

The Good News from Your Parish

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH - HARRIS PARK

Sunday 15 September 2013

Issue 47

www.olol.org.au

THE GOSPEL

Exaltation of the Glorious Cross

THE EPISTLE

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Jn 12 : 20 - 32



Next Sunday's Readings
1 Cor 15 : 19 - 34
Mt 24 : 1 - 14

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It does take a brave person to turn down noise of their ego so they can turn up the volume of their listening."

Robin Sharma

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Cor 1 : 18 - 25

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

By your Holy Cross, You saved the world and showed all people the greatness of Your love. During the Season of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, may we always exalt the memory of Your plan of salvation for us. May we gain strength to carry our crosses with dignity and respect and assist those whose crosses are heavy, so that together, as one body and one family, we may also be victorious. May the name of the most blessed and holy Trinity always be exalted: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Dory Zaouk

Newsletter Sponsor

Merrylands Medclinic & Specialist Centre

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

New Mass Time
Saturday Morning
Mass is now
7:30am
(not 8:00am)

"Raising Amazing Children"

"Don't Just Try... Train!"

Cd's by Matthew Kelly
available at the
Giftshop, \$5 each

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: Every First Friday of the month 9:30am - Sat 7:30am**

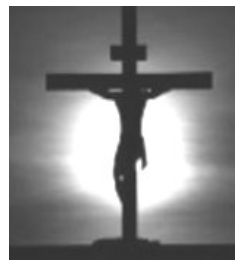
Parish Contact Numbers: Office: 9689 2899 Fax: 9689 2068. Email: info@olol.org.au Msgr Shora Maree P.P. 0418 969 844. A.P.s Fr Pierre 0411 735 258. Fr Tony 0433 211 248. Fr Raphael 0401 627 777. Fr Sam, Fr Antoun 9689 2899. Fr Paul 0414 900 016. Fr Bernard 0411 811 807. Fr Claude 0422 819 277.

On the 14th September the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Glorious Cross and for us Maronites, we enter into the last season of the liturgical cycle. The season of the cross extends over 7 weeks.

In the Gospel passage Jesus talks about his impending death in hopeful and determined language. He knows what his purpose is and he will complete what he has set his mind on. Jesus knows he has come for a great purpose, he knows his importance and will commit to it fully, knowing 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified'v23. It is a passion for life that gives us wings to soar. It is commitment to a cause that gives us meaning in life. It is in possessing deep love for life that makes us stronger than we ever imagined we could be.

There is in each one of us a raging passion, a tenacious hold on life, a powerful drive to be, and to be the best we were meant to be. Jesus knew who he fully was and in becoming the person he was called to be he became one that drew others into his charisma, including the Greeks in today's Gospel who 'came to see'v23.

When we know our worth, discover our abilities, pursue our deepest passions, allow our hungers to motivate us, we become transforming people in a world that needs people who dare dream and hope, as Jesus realised when he said, 'And when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself'v32. Are we such people who can carry the Cross of the world on our shoulders and walk toward victory no matter what the cost? Amen.



Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

These holy Martyrs dwelt in Italy in the reign of Hadrian (117-138). They came of a rich and devout family and their mother Sophia brought them up in the Faith, Hope and Love of the names she had given them. Word of their admirable manner of life reached the Emperor who, hearing they were in Rome, sent soldiers to bring them before him. Considering their tender years, he was amazed at how steadfast in the faith Sophia's daughters were, and thinking it was only by supporting one another that they were able to hold their own against him, he put them to the question separately.

Pistis (Faith), who was twelve years old, was brought in first. She boldly dismissed the tyrant's flatteries and deprecated his shameful deeds and vain plots against the Christians. The infuriated Emperor had her stripped, mercilessly beaten and her breasts torn off, whence milk not blood flowed forth. The other tortures she endured were to no avail, for she was protected by the power of God. When, at last, they came to strike off her head, Sophia encouraged her to accept with joy the death that would unite her to Christ.

Shepherd's Corner

" BUSINESS AS USUAL? NOT WITH THE CROSS "

Dear Parishioners,

In this last week a major issue was more heavily highlighted to me in the two different meetings; one meeting was with a group of young committed family men and another, a group of youth in our Bible Talk on Wednesday Night.

The major issue that both groups raised was that of the overwhelming 'hostility' there is towards our Christian faith, in the workplace, universities, TAFE's and also on the social scene. They also added they experience this 'hostility' from members of our community. One young man mentioned a Maronite cousin said to him "Why are you going to Bible Discussion? What, you want to become a priest?"

These fathers and young people have careers in various industries: building, teaching, law and all studied at different universities and TAFE's, they explained to me what it is like out there: how people look at you funny if you bless yourself before you eat or you mention something about faith values and the Church.

