

# Light in the Darkness

# **OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CO CATHEDRAL**

30 November 2014

Issue 5

www.olol.org.au



# Visitation to Elizabeth

#### THE GOSPEL

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me? That the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Luke 1: 39 - 45

#### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Heavenly Father,

In this week of the Visitation of Elizabeth, teach us Lord to be people who serve with joy.

May we, during this Season of Advent, learn to serve each other with a spirit of love and happiness.

Help us Lord, to be people who bear light in the darkness, giving hope where there is sadness.

Amen.

Dory Zaouk



Next Sunday's Readings

Gal 4:21 - 5:1 Lk 1:57-66

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness"

Mother Theresa

# Carols by Candlelight

"Light in the Darkness"

Fri 19 Dec 7.30pm Church Grounds with Live Nativity & our Church Choirs

Families & all age groups welcome

#### THE EPISTLE

who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood.

Brothers and sisters, Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints

us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Christ we have also obtained an

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

#### **SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)**

OLOL Co Cathedral - Harris Park 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, 8.45am & 6pm. Wed 7am, **8.45am** & 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: Mon, Tues 8pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thurs 7:30pm Sun 6:30pm Divine Mercy followed by Rosary Fri 7:30pm Adoration Hour: Thursdays 8pm – 9pm 24 Hour Adoration: This Friday 5 Dec 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 Yuhanna 0435 764 824.

# Light from the Word - Visitation to Elizabeth



This is the week of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth and it is an encounter of joy and comfort. In some cultures, there is the wonderful custom of setting this week aside for visits to family, relatives, friends, and those who could do with some company.

Mary comes to visit Elizabeth. Why? We don't know for certain but quite possibly she came to assist the aging Elizabeth during her tiring pregnancy.

Yet also Mary may have come to find refuge from the probing eyes back in her village that were suspicious about her own pregnancy. Either way, both find solace in each other's company.

This event, minor as it may appear, is very much relevant for people of all generations. Relationships are valued and a soul mate or close friend, help us maintain a balance in our lives. The relationship between Mary and Elizabeth is one of support and one of the key themes in the Bible is emphasis on relationships between one another and between us and God. The Trinity itself is a relationship of three.

From Mary and Elizabeth, we learn that when we enter into the company of another, joy and love is reciprocated, along with support and a listening ear. One sided relationships never survive. True relationships are about equality and giving of each other in love.

Today much of our social interaction is via Facebook, Twitter and other means of social media. Yet true friendship requires physical presence because we are people of touch and emotion, body and soul. So let us make the effort like Mary, to shorten the distance, and embrace heart to heart those we love, because that is when relationships became meaningful, valuable and heart-warming. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf



# Saint of the Week ST SABA THE HERMIT 5 DECEMBER

- He was born in Mutalaska, near Caesarea in Cappadocia of pious Christian parents, John and Sophia, during the year 439
- He entered the nearby monastery at 8 years old and the gifted child quickly learned to read and became an expert on the Holy Scriptures.
- When he was seventeen years old he received monastic tonsure, and attained such perfection in fasting and prayer that he was given the gift of wonderworking.
- Saint Saba excelled in the monastic life and eventually moved to live in the hermitage, pursuing a life of prayer and seclusion.
- In 491, Patriarch Salustius of Jerusalem ordained him a priest. In 494, the patriarch named St. Saba the archimandrite of all the monasteries in Palestine.
- He founded many other monasteries and performed great miracles of healing through his faithfulness to our Lord.
- St. Saba championed the cause against the Monophysite and Origenist movements of his day. He pushed to maintain Catholic Orthodoxy and thought against the mentioned heresies.
- His relics had been taken to Italy in the twelfth century by Crusaders, but were returned to the monastery by Pope Paul VI in 1965 in a goodwill gesture toward the Eastern Churches.
- He is venerated as a Saint in both Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Charbel Dib

# Shepherd's Corner

Dear Parishioners.

# **G2 SURPRISE SUMMIT - Judea Year 0000**

We know this month the G20 Summit was held in Brisbane where the 20 most powerful leaders in the world gathered together for meetings and to discuss and come up with resolutions for problems that affect the whole world. The Summit has little surprise outcomes or announcements because so much is prepared beforehand and also most leaders are trapped in their domestic pressures and political alliances and human shortcomings and can't step out to really lead on a world level.

