

The Good News from Your Parish

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH - HARRIS PARK

Sunday 2 February 2014

Issue 14

www.olol.org.au

Entrance of our Lord into the Temple

THE GOSPEL

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Luke 2: 22-35



Next Sunday's Readings

Fest of St Maroun

**2 Tim 3: 10-17
Jn 12: 23-30**



THE EPISTLE

What then are we to say? Gentiles, who did not strive for righteousness, have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith; but Israel, who did strive for the righteousness that is based on the law, did not succeed in fulfilling that law. Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, "See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Rom 9:30 - 10:4

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Dear Lord,

At our Baptism our parents presented us to the You in faith and appreciation for the gift of life. They entrusted us into Your divine care and providence. Today on the Entrance of our Lord into the Temple, we renew this trust with faith and hope. May the lives that we live be pleasing to You and may we be true witnesses of the Light of Christ in our world.

May we, like Mary and Joseph, present Christ to all those who desire and seek Him in their daily lives, so that we may be His true disciples. Amen

Dory Zaouk

Want to receive the Newsletter by email, if so send your request to newsletter@olol.org.au

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The Gospel, radiant with the light and glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites us to rejoice.

Pope Francis

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)

OLOL Church - Harris Pk 8am (Arabic), 9:30am (English Family), 11am (Ar/Eng), 5pm (Ar/Eng), 7pm (English Youth)
Mass Centres 11am St. Joseph the Worker, Auburn (Ar/Eng) / 6pm St Patrick's, Guildford (Ar/Eng)

WEEKDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 7am, 9am & 6pm. Wed 7am, 9am & 5:30pm; 7pm (English Youth) Sat 7:30am & 6pm (Ar/Eng)

CONFESSIONS

Before and during Saturday 6pm and Sunday Masses or by appointment on weekdays

WEEKDAY DEVOTIONS

Rosary / Divine Mercy: Mon, Tues 8pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thurs 7:30pm Sun 6:30pm Fri 7:30pm

Adoration Hour: Thursdays 8pm – 9pm 24 Hour Adoration: First Friday of the month from 9:30am – Sat 7:30am

Parish Contact Numbers: Office: 9689 2899 Fax: 9689 2068. Email: info@olol.org.au Msgr Shora Maree P.P. 0418 969 844. A.P.s Fr Pierre 0411 735 258. Fr Tony 0433 211 248. Fr Raphael 0401 627 777. Fr Sam, Fr Antoun 9689 2899. Fr Paul 0414 900 016. Fr Bernard 0411 811 807. Fr Claude 0422 819 277.

Light from the Word Entrance of the Lord into the Temple



This Sunday is the Feast of the Entrance of Jesus into the Temple. It was Jewish custom to present the new born infant to a priest in the Temple and offer an animal sacrifice. As we celebrate this event, there is much more to it than we first see.

Jesus' parents were Jewish and Jesus himself grew up a practising Jew. Aside from the Presentation in the Temple which we commemorate today, Jesus also celebrated the Jewish Passover, read from Hebrew Scriptures, regularly attend the Temple, and followed Jewish customs, rituals

and laws. However Jesus stood out in that he did not simply do these as it was the expectation of a Jew. Rather he came to fulfil the law. As today's Reading from Romans states, 'For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes' (10:4).

The entry of the infant Jesus into the Temple has much more to say to us than that Jesus and his parents undertook the Jewish ritual. Jesus continued to enter the Temple throughout his life. It was the centre of Jewish life, where God dwelled, where laws were decreed and sacrifices made. Yet for Jesus, it was also the place of conflict and inner turmoil.

Jesus understood the Temple as a place to encounter God, but all too often it was treated as a place of business. To achieve righteousness is to 'strive for it on the basis of faith' (9:32). To enter the Temple or to enter a Church today, is to seek faith first and foremost. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

Shepherd's Corner

PREPARING FOR THE FEAST

Dear Parishioners,

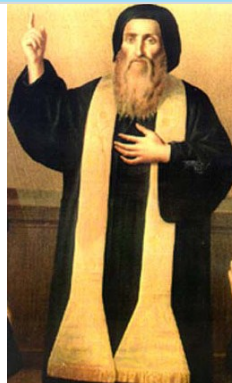
Next Sunday is the Feast of St Maroun, the Patron of our Maronite Church around the world and as well our Maronite Diocese of Australia.

In our Diocese the main celebration will be the Solemn Mass this Friday night 7pm at St Maroun's Cathedral Redfern celebrated by His Excellency Antoine-Charbel Tarabay our Maronite Bishop of Australia. The Priests of our Diocese along with invited Religious and Government Dignitaries will join the Bishop and all our parishioners who can attend for this Solemn Mass and Feast.

St Maroun's Cathedral Parish are holding their Annual Parish BBQ on the Saturday Night to which we are also all invited to attend. Here at Our Lady of Lebanon and in our Mass Centres we will also celebrate the Mass for St Maroun's Feast at all our Sunday Masses. We are preparing some new Holy Cards with a reflection and prayer through Family Committee members which will be distributed at all our Masses next Sunday. After our 9:30am English Family Mass we will be having a brunch and a children's presentation about St Maroun in the Recreation room.