You might ask why this might not be obvious to me as a priest. Well, we rarely get the chance to visit parishioners at their work on building sites or at their office or university or TAFE. We visit people in their homes, see them at Church or in the hospitals. So it can be easy for us to lose touch with what is happening in these environments and what our parishioners have to face. I thank all those who take the time to attend what the Parish has to offer and for sharing their experiences and giving their feedback.

From this feedback, therefore, for the Season of the Glorious Cross, in the upcoming weeks, I am going to focus my homilies on the theme of Christ, the power of His Cross and my faith in the study and workplace. See below why the summary diagram from Bible & Faith Discussion on Wednesday Night with the 7 "T" of the Cross. Meditate on these 7 "T" words this week on the truth & power of the Cross to better witness to our faith in your workplace.

Mons Shora Maree

The Cross of Suffering and Discipleship....

Total love of God in Jesus (Suffering & Sacrifice)
ruth for my life
ransforms - Heals & Forgives
oday is the time to commit to be a Disciple carrying my Cross
rust his love
wo Commands – Love God and neighbour
hanksgiving – for abundant grace.

**to the Cross of Light and Triumph
/Crowning & Eternal Life.**

LOLO Family Committee invites you to attend the

MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT DAY

"Your Marriage in God's Story"
 Guest Speaker: Dr Ryan Messmore

Leading Priest: Monsignor Shora

Place: Peter Canisius House, 102 Mona Vale Rd, Pymble
 For registrations E: couplesretreat@optusnet.com.au or
 call Josephine 0433 826 661 (btw 10am-5pm)
 Includes breakfast, lunch, morning/afternoon tea

\$100 per couple

Child care available if NEEDED for children over 5yrs @ \$30each

**Sunday
17 Nov
2013
9am-5pm**

SAINT SOPHIA AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS FAITH, HOPE AND AGAPE 17 September

Elpis (Hope), who was ten years old, was brought in next. Confessing Christ as steadfastly as her sister, she was beaten and cast into a raging furnace, but its fire went out on touching her, in whom love of God burnt with a fiercer flame than material fire. After many other tortures, she too died by the sword, giving thanks to God.



Agape (Love), the third of the sisters, was then summoned before the Emperor whom anger had maddened. She was only nine years old but of the same steadfast mind as her sisters. She was hung on a gallows and chained so tightly that her limbs were broken by the bonds. She was then thrown into a furnace, from which she was delivered by an angel, and finally, beheaded. Sophia rejoiced in spirit to see her daughters so gloriously making their way to the abodes of the righteous but, overwhelmed by earthly sorrow, she gave back her soul to God a few days later at their tomb.

Article of the Week THE SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS CROSS ST HELEN AND THE TRUE CROSS

The Maronite Liturgical year is coming to an end. In the liturgical cycle we have lived the seasons of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. In this final season, the Season of the Glorious Cross, we celebrate. We prepare and pray to Christ - *"May we find refuge in the shadow of your cross on the great day of your second coming."* (Prayer of Forgiveness).

The season begins with the Exaltation of the Cross, and the liturgy is one of great joy, we hear:

"O Christ our God, by your precious cross you have given us perfect salvation and made us worthy to celebrate this feast with hymns of praise."

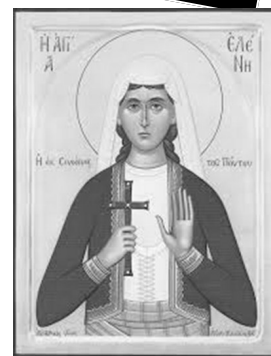
The cross, which previously was a sign of pain, suffering and death, has become salvation, and for us "it is the power of God". 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

During the hymn at the Prayer of Forgiveness we also learn something about the origins of the feast. The cross of Christ "had been lost but then was found through Saint Helen's love and zeal."

Saint Helen was born in Edessa about 250AD. She converted to Christianity and was the mother of the Emperor Constantine who became the first Christian Emperor of Rome. She is credited with building many churches and helping the poor. On a pilgrimage to the holy land she found the True Cross of Jesus.

Lord, we pray that like St Helen, your cross of salvation, peace and security is revealed to us and that in it we find refuge.

Theresa Simon



Parent's Corner

The Holy Cross

Children's Corner

The Power of the Cross in our Families

For us Catholics, the Cross is the most important symbol of our faith. It is our life and our salvation and it is ever-present in everything that we do. As Maronites we say "In the Name of the Cross" or "Ism Alslib" as it is more commonly known practically every time we bless our food or our children or are faced with difficult situations. When we have lost something, we call on the name of the Cross to help us find it. When we are afraid of something, we call on the name of the Cross to help us. The power of the cross breaks the force of the devil and the evil spirits. Therefore the Cross is not just the most important symbol of our faith, but also the most powerful symbol.