The G2 Summit between Mary and Elizabeth in the Hills of Judea ends up with the Greatest surprise and outcomes. Looking closer as we discovered in Bible Discussion it is really a G4 because it is a Summit between Jesus and John as well as between Mary and her Cousin Elisabeth. It is a Summit between God and Humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit.



At Bible Discussion we discovered the Summit was as a surprise for Mary and Elisabeth and that it was not the first and last surprise summit between God and Man.

We saw the first Summit in the Bible was at Creation in Genesis 1 in the Garden of Eden where God created and walked with Adam and created Eve and it was to be a permanent Summit. We saw how Adam and Eve messed this summit up and had to leave the Garden of Eden. However God kept reaching out to humanity in the Visits to Abraham and Sarah for a meal (Gn 18:1-16) to Jacob wrestling (Gn 32:29f), to Moses at the burning bush and on Mount Sinai, Joshua (5:13) and Shad'rach, Me'shach and Abed'nego in a burning furnace (Daniel 3:25-91) showing there was nowhere God wouldn't go to bring his people to himself.

In the Visitation to Elizabeth we see God in his Son Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary most wonderfully coming to visit Elizabeth and John in her womb. This visit and Summit becomes the first of many Summits between God and Man that from the birth of our Lord that humanity will experience through Jesus, his ministry and his death and resurrection. We are blessed to experience his Summits in the Mass, the Sacraments, our personal prayer time, our relationships and times we feel touched looking at God's creation. Let us continue to make time to experience the God who comes to visit us every day and to really experience the Summit Visit of Christmas.

**Mons Shora Maree** 

# Profiles of the Christmas Characters Elizabeth



Today we hear the gospel of Mary's Visitation to Elizabeth and although we have heard this gospel passage many times before, it is important to take time reflect on the importance of the person of Elizabeth and the role she plays in the infancy narratives in Luke's gospel and in our understanding of the identity of Mary the Mother of Jesus.

The first thing to consider is we only hear about Elizabeth in the Gospel of Luke. Luke introduces Elizabeth, a cousin of Mary and the Mother of John the Baptist.

The gospel tells us that Elizabeth was married to Zachariah a priest in the temple who had struggled to conceive a child. Whilst this has been a common issue in all generations, at

the time of Elizabeth and Zechariah, a women who could not conceive was considered to be outside of God's favour and it was seen disgraceful amongst the people. However we know from hindsight that Elizabeth and Zechariah were not outside of God's grace but rather God had set them apart to be the parents of John the Baptist, the man who would go before the Lord to prepare the path.

What we know about Elizabeth is that she was a faithful women, who when her prayers were answered, responded again with praise and thanksgiving saying "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people". When we hear about the birth of John next week we will see that Elizabeth was in tune with God's plan in deciding to name her child John despite the protests of those around her.

Another important thing to take from Elizabeth is that it is she, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who prayed the first ever "Hail Mary", for "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." In this Elizabeth reminds us that Mary always leads us to Christ, Mary is truly the Mother of the Lord and that Mary is truly blessed amongst women.

Elizabeth sets for us an example of how to live a life of prayer and faithfulness, even when it seems God is not responding to our prayers.

By Charbel Dib

# Parish Christmas Announcements

# Christmas Novena in English

Times are as follows: Mon 15 Dec – 8pm Tue 16 Dec – 8pm

Wed 17 Dec – with 7pm English Mass Thur 18 Dec – 8:00pm-With Adoration

Fri 19 Dec – 6.45pm Sat 20 Dec – 8.00pm Sunday 21 Dec – 6.30pm Monday 22 December – 8pm Tuesday 23 December – 8pm

## **Christmas Tree Intentions**



Your Intentions

Wedia

This year we have kept the Christmas tree inside the Church free for your intentions. Cards will be available at all Masses from this Sunday to write your intentions (you can remain anonymous) and we will hang them on the tree and we will pray for those intentions at Christmas Masses, the Christmas Novena, Adoration, Rosary and Divine Mercy.

If you are unable to make it to our Parish and want us to pray for a specific intention, leave a comment on our Facebook page and we will write it for you.