In preparing and reflecting for the Feast of Saint Maroun and on his life, we can't help but be amazed. The reason why is that through the grace of God, in the life of St Maroun and his response to this grace and his determination to evangelise, 1600 years later and all around the world, members of a particular Church community within the Universal Catholic Church, carry his name, as Maronites, not only in Syria his place of origin and mission but also through his followers, in Lebanon and all the Middle East, the Americas, Africa, Europe and Australia.

St Maroun's life with his prayer and preaching, is a powerful testimony to the power of the grace of God in the Holy Spirit in spreading and shining the light of Christ throughout the world. Pope Francis' words that "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, Jesus, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" would apply to St Maroun and his mission. It reminds us today that God's grace is present and we are called, like St Maroun, to be trusting in prayer and



Saint of the Week

ST SIMEON AND ANNA 3 FEBRAURY



On this first day of the after the feast of the Entrance of our Lord into the temple, the Maronite Church commemorates the feast of the righteous Simeon and Anna the prophetess. According to the testimony of the St

Luke, Simeon was a

just and devout man waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him (Luke 2:25). God promised him that he would not die until the promised Messiah, Christ the Lord, came into the world. Ancient historians tell us that the Egyptian pharaoh Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-247 B.C.) wished to include texts of Holy Scripture in the famous Library at Alexandria. He invited scholars from Jerusalem, and the Sanhedrin sent their wise men. The Righteous Simeon was one of the seventy scholars who came to Alexandria to translate the Holy Scriptures into Greek. The completed work was called "The Septuagint," and is the version of the Old Testament.

St Simeon was translating a book of the Prophet Isaiah, and read the words: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son" (Is 7:14). He thought that "virgin" was inaccurate, and he wanted to correct the text to read "woman." At that moment an angel appeared to him and held back his hand saying, "You shall see these words fulfilled. You shall not die until you behold Christ the Lord born of a pure and spotless Virgin."

From this day, St Simeon lived in expectation of the Messiah until the day that Mary and St Joseph had come to the Temple in order to perform the ritual prescribed by Jewish Law.

St Luke continues: "And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not leave the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming at that very hour, also gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption at Jerusalem" (Luke 2:36-38).

Simeon died at a very old age (some even say 360 years). His holy relics were transferred to Constantinople in the sixth century.

ARTICLE OF THE WEEK—THE RITE OF BLESSING OF CANDLES



In history, candles have always been a sign of magnificence and honour. Patriarch Al-Doueih also writes that: “since all Sacraments of the Church give those who receive them heavenly grace, the Church has ordained that the priest who administers them be accompanied with a lighted candle.” For this reason, in the Maronite Divine Liturgy which celebrates Christ, the author of grace, there are to be at least two lighted candles to symbolize Christ as the light of the world. Candles are lit and carried during the reading of the Gospels, during the offertory procession, during other processions, before Icons of the Saints and on their Feast days and at Funerals and Christenings.

In this Sunday's Liturgy we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple forty days after His glorious birth. This celebration goes back in the history of the Church to the year 541. Historically, this feast is traditionally a Roman Catholic feast which was handed

down to the Maronites. The candles were then lit, and a procession took place through the darkened Church while the Canticle of Simeon was sung.

The Maronite Church established the Rite of Blessing of the Candles that goes with this Feast, to remind us of the words of Simeon that Jesus is sent by the Father, “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” This Rite of the Blessing of the Candles brings us back also to commemorate the fact that Jesus is the Light of the World [John 8:12]. Simeon carried Jesus who is the Light of the World and therefore when we light the candles on this feast and carry them, it reminds us that we too should be carrying Jesus to the whole world. We should be carrying Him in everything that we do because He is the light and path to our salvation. As with all Maronite Rites, the Rite of Blessing of the Candles is celebrated after the Homily (before the Creed) and is divided into five parts.

1. The opening prayer: This prayer is recited by the celebrant and is addressed to God the Father recalling the Presentation of His Son in the Temple as an offering in the arms of Simeon. The prayer asks God to “accept our candles, and light them with Your heavenly blessing, to be a light that enlightens our way to You, and a fire that ignites Your love in us” and to make us worthy to serve Him.

2. The incensing of the candles: The celebrant then incenses the candles saying – “May these candles be blessed in the name of The Father, and purified in the grace of The Son, and be sanctified by the indwelling of The Holy Spirit.”

3. Sprinkling of Holy Water: The celebrant then sprinkles water three times on the candles reciting the traditional psalm “Sprinkle me with hyssop that I may be pure; wash me, make me whiter than snow.”

4. Distribution and Lighting of the candles: The blessed candles are then lighted and distributed to the congregation while everyone recites the “The Hymn of light” (written by St. Ephrem the Syriac) or other similar hymns about “Christ – Our Light” like the Roman Catholic hymn “Christ be our Light” in English.