As parents we need to teach our children to put their faith and hope in the Cross. We also need to teach them how to respect and be proud of the Cross. This can be achieved in many ways. Here are some examples:

1. The sign of the cross should always be carried out with great reverence and respect. We should always make the sign of the cross fully, completely and with great love (touching our forehead, then our stomach, left shoulder and right shoulder). It is not a wave in the air or a beating of our chest.
2. The Crucifix should be placed in every room, especially bedrooms. If possible, it should be put on top of the door. Our love and faith in the crucifix will protect us and our children from all evil. It will also remind us and our children of Jesus' great love for us.
3. We should always bless our children with the sign of the cross - before they go to sleep, before going to school or before embarking on a journey. Remember that God has delegated to parents this great gift of blessing their children.
4. When wearing the Cross as jewelry, we should always wear it with great respect. We should not use the cross as a fashion statement or to show-off. We should not compete with each-other regarding the size of the biggest golden cross. Remember, that wearing a small humble wooden cross around our necks with faith is better than wearing a 15 cm, 24 carats golden cross without faith and reverence.
5. Continue to call on the cross in everything that we say and do. When we are need, we should not go to the superstitious remedies that we are accustomed to like palm reading, "sub irsasa", going to people who think that they are mystics and can heal. Rather call on the Cross and all your problems will be solved. All it takes is a little faith, hope and love combined with the power of the Cross.
6. Lastly, always follow in the footsteps of Blessed John Paul II and pray at the foot of the Cross in the same way that Our Lady did.

Danny Nough



Again and again and always, welcome to our Father's house. It is truly a blessing to see each of you at Mass, praying together as one family. This week the Church enters into the Season of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It is the last season before the renewal and consecration of the Church and the preparation for Christmas.

The Cross is a very important sign and symbol. It is on the Cross that I gave up my life and gave you eternal life. It is on the Cross where I brought all people to me and the Father and showed them how much we loved them.

The Cross should have a very important place in your life. The Cross is a powerful weapon against evil. It scares away all evil and blesses the person who is wearing it or signs themselves. Every Christian house, especially your own homes, should at least have one Cross placed somewhere where everyone can see it. If you like, you can also ask mum or dad to put one for you in your room. That way you can always see me.

This week and always, make sure that you sign yourself with the Cross when:

You wake up in the morning

Before and after meals

Before bed time

Whenever you feel scared or you need strength.

And never ever be embarrassed to do the sign of the Cross in front of others. Be proud that you love me and that I love you.

Your brother Jesus



Feast Week Highlights cont.

Last Sunday Night's Youth Karaoke & Chicken Night



Pastoral Council Meeting on Tuesday Night Reflecting on Feast Week



Youth Bible Talk Wednesday Night on the topic Cross to Crown



Vigil Mass 8pm Friday Night for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Glori-



Procession of the Cross on Friday Night for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Glorious Cross



Community Business Network Page



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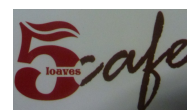


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Interested in becoming part of our Newsletter
Community Business Network Page?

The Newsletter reaches over 2000 individuals and families a week through print and electronic media.
For \$500 you can promote your business on our Business Network Page for the whole month.

For details email events@olol.org.au or call Joe on 0400 444 999.

Proceeds assist with the monthly \$4500 printing costs of our full colour newsletter.

Toner & Copier: \$3900, Staples:\$300, Paper: \$250, Staff Wages:\$ 350

PARISH NOTICE BOARD



FEASTS & MEMORIAL MASSES

Sunday 15 September: Feast of the Glorious Cross & 1st Sunday after the Glorious Cross
8:00am Hanna Boutros Fayad from Hadchit (died in Lebanon)
11:00am 1 Yr Hassib Assia Younan & his wife Josephine Maroun from Wadi Qannoubine
5:00pm 1 Yr Antoun Moukbil Sahyoun from Kfarfou
St Joseph - Auburn 11:00am Mirka Volska wife of Veshke Volski from Poland

Monday 16 September
6:00pm Rafika Elias Francis from Hadchit (died in Lebanon)

Friday 20 September
6:00pm 40 Day Soubhieh Eid Semaan from Hadchit

Saturday 21 September
6:00pm 40 Day Youssef Boutros Ghaleb from Mazrat ElNaher

Sunday 22 September: Second Sunday after the Glorious Cross
11:00am Living & departed of Karm El Moher for the feast of St Moura
5:00pm 1 Yr Edwar Shahine Karam from Zgharta

قداسات الأسبوع

الأحد 15 أيلول: عيد الصليب والأحد الأول بعد عيد الصليب
8:00 المرحوم حنا بطرس فياض من حدشيت (متوفي في لبنان)
11:00 السنة للمرحوم حسيب أسيا يونان وزوجته المرحومة جوزفين من وادي قنوبين
5:00 السنة للمرحوم أنطون مقبل صهيون من كفرو

مار يوسف العامل
Auburn **Mass & Lunch:** Tues 1 Oct. @ 10:30am Mass followed by Lunch

11:00 المرحومة ميركا فولسكا (Mirka Volska) زوجة فيشكه فولسكي (Veshke Volski) من بولاندا (Poland)