Media Committee

# Carols by Candlelight

"Light in the Darkness"

Friday 19 December at 7.30pm
Church Grounds
Family and Adult Choirs with Live Christmas Nativity with Animals
Families & all age groups welcome

# The journey to Christmas The Arghile

Ok, so many of you will probably hate (hate is strong, maybe detest) me after reading this article, but here goes. One of the signs of our times is the Arghile (or shisha, narghile or hookah). It is a water pipe for



water pipe for smoking and it originated many centuries ago in the Near East. It has become extremely prominent in our Australian society over the last five years or so. Although it is perceived to be less harmful and addictive than smoking cigarettes or other forms of tobacco, a number of studies suggest that it is actually more harmful and more addictive. In fact some studies show that an arghile smoker inhales the equivalent of between 100 to 200 cigarettes during a single session. Furthermore, studies indicate that arghile smokers are absorbing high levels of toxins and carcinogens that may contribute to heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory disease. And although some nicotine is filtered through the water contained at the base of the pipe, scientists conclude that arghile smokers are still exposed to enough nicotine to become addicted. The signs of addiction become apparent when the smoker continually thinks about the arghile, morning, noon and night. It is not uncommon to see people smoking while eating and while working. Imagine also what this is doing to the non-smoker or child who is sitting close to the arghile smoker. If you are at a restaurant which allows it outside or in a confined room, all you need to do is smell the terrible stench of your clothes afterwards. It is really disgusting! In addition to the above, the arghile comes at a very high cost. It could cost you up to \$50 per person per session at certain restaurants. Imagine what could actually be done with this money. \$50 will go along way for a homeless child or poor family this Christmas. In addition to the health and financial issues that come with it, smoking the arghile is a terrible example for our children. If we do it, then we send a message to them that it is ok when we all know that it is not. It is not a sin to smoke the arghile, however addiction to it becomes the sin. Some questions that we need to ask ourselves as we continue the journey to Christmas: Is the arghile of really any benefit to my body or my pocket? How can I put the money that I spend on it to better use? Is this a good example for my children, friends or family? Is smoking the arghile Christ-like? Hopefully in answering these questions we will truly be able to find the "light in the darkness" of something that may seem trivial and insignificant, but can have a very serious effect on our lives.

By Danny Nouh



# **Parish Camera**







#### <u>The False Repentance</u>

On Tuesday night Fr Elie Nakhoul led the Family of the Divine Word Arabic Faith Talk. As you can see from the photo, the Seniors Room was full. Join the Family of the Divine Word every Tuesday night at 7.30pm in the Seniors Room for a very fruitful and nourishing spiritual experience.





Fersen Children enjoying the activities and talks on Saturday.

Christmas Lights and decorations being put up on Thursday night in the court yard in preparation for the Birth of our Lord.



#### MaroniteCare COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE Planned Giving Target

Target 2000 Parishioners \$5 a week

365 Parishioners committed

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 Enquiries: contact Lisa 96892899.

Pledge Envelopes available for in the Gift shop

**Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Loans** CYPC \$5,269,118 Units \$1,628,150

**Property \$68,208** 



# **Community Business Network Page**



& Renovaiton Packages

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For details call Joe on 0400 444 999.



# **PARISH NOTICE BOARD**



## **FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS & FUNERALS**

#### <u>ınday 30 November 2014 - Visitation to Elizabeth</u>

11.00am 40 Day Hanna Youssef Chalhoub from Daraya Zgharta **5.00pm** 40 Day Yahoudette Karam widow of Joseph Iskander Karam from Kfarsghab

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn
11.00am Jamil Assaf Loulach from Hadchit (died in Lebanon)

Monday 1 December:

10.00am Boutros Said Kazzi from Jieh

Wednesday 3 December: 7.00pm 40 Day Julia Khodair from Bann widow Joseph Abboud from **B**asloukit

Saturday 6 December:
6.00pm 1 Year John Jawdat Shashati from Egypt Sunday 7 December 2014 - Birth of John the Baptis

11.00am Mass for International Day for People with diability **5.00pm** 40 Day George Dib Ters from Fouwar - Zgharta

St Patrick's, Guildford

Saideh Abboud widow of Akel Chbat from Mazret El Teffeh (died in Lebanon)