5. The concluding prayer: While the congregation carries their lighted candles, the celebrant recites the concluding prayer: “O Holy Father, You created everything from nothing, and ordered the honeycomb made by bees to become candles. We ask You on this day, as You granted Simeon the righteous his wish, to bless these candles and make them for the enlightening of people, and for the healing of their bodies and souls by Your holy name and with the intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary and all the Saints. Listen O Lord from the Heaven of Your holiness, and the throne of Your glory, to the prayers of your people that yearn to carry these candles with reverence, and praise You with songs. Have mercy O Lord on all who cry out to you from the time you saved them with the precious blood of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and Your Holy Spirit, forever.” May God grant us with His abundant blessings on this feast, and allow us in to rejoice in its everlasting light. Amen.

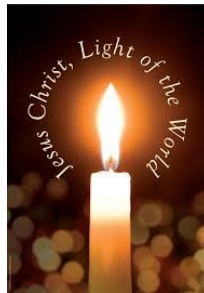
Danny Nouh

Parent's Corner

The “fortieth” day after child birth

In this week's Gospel, Joseph and Mary provide us with a shining example of how we should abide by our religious laws and traditions. On the fortieth day after the birth of Jesus, they took him to the temple as per the Jewish law. Under the Jewish law a woman and her child were not allowed into the temple before the fortieth day because they were considered to be impure. Unfortunately this Jewish law is confused among some of the Eastern nationalities (including the Lebanese) and some people wait forty days before coming to church and bringing their newborn child. This is not a Catholic law or tradition and definitely not a Maronite Law or tradition. In fact, some priests recall ancient stories of how the father upon the birth of his son or daughter would leave the mother (who was still recovering from child birth in their village home because this is where the child birth took place), find any two witnesses from the village (even in the working or farming clothes) and go to the village church and ask the priest to baptise his child. The parents back then wanted the child to be cleansed of the original sin and filled with the Holy Spirit from the very first day of their lives. Many people ask us today if they should wait forty days before coming to church and bring their child; the answer is definitely NO! With the birth of Jesus, the old law is no longer and He who is love itself is the New Law. Therefore do not hold back in coming to church and bringing your newborn child to their Father's House which is the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many people also ask when the most appropriate time to baptise their child is: is it the 8th day, the 40th day, after six months?? The answer is “as early as possible”. Do not deprive your child of this life giving grace by worrying about the clothes, the after party etc. Focus only on the sacrament and everything else will fall into place.

Danny Nouh



Children's Corner

Welcome my beloved brothers and sisters to a very special Sunday. Today is the day when my parents, Mary and Joseph, presented me to God the Father in the Temple. They took me to the House of God and through Simeon, they offered me to God. This is also the same with you, at your Baptism, your parents along with the Godparents and your relatives bring you to the House of God, the Church and through the Priest, they present you to God. This is such a powerful action because it is doing two things: first it is saying “thank you to God” for the gift of your life and secondly it says: “God this is your servant, your child, take care of them and bless them.” What a wonderful and powerful action. So always remember that God the Father is always with you and He is always watching over you and caring for you.

How is the start of the new school year? As it is the beginning of a new school year, perhaps that you should look back and think about all the things you didn't do so well in last year. Set yourself a new challenge or try to improve in the areas that need improving. Put me at the centre of your life and ask me to help you whenever you struggle or find difficulty. And always remember that you are my representative wherever you go, therefore ensure that your actions and your words are reflective of who I am and my teachings. I pray that this year goes well for you and that you succeed in all your plans and achieve all your goals. I love you very much always keep that in mind no matter where you are or what you do.

From your brother Jesus



Parish Camera & Media Page



Last Sunday Youth Leaders from across the Eparchy met for an inaugural 1 day Diocesan Youth Leaders Formation Day. The Youth leaders were given a leadership talk and prayed together before the Blessed Sacrament. They then celebrated Mass with His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay and guest Bishop Mounjed El-Hachem with Episcopal Vicar for Youth Mons Shora and Diocesan Youth Chaplain Fr Maroun El Kazzi. A big thank you to Anthony Assaf our Diocesan Youth Worker for running the workshop.



Last Sunday's Inaugural 1 Day Diocesan Youth Leaders Formation Retreat

MaroniteCare COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE Planned Giving Target

Target 2000 Parishioners
\$5 a week

323 Parishioners committed



QR Reader needed to scan this code
Available free from your App Store

Pledge Forms for your monthly Tax Deductible donation are available at the Church Doors. Fill in and return to one of the Priests, Committee Members or the Parish Office. For Inquiries contact Lisa 96892899.
Pledge Envelopes available for in the Gift shop



Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Loans

CYPC Building Loan \$5,533,437

Units Loan \$1,644,203

Property Loan \$182,647

Community Business Network Page



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which reaches over 2000 families a week. For \$500 you can promote your business for a month. For details newsletter@olol.org.au or Dory on 0430 511 847. Proceeds assist with the monthly \$4500 printing costs of our newsletter.