الاثنين 16 أيلول:
6:00 المرحومة رفيقة جورج جريج من الشيخ طابا- عكار أرملة المرحوم الياس بطرس فرنسيس من حدشيت (متوفاة في لبنان)

الجمعة 20 أيلول:
6:00 أربعون المرحومة صبحية البزغوني أرملة المرحوم عيد سمعان من حدشيت

السبت 21 أيلول:
6:00 أربعون المرحوم يوسف بطرس غالب من مزرعة النهر



FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE



Parish Groups and Committees

Pastoral Council Meeting: Tues 1 Oct. @ 8:00pm

Family & Adults

Family of the Divine Word, Bible Discussion: Tues @ 7:30pm
Adult Arabic Course: Sat 9:30am Mon 7pm to call 9689 2899

Married Couples Retreat Day "Your Marriage in God's Story"
 Sun 17 Nov 9am-5pm @ Peter Canisius House, 102 Mona Vale Rd, Pymble. Led by Mons Shora & Dr Ryan Messmore. Tickets \$100 per couple, incl. Breakfast, lunch, morning/afternoon Tea. Childcare available for children over 5 years, \$30 each.
 Reg: couplesretreat@optusnet.com.au or Josephine 0433826661.

Maronites Connected (for over 28's)

Spiritual Day "An Adult Christ for Christmas"
 Sun 8 Dec. @ Randwick. Details to follow. MConnected@olol.org.au

Youth

Blood Donation Mon 16 September @ 5:45pm, Myrna 0421677998
Nursing Home Visit Sun 29 September, Josette 0447777703
Monthly Youth Meeting: Tues 1 October @ 8:00pm

Maronite History Course

Starting Tues 15 Oct - Tues 19 Nov. at St Joseph Croydon. Six week course, cost \$95. Bookings contact Fr Yuhanna 0435764824

"The Role of Women in the Bible: Tackling the Difficult Texts" Faith Bible Discussion Talk
 Fri 20 Sept @ 8pm, led by Dr Robert Tilley

"Annual 3 Day Silent Retreat" @ Mt Carmel Retreat Centre,
 Thurs 26 Sept 8pm - Sun 29 Sept Deposits required. Waiting list call Joe 0400444999.

"Youth Spring Carnival Dinner Dance"

Fri 4 Oct "Grand Westella" Featuring Lebanese Band & DJ. Meza, Dinner, Drinks. Tickets \$70. No Auction.
 To book call Sid Daher 0403336223 or Joelle Frangi 0410481461.
 To Sponsor contact Msgr Shora 0418969844 or Maroun Draybi 0410656099.

"WYD Sleepout & Testimony"

Sat 5 Oct. \$40 includes dinner and brekky. Contact Joanne 0427503008

Teens (School Holidays)

Teens Camp Fri 4 - Sun 6 Oct. @ St Joseph's Conference Centre Bringelly. Cost \$150pp. Contact Tony 0401364335

Teens Day Out (During School Holidays)

Tues 24 Sept. 4-9pm. Theme, "The Unknown" Entry \$25pp. Include dinner & Entertainment. Contact Tony 0401364335

Children's Events (School Holidays)

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 - 11:00am in CPYC

Seniors

Mass & Lunch: Tues 1 Oct. @ 10:30am, Mass followed by Lunch

People with Disability

Faith & Light Movement: 3rd Thurs of the month 7:30pm

MaroniteCare Services

Youth Services & Facilities

Youth Drop in Recreation Room All Day - 10pm

Library & Study Centre All Day - 10pm

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

Counselling Services (English/ Arabic)

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

Are you experiencing conflict at home?

The MaroniteCare Youth and Family Counselling Service

is a free and confidential service for young people from 12-18 years of age 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

Ladies Fitness & Wellbeing contact Abir 0410122999

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

Marriage Preparation Sessions book 8 months before wedding: 9642 0211

Friend of Friends Project

21+ & Interested in being a mentor contact Serge: 0406060445, serge@thefofproject.com.au or Natalie: natalie@gmail.com
 For more information, log on to http://www.thefofproject.com.au

LOL St Vincent De Paul Conference call Kim Moussa 0424658190

إجتماعات ونشاطات لجان الرعية

عائلة الكلمة الإلهية: كل يوم الثلاثاء الساعة 7:30 مساءً
لجنة الطلائع: كل يوم إثنين من الساعة 7:00-9:00 مساءً
لجنة فريسان العذراء: السبت من 1:00-3:00 بعد الظهر.
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: السبت 9:30 صباحاً لغاية 12:30 بعد الظهر.
 للمعلومات الاتصال بالسيدة أنطوانيت يوسف 0414819663

White Stone Talk



Emotional States & their Effects:

Their difficulties & Suitable interventions

Wed 18 Sept. @ 7:30pm @ LOL CPYC presented by Nada Coorey.
 The talk will focus on what some young people go through & how emotional & mental issues may manifest. Such as anxiety and self harm.