# قدّاسات الأسبوع

## لأحد 30 تشرين الثاني:

أربعون المرحوم حنا يوسف شلهوب من داريا 11:00 أربعون المرحومة يهوديت كرم أرملة جوزيف إسكندر كرم من كفرصغاب 5:00

مار يوسف العامل Auburn

المرحوم جميل عساف لولش من حدشيت (متوفى في لبنان) 11:00 الاثنين 1 كانون الأول:

دفن المرجوم بطرس سعيد قزي من الجية 10:00

الأربعاء 3 كانون الأول:

أربعون المرحومة جوليا خضير من بان أرملة جوزيف عبود من بسلوقيت 7:00 السبت 6 كانون الأول:

السنة لِلمرحوم جون جودة شاشاتي من مصر 6:00 الأحد 7 كانون الأول: أحد مولد بوحنا المعم

11:00 قداس إحتفالي بمناسبة اليوم العالمي للمعاقين

5:00 أربعون المرحوم جورج ديب الترس من الفوار – زغرتا سان باتريك Guildford

المرحومة سيدة عبود أرملة المرجوم عقل شباط من مزرعة التفاح 6.00



## FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE



#### **Parish Groups and Committees**

#### **Pastoral Council Meeting TBA**

#### **Family & Adult Events**

"True Reconciliation with God"

Arabic Faith Talk Presented by Fr Youssef Sleiman by FDW Tues 2 Dec 7.30pm in the Seniors Room—CYPC

"A People of Life and a People for Life"
Led by Therese Simon and presented by Maronites for Life

Wed 3 Nov at 8.00pm After 7.00pm Mass on L1 CYPC—ALL WELCOME

#### Children's Events

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

Fersan Al-Adra: Saturdays 1pm -3pm Children's Playgroup Tues & Wed 9:30am - 11:30am in CPYC

#### **Teens Events**

Teens Faith Discussion & Activities: Saturdays 4pm-6pm

A Night on the Red Carpet - Teens Christmas Dinner

Friday 12 Dec - 7.30 to 11.30pm in the Cathedral Hall Cost: \$30p/p for group of 10 or \$35p/p individually Dress: Formal. Includes Dinner, Entertainment & lots of prizes Contact Tony Mattar 0401 364 335 for enquiries

#### **Youth Events**

Blood Donation contact Myrna 0421677998 Nursing Home Visit 30 Nov 2014 contact Josette 0447777703 Youth Meeting: Tue 2 Dec contact Maroun 0410656099

Christmas & Pre New Years Eve Party
Tuesday 30 Dec –at 7.30 in the Cathedral Hall
Cost: \$25p/p includes Dinner & Entertainment
Contact Joelle Frangi 0410 481 461 for enquiries

#### **Seniors Events**

Activities for Seniors will take place every fortnight and will include board games, knitting, painting, cooking, watching movies, etc. If you wish to bring a parent or grandparent, please call Elias Doro on 0414 495 955 or the parish office 9689-2899.

#### **General Parish Notices**

2015 OLOL Parish Pilgrimage
20th April to 8th May 2015
Cathedrals and Churches of Europe including Rome, Cascia, Padua, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Turin, Nice, Cannes, Lordes, Paris and more with option to Beirut (extra). Cost \$7,250 pp. Lebanon option \$7,750 . If interested, send an e-mail to Fr Pierre or Tina at frpierre@hotmail.com or tinasalame@hotmail.com

Bus Pilgrimage to St Nematallah Centre, Appin
Sat 6 Dec 2014
Cost: \$40 Adults \$25 Children including transportation, spiritual
and social activities, lunch and refreshments. For details,
Contact parish office 9689 2899 or Danny on 0458 024 838

## MaroniteCare Services

Youth Drop in Recreation Room & Library & Study Centre open 10am – 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-Psychologist provides confidential counselling to the Community at her Private Practice . Areas of Specialisation include Depression and Anxiety/Panic Attacks, Relationships and Family/Parenting. Mobile: 0434642509 or PH: 88981526

#### MaroniteCare Counselling Service For young people 12-18 years and their families.

Call Amanda Nassif: 0433 217 063 Email: counselling@maronitecare.org.au

#### Women's Well-being Office – Nelly—9689 2899

Natural Fertility Services We offer evening appointments. For further info., please contact Nelly Azize 0430 332 888

Ladies Fitness & Wellbeing conact Abir 0410122999

hildren's Playgroup Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 9:30am -11:30am Marriage Preparation Sessions book 8 months before wedding: 9642 0211

OLOL St Vincent De Paul Conference call Kim Moussa 0424658190

**Respite for Carers of People with Mental Health Issues** Afife Sfeir 0449 902 314 Customer Service 1800 225 474.



Help Support a bro this Movember by growing a mo and raising money that will help men who are faced with mental health issues.