Harkola

foodworldwide



PARISH NOTICE BOARD



FEASTS & MEMORIAL MASSES

قَدَّاسَاتِ الْأُسْبُوعِ

Sunday 2 February—Sunday Entrance of Our Lord into Temple

8:00am Maurice Semaan Alam from Abdeen and his wife Noura

11:00am 1 year Ramza Said Nassif from Mazret Naher wife of Bakhous Bakhous from Wadi Qannoubine

5:00pm 40 days Tannous Youssef Abboud from Mizyara

St Joseph the Worker—Auburn

11:00am Tefleh widow of Saba Taouk from Bcharee (died in Leb)

St Patrick's Mass Centre—Guildford

6:00pm 40 days Jeanette Warden from Hadchit wife of George Younan from Wadi Qannoubine

Monday 3 February

6:00pm Katherine Wadi El Masri widow of Tannous Gerys Bou Dib from Zgharta (died in Leb)

Tuesday 4 February

10:00am Pierre Anis Maatouk from Beit Melet Akkar

Friday 7 February

6:00pm 40 days George Youssef Manassa from Kfarfou

Saturday 8 February

6:00pm Margaret Nehmetallah Moussa from Ben

Sunday 9 February—Sunday of Priests and Feast of St Maroun

11:00am 1 year Elias Younan from Wadi Qannoubine

5:00pm 40 days Joseph Wahid Issac from Hadchit

الأحد 2 شباط: الأحد الرابع بعد الدنج - عيد دخول المسيح إلى الهيكل مع رتبة تريك الشموع

8:00 المرحوم موريس سمعان علم من عبيدين وزوجته المرحومة نورما الياس أبي غانم من حدث بيروت

11:00 السنة للمرحومة رمزا سعيد ناصيف من مزرعة النهر زوجة باخوس باخوس من وادي قنوبين

5:00 أربعون المرحوم طنوس يوسف عبود من مزيارة

مار يوسف - 11:00 Auburn المرحومة طفلة أرملة المرحوم سابا وردان طوق من بشري (متوفاة في لبنان)

سانت باتريك - 6:00 Guildford أربعون المرحومة جانيث وردان من حدشيت زوجة جورج يونان من وادي قنوبين

الإثنين 3 شباط:

6:00 المرحومة كاترين وديع المصري أرملة المرحوم طنوس جريس بو ديب من زغرنا (متوفاة في لبنان)

الثلاثاء 4 شباط:

10:00 دفن المرحوم بيار أنيس معتوق من بيت ملاّت عكار

الجمعة 7 شباط:

6:00 أربعون المرحوم جورج يوسف منسّا من كفرقو

السبت 8 شباط:

6:00 أربعون المرحومة مارغريت نعمة الله موسى من بان

الأحد 9 شباط: أحد الكهنه وعيد مار مارون

11:00 السنة للمرحوم الياس يونان من وادي قنوبين

5:00 أربعون المرحوم جوزيف وحيد إسحاق من حدشيت

FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE



Parish Groups and Committees

Pastoral Council Meeting: Tues 4 February 2014 @ 8pm

Family & Adults

Family of the Divine Word, Bible Discussion: Tues @ 7:30pm

Adult Arabic Course: Sat 9:30am Mon 7pm to call 9689 2899

Brunch to celebrate the Feast of St Maroun after 9.30am
Mass next Sunday 9 Feb with short presentation on St Maroun's life for Children & families. All welcome. Kindly bring a plate of

Children

Arabic Classes: Sat 9:30am-12:30pm call Antoinette: 0414819663

Fersan Al-Adra: Saturday from 1.00pm-3.00pm

Children's Playgroup Tues & Wed 9:30am - 11:30am in CPYC

Teens

Teens Faith Discussion & Activities: Sat 4pm—6pm

Youth

Blood Donation contact Myrna 0421677998

Nursing Home Visit contact Josette 0447777703

Monthly Youth Meeting: 11 Feb @ 8pm

Youth Lent Retreat 28-30 Mar Theme: 'God's will be done.'

At Benedict 16th Retreat Centre Cost is \$200 includes accommodation, meals and use of facilities. Bookings Sr Margaret 0412 588 045.

Maronites Connected (for over 28's)

A Spiritual day Theme: 'Living as a Maronite today'

Sun 2 March at St Joseph's Spiritual Centre. Cost is \$15. includes prayer, activities, discussions, speakers & lunch. Contact Sr Margaret on 0412 588 045. To receive events MConnected@olol.org.au or contact Rafic on 0408358497

General Notices

Spirituality Centre and Novitiate for Women

The MSHF Sisters are opening a Spirituality Centre at Dulwich Hill and a novitiate for those considering Religious Life. In quiet surroundings one is invited to come on a weekend and pray in the chapel and find Spiritual guidance. For information contact Sr Rose Therese on 0421 283 899 or Sr Margaret on 0412 588 045.

6 Week course on "The Maronite Mass"

Begins this Monday 3 Feb till 10 Mar 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Ground level OLOL Community Centre

Enrol on-line at www.caec.org.au or at the first talk.

More info: CAEC on 9642 0211 or Fr Yuhanna 0435 764 824.