General Notices

Free Builders' Seminar & Dinner

Wed. 25 Sept at LOL Hall from 4:30pm for all associated with Building & receive 4CPD points. To book contact Josephine 0433826661

LOL College Dinner Dance celebrating 40 years

Sat 19 Oct @ Grand Westella for past and present staff, students, parents and friends. Tickets \$60. To book contact Georgetown or to sponsor contact Ramona 9633 6600.

As of 2014 Our Lady of Lebanon College will be known as Maronite College of the Holy Family (MCHF) Parramatta

7pm Homilies are now back on the LOL website

Daily Bible verses to your mobile

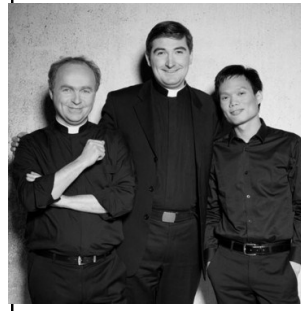
To receive send your name on an sms to 0404057777.



أيها الأخوات والإخوة الأحباء الناطقون باللغة العربية خاصة القادمين من سوريا ومن لبنان ومن العراق: الكنيسة هي أم تشارك أبناءها الأفراح والآلام، الإخفاقات والنجاحات، السقطات والانتصارات؛ هي أم تلدنا في الإيمان وتغذيها بخبز الحياة وبكلمة الله وبالأسرار المقدسة؛ هي أم تصاحب نمونا وتدعونا دائماً للخروج من أنفسنا لحمل البشري السارة لكل إنسان: لأن الخير يزداد بالمشاركة، والنور يتسع بالمشاركة، والمحبة تنمو بالمقاسمة. وأمنح لكم جميعاً البركة الرسولية!

إن الكنيسة هي أم لأنها تتجلبنا في الإيمان عبر سر المعمودية. فنحن لا نصبح مسيحيين بمفردنا أو بقوانا الذاتية، بل بعطية الإيمان التي تأتي من الله، وتقدم لنا في الكنيسة ومن خلالها. والكنيسة، كأمر صالحة، فهي تصاحب نمونا وتثقل لنا كلمة الله، والأسرار المقدسة: فتغذيها بسر الإفخارستيا، وتحمل لنا مغفرة الله عبر سر التوبة، وتعضدنا في وقت المرض بسر مسحة المرضى. الكنيسة هي قبل كل شيء جماعة المؤمنين: هي قلب لا قالب، هي بشر لا حجر، ولهذا فنحن جميعاً، رعاة ومؤمنين، مدعوون لنعيش أمومة الكنيسة كي ننجب في الإيمان مسيحيين جدد، نحن مدعوون جميعاً لنكون معلمين في الإيمان، ومبشرين بالإنجيل حتى أقاصي الأرض.

البابا فرنسيس



من هو الصالح يا الله
انت تقول ما من صالح إلا الله،
على لسان المسيح.
ان الله هو الكامل في صلاحه،
اما الانسان الصالح فهو
المنسجم مع نفسه، مع الله ومع
الآخرين.

نعيش صراعاً في نفوسنا أحياناً ونغلب الشرّ بالخير الذي زرع الله فينا، في كلمته في آذاننا، لأن الله معنا ان قررنا وفتحنا له المجال، في قرار يومي، في مسيرة نحو الصلاح لأنه ليس كامل في الصلاح الا الله.

الصلاح هو انتصار الخير في الفكر أولاً، ثم في الاعمال ثانياً، وهو انعكاس لنور الله فينا، فالقمر يعكس نور الشمس ويوزعه على المسكونة.

إن الإنسان العادي يعامل كما تعامله، اما المسيحي فيعاملك برفق وبأفضل مما تعامله وهو بذلك لا يكون (معتز أو غشيم) بل يكون مسيحياً، على صورة الله ومثاله.

على صورة الله، لا ندع الغضب يتمادى بل نطفئه، على صورته نساعد ونتمنى الخير للجميع، على صورته لا نحسد، فالأمور الصغيرة في يومياتنا، نتراكم، لتصبح جبلاً من الخير أو من الشرور.

فلنلجأ إلى الله بالتمارين اليومية والتركيز على نقاط ضعفنا ونسأله ان يلبس أطباعنا.

ولنواجه بعضنا بعضاً بالمحبة الاخوية وبالوداعة، فالهروب من المشاكل لا يساعد على حلها، والسكوت الدائم على الغلط قد لا يكون نافعا في كل الحالات.

على المسيحي ان يواجه الآخر في كلمة حق، ليزيل الغشاوة عن العيون وسلاحه كلام الله بالمثابرة والجهد.

