REGISTER



## FINAL WYD25 INFO NIGHT @ OLOL HARRIS PK



PARIS, LOURDES & WYD Week ROME + Cascia, Assisi  
POST-WYD25 | OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE, CROATIA

8.30PM after 7pm Mass SUNDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

OLOL SENIORS' ROOM

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE | 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

FINAL PAYMENT | 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

DEPART SYDNEY | 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2025

## ROSARY NIGHT

EVERY MONDAY  
7.30PM

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

## 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





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

RSVP:  
Noelle 0433 373 720 Leila 0419 339 999  
Shirley 0409 330 028 Mona 0414 976 435



**Congratulations to the Newly Baptised:**  
Thomas David Habkouk  
Gabriel Blanchard

**Congratulations to the Newly Weds:**  
Colleen Merhi and Ben Khamis

**Memorial Masses**

**نوايا القداسات**

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Koana Zouein	قداس السنة المرحومة كونا زوين	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٣ ت ٢٠٢٤ ١
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024	11am	1 Year Mass for the Late Naim Khamis	قداس السنة المرحوم نعيم خميس	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٢٠ ت ٢٠٢٤ ١

**Parish Financial Updates**

**Parish Income (fortnight 30/09/2024 – 13/10/2024)**  
\$6,909.20

**Parish Operations Account**  
\$68,033.97

**Parish Loan Balance**  
\$376,144.95

**To receive our eNewsletter**  
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[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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**Laing + Simmons**  
Chris Khoudair  
Principal  
0405 122 331 | 02 9875 1777  
[chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au](mailto:chris.khoudair@lsre.com.au)  
Pennant Hills  
100 Yarrara Road,  
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