MaroniteCare Services

Youth Services & Facilities

Youth Drop in Recreation Room & Library & Study Centre open 10qm - 10pm for Youth 18 & over

Under 18s only with adult supervision

Homework Help for Students K-10 Tues 3:30pm - 6pm
Bookings essential call Anthony Chidiac 0417 426 103

Counselling Services (English/ Arabic)

Nada Coorey Psychology for confidential counselling at Centre or at Westmead. Areas of Specialisation include Depression and Anxiety/Panic Attacks, Relationship difficulties and Family/Parenting. Mobile: 0434642509 or PH: 88981526

MaroniteCare Youth and Family Counselling Service

For young people 12-18 years and their families.

Call Debbie Draybi: 0433 217 063 or 8898 1518

Email: counselling@maronitecare.org.au

Marriage Counselling (Arabic) Sr Rose Therese: 0421 283 899

Women's Well-being Office - Leila: 0423 207 905

Natural Fertility Services We offer daytime and evening appointments.

For further info., please contact Leila Jessimer on 0423-207-905.

Ladies Fitness & Wellbeing contact Abir 0410122999

Children's Playgroup Resumes Tues 4 Feb 2014 from 9:30am - 11:30am

Marriage Preparation Sessions book 8 months before wedding: 9642 0211

LOL St Vincent De Paul Conference call Kim Moussa 0424658190

إجتماعات ونشاطات لجان الرعية

عائلة الكلمة الإلهية: كل يوم ثلاثاء الساعة 7:30 مساءً

لجنة الطلائع: تعاود لقاءاتها شباط 2014.

لجنة فرسان العذراء: كل يوم سبت من الساعة 1-3 ب.ظ.

لجنة الأخوية: كل أول أربعاء من الشهر الساعة 7:00 مساءً

لجنة إيمان ونور: كل ثالث أربعاء من الشهر الساعة 7:30 مساءً

لجنة المسنين: كل أول إثنين من الشهر الساعة 7:30 مساءً

مدرسة اللغة العربية للأولاد: كل يوم سبت.

للمعلومات الاتصال بالسيدة أنطوانيت يوسف 0414819663

"سر التثبيت يجعلنا قادرين أن نحب على مثال المسيح"



"سر التثبيت يجعلنا قادرين أن نحب على مثال المسيح" هذا ما أعلنه البابا اليوم ضمن سلسلة التعليم الديني حول الأسرار

شارحاً عن سر التثبيت اليوم في المقابلة العامة للمؤمنين من ساحة القديس بطرس.

"أيها الإخوة والأخوات، إن سر التثبيت هو مرتبط بسر العماد ويشكلان مع الافخارستيا حدثاً خلاصياً فريداً: "التنشئة المسيحية" التي تجعل منا مخلوقات جديدة وأعضاء في الكنيسة. من خلال زيت الميرون ننسب ببسوع المسيح بقوة الروح. إن هذا السر ينمي نعمة المعمودية: فنصبح متحدين أكثر بالمسيح ويصلنا بالكنيسة ويمنحنا القوة من أجل نشر الإيمان والدفاع عنه، الاعتراف باسم يسوع المسيح وألاً نخجل أبداً من صليبه.

إن سر التثبيت هو نعمة الله لكي نصبح على صورة ابنه فنصبح قادرين أن نحب على مثاله. إستقبلوا الروح القدس ودعوه يعمل حتى يصلي المسيح من خلالنا ويغفر وينشر الرجاء والتعزية ويخلق الاتحاد ويزرع السلام.

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جمعية راهبات العائلة المقدسة المارونيات

لم يكن للمطران الياس الحويك أوندك المال الكافي لتحقيق مشروع "الخيري". في ذلك الوقت، وقفت إحدى المتبيلات من عمشيت، أورسلا لحود، ديرًا صغيرًا في جبيل، فكان "المأوى" الذي سألت عنه الأم روزالي. تسلمت مفاتيحه في 12 آب 1895. وفي 15 آب، عيد انتقال السيدة العذراء، من العام نفسه، أقيم قداس التأسيس. ومنذ ذلك الحين، أصبح هذا التاريخ عيدًا للجمعية، وفيه يحتفل بإبراز النذور.

سلم الأب المؤسس الأم روزالي مقاليد الرئاسة، تساعدًا الأخت اسطفاني كردوش. وأطلق اسم العائلة المقدسة على الجمعية، واضعًا إيّاها تحت حماية العائلة المقدسة الناصرية، إيمانًا منه بأن اسم العائلة المقدسة يحمل الراهبات على اقتفاء مثلهما والتخلي بفضائلها كما ونشر هذه الفضائل في العائلات المسيحية بهدف بناء مجتمع سليم ومتين مؤسسًا على "مبادئ الفضيلة التي تعمّر البيوت وتحفظ العيال وتصورن الهيئة الاجتماعية من الفساد" (رسالة الأب المؤسس، 14 آب 1915). هكذا ولدت الجمعية.