المرنمين الفرنسيين (Les Pretres) هم ثلاثة كهنة باعمار متراوحة، جمعهم الروح تسيحاً جميلاً ودعمهم كاردينال باريس. من ريع ألبوماتهم يساهموا في بناء الكنائس ودور الايتام في فرنسا وأوروبا، يغنون كلاماً روحانياً، قيماً، جميلاً، يعبر عن جمال الله، سكونه وحبه في الانسان المفتش عن الله في الموسيقى، كما يفعل نزار فارس، جوماناً مدور وفريق Stronghold في لبنان. فيا جميع الشعوب سبحوه بالعود والدف والرقص والأوتار والمزمار وافرحوا.

أعطنا يا ربّ قديسين في مهبط الروح.

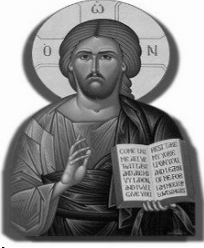
الخوري كلود رزق والسيدة ميرلا خطار

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, Rizk Boutros & wife (C) Maroun Chediak, Mary Chediak, Mona Chediak, Antonious Chediak, & John Chediak, Christine Constantine (D) Hanna & Wadad Daaboul, (E) Khalil & Marina Essey (G) Collen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George Tannous & Kalimeh Gittany & Family, Touma Gerages (H) Anis Haddad, Maurice Jamil Haddad, Madeline & Paul Haddad, Joseph Paul Haddad, Azize Hana (I) Khalil & Marina Issa (K) Bishop Abdo Khalife, Salwa Yaacoub Nassim Khawaja & Husband (M) Anthony Mamah Moses & Moses family, Elias Barbar Moussa, Fayez Melhem (N) Badwi Jamil Ndaira, Adel Massih NAoum (R) Jamil & Labibi Roumanus, Rouhana & Elaine Rahme, (S) Chafika Sara, Boutros Koushaya Sasine, John Sleiman, Souls in Purgatory, (T) Leila Touma, Bernadette Tanna, Kamel & Gherra Tanna (W) Jamil Wehbe & Barbara Wehbe (Y) Nakhle Yammine & Family (Z) Maroun John Zaouk and all the faithful departed of the Zaouk family



يا ربّ نقلق على كلّ كبيرة وصغيرة؟ فيجيب الربّ تعلموا من العذراء مريم. من بقاعكرا الجميلة، طلّ الأب يوسف سليمان رئيساً لدير مار شربل (مار شربل حكيم، يعرف الشخص المناسب للمكان المناسب).

وهلّ علينا بالتواضع وغنى النفس والتقوى والحكمة في سهرة إنجيلية، عن طاعة العذراء وتقتها بالله، مثلاً لنا. هي التي حملت كلام الملاك مصباحاً لها في الطريق الوعر، الهجرة والاضطهاد والصليب والموت. مرّت في صحراء يمرّ بها كلّ منا في حياته وعاشت في تسبيح الله، متخلّية عن الكثير، راضية حتى بالسيف الذي اخترق قلبها.

وقد شبهها الاب سليمان، بآبراهيم في العهد القديم، هو الذي ترك بيته وأرضه وآمن إلى أبعد حنود. ونحن في الزواج وفي العمل وفي كلّ قرار علينا أن نسلّم الله أمورنا بالآيمان فلا يقتلنا الخوف والقلق على كلّ الأشياء وعلى المستقبل. فلنترك أرضنا والأنانية وندخل فرح الإيمان والثقة بالله، على مثال إبراهيم وأما العذراء.

إن الحياة ظلمة، إن لم يُنرّها الإيمان، لكنه يتطلّب تواضعاً لفهم الله، هذا البحر الواسع الذي إن احببته كما يحبك، يزيل العشاوة عن عيون الشك في نفسك، رويداً رويداً.

وتابع الاب سليمان، إن العذراء مريم تخطت ظلام القبر، متألمة بنور القيامة ولم يذكر الإنجيل حتى أنها ذهبت إلى المقبرة حيث وضعوا يسوع.

أما العذراء المتنبهة دوماً إلى ما يلزمنا من خمر، إن جفّ الروح في عمرنا، كانت قد تربّت في الهيكل على قصص الأنبياء وهي مثقفة دينياً على يد والديها، يواكيم وحنة.

هلمّ نعلّم أولادنا ونوجههم في الهيكل ونعبئ نفوسهم من كلام الله، ليعيشوا في النور.

وإلّا إيمان لا نملكه بلّ هو يمتلكننا إن تجاوبنا معه ويعطينا الفرح والسلام، وهو يبدأ بتلمّس محبة الله لنا، في عطاياه من حولنا، في الصحة، في الطبيعة، في الموسيقى وفي كلّ أرجاء الكون حيث يربض حبه. عذراء تلد روح المحبة والخير والسلام، تلد المسيح ابن الله وحامل صفاته مثلاً لنا وقُدوة.

فلنعش مع الروح بالتأمل والصلاة، ولتبقى حياتنا عنصرة دائمة، نور وحكمة بمساعدة العذراء الحاضرة دوماً مع إبنها البكر يسوع وابنائها نحن، المؤمنون بالخير والرحمة.