من جبيل الى عبرين

بعد عشرة أشهر فقط، شاعت الواهة أورسلا أن تستعيد الدير. فانتقلت الجمعية الفتية بإيعاز من الأب المؤسس إلى مدرسة بطرس شحادة المهجورة جنوبي جبيل، قرب سيدة مرتين حاليًا. وكان هذا الانتقال أيضًا لمدة قصيرة، إذ تبين أن البناء غير صالح للسكن، مما اضطر الأم روزالي إلى التفتيش عن "مأوى" آخر. فابتاعت، بموافقة الأب المؤسس، أربعة أقبية في عبرين كانت تحتاج إلى ترميم وتوسيع. انتقلت إليها في أواخر أيلول 1896، بعد مرور سنة واحدة فقط على ولادة الجمعية. وفي كانون الثاني من سنة 1898، كان عدد الراهبات من ذوات النذور المؤقتة قد بلغ ثمان مع أربع مبتدئات وثلاث طالبات، مع مدرسة في عمشيت وأخرى في دير عبرين.

فابتاعت، بموافقة المؤسس، أربعة أقبية في عبرين كانت تحتاج إلى ترميم وتوسيع. انتقلت إليها أواخر أيلول 1896، بعد مرور سنة واحدة فقط على ولادة الجمعية. وفي كانون الثاني من سنة 1898 كان عدد الراهبات من ذوات النذور المؤقتة بلغ الثمان مع أربع مبتدئات وثلاث طالبات، مع مدرسة في عمشيت وأخرى في دير العائلة، عبرين. (يتبع)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Lord, may all the faithful departed whom we entrust to Your care, be held securely in Your Loving embrace for all eternity especially those we Pray for:

(A) Fr Elias Ayoub, (B) Milia Bou Radain, Raymond, Annie Bazouni & their son Charbel Bazouni, Elias Bechara, Maroun, Debbie, Ramza, Fadwa Bou Melhem, Fr Hanna Bou Melhem, (C) Maroun Chediak, Mary Chediak, Antonious Chediak, & John Chediak, (D) Hanna & Wadad Daaboul, (G) Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George Tannous & Kalimeh Gittany & Family, Touma Gerges, Youssef & Leila Gittany (H) Anis Haddad, Maurice Jamil Haddad, Madeline & Paul Haddad, Joseph Paul Haddad, Youssef & Amineh Hallal & family (K) Bishop Abdo Khalife, Naim Khattar & George Khattar, Youssef, Hannah, Marie Kabouura, (M) Lichaa & Youssef Malkoun, Anthony Mamah Moses & Moses family, Elias Barbar Moussa, John Toufic Merhi, Anthony Mamah Moses & Moses family, Youssef & Ghessoun Maroun, (N) Badwi Jamil Ndaira, Hasna Ndaira, Adel Massih Naoum (R) Jamil & Labibi Roumanus, Raymond & Etour Romanos & son Joseph, Rouhana & Elaine Rahme, Michael Rizk (S), Boutros Koushaya Sasine, John Sleiman, Souls in Purgatory, (T) Leila Touma, (W) Jamil Wehbe & Barbara Wehbe (Z) Maroun John Zaouk and all the faithful departed of the Zaouk family



عيد دخول المسيح الى الهيكل

"النور الاتي الى العالم"



في هذا الاحد تحتفل الكنيسة في عيد دخول المسيح الى الهيكل وتبريك الشموع، هو يوم الصلاة من أجل المكرسين والمكرسات الذين وقفوا حياتهم لخدمة الرب والكنيسة على نور المسيح.

سمعان هو رجل الإيمان، قبل إرادة الرب وحافظ على شريعته. هو رجل الصلاة، لا يحيا حرفية الوصايا، بل يحياها بمعناها الأعماق. هو الإنسان الذي يحيا على هدي الروح، هو الإنسان المخلص، لا يدركه الموت قبل أن يلمسه خلاص مسيح الرب.

قصة سمعان العجوز تعلمنا الرجاء، وتعلمنا أن ما نرجوه سوف يتحقق يوماً. يعلمنا الثقة بوفاء الله لشعبه وأمانته في تحقيق وعده لأبنائه. يعلمنا أن تحقق مشيئة الرب لا تتم دوماً بالطريقة التي نريدها: سمعان، كما الشعب كله، كان ينتظر المسيح القوي، المحارب، المحرر، الذي يخلص شعبه من خطيئته. ولكنه وجد بين يديه مسيحاً طفلاً، ضعيفاً، دون سيف، دون جيش، مسالم غير عنيف. لم يطرح سمعان الأسئلة، صمت وأمن، علم أن الله أعلم منه، وهو يحضر له وللشعب النصيب الأفضل. هكذا صار سمعان معلماً في الإيمان، يعلمنا خضوع الإيمان لإرادة الرب..

وفي هذا اليوم نصلي من أجل كل المكرسين، وكل شخصيات هذا الإنجيل تظهر معنى التكريس:

- يسوع الذي كرسه الأب وأرسله الى عالمنا، فأطاع حتى موت الصليب. هو المثال الأول لكل مكرس يسمع صوت الله ويستجيب لدعوته من أجل خلاص العالم.

- مريم التي استجابت لدعوة الله أيضاً، وتمت شريعة التطهير وهي النقية. قبلت إرادة الله في حياتها رغم علمها بسيف الألم الذي سوف يجوز قلبها، فصارت خادمة سر التجسد والفداء.

- يوسف الصامت دوماً، المتمم لإرادة الله والساعي للتفتيش عن إرادة الله في حياته، يحمل مسؤولية السهر على يسوع، وعلى مشروع خلاص جنسنا البشري.

- سمعان دخل في علاقة صلاة وتأمل من خلال عيش فضيلة التقوى. هو المنقاد دوماً للروح القدس، والعائش رجاء تحقق مواعيد الرب لشعبه. هو أيضاً صورة المكرس، الذي يحيا هنا على رجاء ملكوت الله، لا يفقد الثقة مهما طال تحقق وعود الله له، يحمل المسيح بين يديه، يضمه الى صدره، يرفعه ويبارك الأب. هو مثال لكل مكرس جعل حياته زمن انتظار للسيد وملكوته.

إن تقدم يسوع المسيح هي تقدمه كل واحد فينا، لأننا مدعوون دائماً لأن نقدم لله كل شيء في حياتنا.

الخوري رافاييل عبود

عيد دخول المسيح إلى الهيكل 2 شباط



كانت شريعة موسى تقضي بنذر كل بكر للرب. ذهبت العائلة المقدسة (مريم، يوسف والطفل يسوع)، بعد أربعين يوم من الولادة (25 كانون الأول)، إلى الهيكل لتقديم الذبيحة التي فرضتها الشريعة: زوجي يمام أو فرخي حمام. أطاع الرب الشريعة ليُعلمنا احترام القوانين. تحتفل الكنيسة بهذا العيد منذ سنة 541، وفيه تتم رتبة تبريك الشموع رمزاً للنور الذي قال عنه سمعان الشيخ: "قد رأيت عينا ما أعدته للشعوب كلها نوراً لهداية الأمم ومجداً لشعبك". في يوم تكريس الرب في الهيكل، نضع أمامه جميع المكرسين ليتشبهوا به ويعيشوا تواضعه ووداعته في حياتهم.

وقفة لفحص ضميري وضميرك

كيف نقيم علاقتنا بالله؟ وهل نعيشها على هدي الروح؟ هل نعي بأن ملذات هذا العالم لا تستطيع أن تجلب لنا السعادة وهي بالنسبة لنا آبار مشقة لا تحفظ الماء لذلك لا نستطيع أن تروي عطشنا؟ هل نعي أن مسيرة النضج الروحي هي رهن بطريقة تعاملنا مع المصاعب والتحديات التي تواجهنا في حياتنا اليومية؟

الخير السار من رعيّتك

رعيّة سيّدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

الأحد ٢ شباط ٢٠١٤

عدد ١٤

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الإنجيل

عيد دخول المسيح الى الهيكل

الرسالة

وَلَمَّا تَمَّتْ أَيَّامُ تَطْهِيرِهَا بِحَسَبِ تَوْرَةِ مُوسَى، صَعِدَا بِهِ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِيَقْدِمَاهُ لِلرَّبِّ، كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي شَرِيعَةِ الرَّبِّ: "كُلُّ ذَكَرٍ فَاتِحٍ رَحِمٍ يُدْعَى مُقَدَّساً لِلرَّبِّ"، وَلَكِي يُقَدِّمًا ذَبِيحَةً، كَمَا وَرَدَ فِي شَرِيعَةِ الرَّبِّ: "زَوْجِي يَمَامَ، أَوْ فَرْخِي حَمَامَ". وَكَانَ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ رَجُلٌ اسْمُهُ سِمْعَانُ. وَكَانَ هَذَا الرَّجُلُ بَارًّا تَقِيًّا، يَنْتَظِرُ عَزَاءَ إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَالرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ كَانَ عَلَيْهِ. وَكَانَ الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ قَدْ أَوْحَى إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَنْ يَرَى الْمَوْتَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَرَى مَسِيحَ الرَّبِّ. فَجَاءَ بِدَافِعٍ مِنَ الرُّوحِ إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ. وَعِنْدَمَا دَخَلَ بِالصَّبِيِّ يَسُوعَ أَبَوَاهُ، لِيَقُومَا بِمَا تَقْرِضُهُ التَّوْرَةُ فِي شَأْنِهِ، حَمَلَهُ سِمْعَانُ عَلَى ذِرَاعَيْهِ، وَبَارَكَ اللَّهَ وَقَالَ: "الآن تَطْلِقُ عَبْدَكَ بِسَلَامٍ، أَيُّهَا السَّيِّدُ، بِحَسَبِ قَوْلِكَ، لِأَنَّ عَيْنَيَّ قَدْ أَبْصَرْتُ خَلَاصَكَ، الَّذِي أَعَدَدْتَهُ أَمَامَ الشُّعُوبِ كُلِّهَا، نُورًا لِلْأُمَمِ، وَمَجْدًا لِشَعْبِكَ إِسْرَائِيلَ!". وَكَانَ أَبُوهُ وَأُمُّهُ يَتَعَجَّبَانِ مِمَّا يُقَالُ فِيهِ. وَبَارَكَهُمَا سِمْعَانُ، وَقَالَ لِمَرْيَمَ أُمِّهِ: "هَا إِنَّ هَذَا الطِّفْلَ قَدْ جُعِلَ لِسُقُوطٍ وَنُفُوسٍ كَثِيرِينَ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَآيَةً لِلْخَصَامِ. وَأَنْتِ أَيْضًا، سَيَجُوزُ فِي نَفْسِكَ سَيْفٌ، فَتَنْجَلِي خَفَايَا قُلُوبٍ كَثِيرَةٍ".