ولنعبئ نفوسنا بكلام الله حيث لا يجزوه الشرّ على الدخول ولتغلق كلّ أبواب الرياح، التي قد تهزّ حياتنا ولا نلتفت إلى الوراء لأنّ الله أمامنا والحياة إلى فناء.



“تريد أن نرى يسوع...”

كم من الأصوات حولنا توجّه نداءها إلينا، مثملاً أتى اليوناني إلى فيلبس وأندراوس لكي يرى يسوع ويسمع كلامه.

فهل نحن من الذين يلبون النداء، في توجيه الخراف الضالة، نحو الراعي الحقيقي؟ أم نحن في انشغال بأمور أخرى؟ كم من المرات نستخدم عملنا ومواهنا لإبراز ذواتنا، وجذب الباحثين عن الله، إلينا، وإلى خدمتنا؟

هل نحن حقاً في وعيٍّ صحيح وسليم، لسلامة رسالتنا وأهميتها؟ أم نتسارع في إبراز طاقاتنا، على حساب الآخرين وكرامتهم، وتحقيق مصالحنا، ولفت أنظار الناس لتكريمنا وتعظيمنا؟

إنجيل اليوم، يُعيد إلينا النور، لكي يلفت نظرنا، لندخل حقاً وبوعيٍّ كامل إلى أعماقنا، لنؤكد إن كنا سائرين على طريق الأمان، وفي صدق العطاء، والتجرد عن المصالح الخاصة، والتمسك بالسلام الحقيقي فيما بيننا؟ لأنه من الضروري معرفة أين نحن، لكي تكون ثمارنا فعلاً ناضجة ومفيدة، مغذية وطيبة.

كما علينا التنازل عن مصالحنا الشخصية، ووضع طاقاتنا بدافع الصدق والأمانة لإبراز عظمة الربّ وغناه، دون متاجرة بمصداقيتها وقيمتها. علينا أن نكون نحن المؤمنين، كحبة الحطنة التي، إن لم تمت تبقى وحيدة، وإن ماتت أتت بثمار شهية وكثيرة. فإن أردنا أن نكون ثماراً جيدة، علينا التخلّي عن الأنانية والكبرياء.

لنملك القناعة بما وهبنا الله، دون التسابق للوصول إلى ما لا يحق لنا، وما يهين إخواننا بما وهبه الله. لأننا كلنا نسير على طريق واحدة، ولكن لكل شخص وزن تميزه عن الآخر، وعليه إبرازها والمتاجرة بها، فلا يحق لنا أن نخفّ صاحبها أو نضعها ورائنا، بهذا ننطلق بهدوء النفس وصفاء الرؤية، للنتعم بما أعطي لنا، دون طمع، أو نظرة حسد لما أعطي لغيرنا.

أيها الربّ يسوع، يا من زرعت فينا: نعمك المميزة، الغنية، لكي نستخدمها في مسيرتنا، بمحبة وتعاون واحترام. فنكون بهذا منارةً مضيئة لكلّ من نلتقي بهم في مسيرتنا إليك. فلا تدعنا أن نتلهى بمغريات هذا العالم، بلّ علمنا أن نعمل ليل نهار في تحقيق إرادتك، ونكون رعاةً صالحين لكلّ الخراف في حظيرتك دون مصلحة، بهذا ننتعم من خيرائك، وغناك اللا متناهي. آمين.

الخوري برنارد عاصي

مواهب الروح

الصليب



الصليب لفظة غير واردة في العهد القديم. وقد استعملها يسوع بمعنى مجازي ومات مصلوباً. قبل يسوع كان الصليب علامة ذلّ وعار وإهانة، وبعد يسوع صار الصليب للمسيحيين مطلباً وعلامة للفداء والفخر. في النصوص الليتورجية غالباً ما ندعو الصليب بصليب النور. فالصليب هو نور المؤمن حقاً، ودليله

على طريق يسوع. به ندرك معنى الحياة. إنها حياة معطاة لنا، وعليها أن نعيدها إلى الله معطيها. فمن يؤمن بيسوع المصلوب يشرك حياته بحياة يسوع ويعيدها معه إلى الآب. عندها يتحوّل موته، على مثال موت يسوع، إلى ساعة مجد، وينتقل بواسطة الصليب من ظلمة حياة الأرض إلى نور حياة المجد في الملكوت.

الليتورجية المارونية

الخبر السار من رعيّتك

رعيّة سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

الأحد ١٥ أيلول ٢٠١٣

عدد ٤٧

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الإنجيل

أحد عيد الصليب

الرسالة

كَانَ بَيْنَ الصَّاعِدِينَ لِيَسْجُدُوا فِي الْعِيدِ، بَعْضُ الْيُونَانِيِّينَ. فَدَنَا هَوْلَاءُ مِنْ فِيلِبُّسَ الَّذِي مِنْ بَيْتِ صَيْدَا الْجَلِيلِ، وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: يَا سَيِّدَ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ نَرَى يَسُوعَ". فَجَاءَ فِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَ لِأَنْدَرَاوُسَ، وَجَاءَ أَنْدَرَاوُسُ وَفِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَا لِيَسُوعَ. فَأَجَابَهُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: "لَقَدْ حَانَتْ السَّاعَةُ لِكَيْ يُمَجَّدَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ. الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِنَّ حَبَّةَ الْحِنْطَةِ، إِنْ لَمْ تَقَعْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَتَمُتْ، تَبْقَى وَاحِدَةً. وَإِنْ مَاتَتْ تَأْتِي بِثَمَرٍ كَثِيرٍ. مَنْ يُحِبُّ نَفْسَهُ يَفْقِدُهَا، وَمَنْ يُبْغِضُهَا فِي هَذَا الْعَالَمِ يَحْفَظُهَا لِحَيَاةٍ أَبَدِيَّةٍ. مَنْ يَخْدُمْنِي فَلْيَتَّبِعْنِي. وَحَيْثُ أَكُونُ أَنَا، فَهَنَّاكَ يَكُونُ أَيْضًا خَادِمِي. مَنْ يَخْدُمْنِي يُكْرِمُهُ الْآبُ. نَفْسِي الْآنَ مُضْطَرِيَّةٌ، فَمَاذَا أَقُولُ؟ يَا أَبَتِ، نَجِّنِي مِنْ هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ؟ وَلَكِنْ مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا بَلَغْتُ إِلَى هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ! يَا أَبَتِ، مَجِّدْ اسْمَكَ". فَجَاءَ صَوْتُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ يَقُولُ: "قَدْ مَجَّدْتُ، وَسَأُجَدُّ".



قراءات الأحد القادم
أحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب
١ قور ١٥ : ١٩ - ٣٤
متى ٢٤ : ١ - ١٤

إِنَّ كَلِمَةَ الصَّلِيبِ عِنْدَ الْهَالِكِينَ حِمَاقَةٌ، أَمَّا عِنْدَنَا نَحْنُ الْمُخَلَّصِينَ فَهِيَ قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ؛ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: "سَأُبِيدُ حِكْمَةَ الْحُكَمَاءِ، وَأُزِيلُ فَهْمَ الْفُهَمَاءِ!". فَأَيُّنَ الْحَكِيمِ؟ وَأَيُّنَ عَالِمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ؟ وَأَيُّنَ الْبَاحِثِ فِي أُمُورِ هَذَا الدَّهْرِ؟ أَمَّا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ حِكْمَةَ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ حِمَاقَةً؟ فِيمَا أَنَّ الْعَالَمَ بِحِكْمَتِهِ مَا عَرَفَ اللَّهَ بِحَسَبِ حِكْمَةِ اللَّهِ، رَضِيَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ بِحِمَاقَةِ الْبَشَارَةِ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ؛ لِأَنَّ الْيَهُودَ يَطْلُبُونَ الْآيَاتِ، وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ يَلْتَمِسُونَ الْحِكْمَةَ. أَمَّا نَحْنُ فَتُنَادِي بِمَسِيحٍ مَصْلُوبٍ، هُوَ عِثَارٌ لِلْيَهُودِ وَحِمَاقَةٌ لِلْأُمَمِ. وَأَمَّا لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ أَنْفُسِهِمْ، مِنَ الْيَهُودِ وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ، فَهُوَ مَسِيحٌ، قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ وَحِكْمَةُ اللَّهِ؛ فَمَا يَبْدُو أَنَّهُ حِمَاقَةٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَحْكَمُ مِنَ النَّاسِ، وَمَا يَبْدُو أَنَّهُ ضَعْفٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنَ النَّاسِ.

رو ١٣ : ٨ - ١٤

تغيير وقت قداس
السبت الصباحي
من الساعة
8:00 صباحاً
إلى 7:30 صباحاً

من أقوالهم...

"لا فخرًا إلا بالصليب ينبوع نعمتنا العجيب."
الطوباوي أبونا يعقوب

صلاة الأسبوع

لو ١٠ : ٢٥ - ٣٧

مبارك أنت يا أيها الصليب المقدس، يا من حملت مخلص العالم فحول الحزن إلى فرح والموت إلى قيامة. نسأل الآب السماوي اليوم في عيدك أن يمن علينا بفضيلة الاحتمال لنذكر أن من يعرف أن يحمل الصليب يحول ألمه إلى سعادة وعجزه إلى قوة ويأسه إلى رجاء، بنعمة وحضور الروح القدس نبع ومصدر كل قوة، إلى الأبد، آمين.

قداسات يوم الأحد

كنيسة سيدة 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

مؤمنة 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 القربان: كل أول جمعة من الشهر من الساعة 9:30 صباحاً لغاية السبت 7:30 صباحاً