قراءات عيد مار
مارون

٢ طم ٣ : ١٠ - ١٧
لو ٢ : ٢٢ - ٣٥



إِذَا فَمَاذَا نَقُولُ ؟ إِنَّ الْأُمَمَ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَسْعَوْا إِلَى الْبِرِّ قَدْ أَدْرَكُوا الْبِرَّ، أَيُّ الْبِرِّ الَّذِي هُوَ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ. أَمَّا إِسْرَائِيلُ الَّذِي سَعَى إِلَى شَرِيعَةِ الْبِرِّ، فَلَمْ يَبْلُغْ شَرِيعَةَ الْبِرِّ. لِمَاذَا ؟ لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَسْعَ إِلَى الْبِرِّ بِالْإِيمَانِ بَلْ بِالْأَعْمَالِ. فَعَثَرُوا بِحَجَرِ الْعَثَرَةِ، كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ: "هَا أَنِّي أَصْنَعُ فِي صِهْيُونِ حَجَرَ عَثَرَةٍ، وَصَخْرَةَ شَكٍّ، فَمَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ لَا يُخْزَى". أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ بُغْيَةَ قَلْبِي وَتَضَرُّعِي إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ أَجْلِ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ لِيَخْلُصُوا. فَأَنَا أَشْهَدُ لَهُمْ أَنَّ فِيهِمْ غَيْرَةَ اللَّهِ، وَلَكِنْ بِدُونِ مَعْرِفَةٍ صَحِيحَةٍ. فَقَدْ جَهِلُوا بِرَّ اللَّهِ، وَحَاوَلُوا أَنْ يُثَبِّتُوا بِرَّ أَنْفُسِهِمْ، فَلَمْ يَخْضَعُوا لِإِرَادَةِ اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّ غَايَةَ الشَّرِيعَةِ إِنَّمَا هِيَ الْمَسِيحُ، لِكَيْ يَتَبَرَّرَ بِهِ كُلُّ مُؤْمِنٍ.

روما ٩ : ٣٠ - ١٠ : ٤

من أقوالهم...

قَالَ سِمْعَانُ: رَبِّي قَدْ حَقَّقَتْ أَمَالِي
أَنْتِ الْقَادِي لِشَعْبِي أَنْتِ نُورُ الْأَجْيَالِ

الليتورجيا المارونية

صلاة الأسبوع

نسجد لك أيها الينبوع الحي ونصلّي من عمق ظمأ نفوسنا المتعطّشة دائماً إليك. إنك الإله الذي تبحث دوماً عن كل واحد منا لنستقي من ينبوع مائك الحي. تتحرر إلى أسافل جحيمنا وشقائنا وتكشف ذنوبنا لنا لتزود وجهنا عن عالم يدفننا دوماً إلى أن نحفر آباراً مشقة لا تحفظ الماء وأنت وحدك ينبوع ماء الحي لنا. تحاورنا عبر أحداث حياتنا اليومية وبواسطة الكتب المقدسة ونعم الأسرار لتعبر بنا من الرجاء الميت إلى الإيمان الحي. إهدنا إلى ينبوع خلاصك وحررنا من كلّ عبادتنا المتحجرة ولين أفكارنا المتصلّبة واجعل روحك وحده يقودنا إليك لنعبدك بالروح والحق. لك المجد إلى الأبد أمين.

قداسات يوم الأحد

كنيسة سيّدة لبنان - هاريس بارك 8:00 (عربي)، 9:30 (إنكليزي)، 11:00 (عربي)، 5:00 (عربي)، 7:00 (إنكليزي)

مراكز قداس 11:00 ق.ظ. في كنيسة مار يوسف العامل، أوبرن (عربي، إنكليزي) / 6:00 ب.ظ. في كنيسة سانت باتريك، غيلدفورد (عربي، إنكليزي)

قداسات الأسبوع

الإثنين - الجمعة 7:00، 9:00 صباحاً و 6:00 مساءً، الأربعاء 7:00، 9:00 صباحاً و 5:30، 7:00 مساءً (إنكليزي) السبت 7:30 صباحاً و 6:00 مساءً

الإعترافات

مؤمّنة قبل وخلال قداس السبت الساعة 6:00 مساءً وقداسات الأحد أو بتحديد موعد خلال أيام الأسبوع

ساعات السجود : كل يوم خميس 8:00 - 9:00 مساءً 24 ساعة سجود أمام القريان : هذه الجمعة من الشهر من الساعة 9:30 صباحاً لغاية السبت 7:30 صباحاً