To make a donation use the BPay details below:
BSB:942 207 ACCT: 1008754 Description: Movember

contact Joe on 0406 111 401 or Mick on 0405 323 360

#### **Diocesan Notices**

International Day of People with Disability
Presented by Diocesan Faith & Light Committee
Sun 7 Dec 2014, from 11:00am till 3:00pm
At Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral

Starting with Mass, followed by lunch, entertainment & much more... All are welcomed to join in celebrating this Special day for People with Disability and their families.

# Maronites on a Mission - Annual Fundraising Dinner 12 Dec 2014 at The Bellevue Bankstown

Tickets are \$90 per person and \$85 for a table of 10. Funds raised will go towards funding Maronites on Mission food runs and home visit initiatives for the whole year and the upcoming trip to the Philippines in January 2015.

For more details visit the Maronites on Mission Facebook page or contact Hannan Hanna on 0415 596 441.

**Daily Bible verses to your mobile**To receive send your name on an SMS to 0404057777.



"عندما تكون الكنيسة متواضعة وفقيرة، عندئذ تكون المخلصة" للمسيح مانحة كل ما لها للرب وللآخرين من دون أن تترك أي شيء لها" هذا ما أكده اليوم اللبابا فرنسيس في أثناء عظته الصباحية من دار القديسة مارتا مميزًا بين العطاء بكثرة وعلانية النابع من الغرور والعطاء بخفاء من دون لفت انتباه أحد. يخبر إنجيل عن أرملة مسكينة ألقت فلسين أمام من كانوا يلقون هباتهم في الخزانة وكانوا من الأغنياء (لو 21: 1-4) مسلّطين الضوء على ما قاله يسوع: "بحق أقول لكم إنّ هذه الأرملة الفقيرة قاله يسوع: "بحق أقول لكم إنّ هذه الأرملة الفقيرة

نحن في زمن المجيء، زمن ما قبل الميلاد وزمن انتظار المخلص .. نحن اليوم على دروب المذود، نتحضر لنجسد للطفل يسوع، الذي تتازل وتجسد وأتى لزيارتنا في عالمنا المضطرب والمملوء حقداً وشراً وكراهية وأنانية ... وها هي مريم تسارع خطواتها على دروب الخدمة والتواضع، لزيارة خالتها العجوز الحامل في شهرها السادس، لتحمل الفرح إلى بيتها، وترتل معها مسبحة الله وشاكرة له افتقاده لها في شيخوختها. ذهبت مريم في زيارة عنوانها التققد والخدمة .. دعوة لنا لنعيش مع مريم واليصابات رسالة الزيارة وفعل التسبيح ومعنى الخدمة، ليدخل معنا الفرح الى كل بيت ندخل

حياتنا الليتورجية

حارب الشرّ بكلمة الله

تحدّث يسوع المسيح ربّي والهي عن علامات الأزمنة الآخيرة وعن هذا العنف والظم والإحتياج الشديد , وأنّه ستبرُد محبّة معظم الناس... وكأنّه كان يتحدّث عن أيّامنا هذه بحيث إن أصغيت جيّدا سوف تسمع الناس يقولون في كلّ مكان: إنّ العالم ينهار , وفي العامية "هيدي اخر الدني." ولكن كمسيحي مؤمن لا يمكنني أن أبقى مكتوف اليدين, لأن هذا يدلّ على أتني غير مُبالي وأنني أتّقق وأوافق على ما يحدث, فاللامبالاة تختلق الأعذار , أمّا المحبة فتجد طريقا.

يحدث, فاللامبالاة تختلق الأعدار , أمّا المحبة فتجد طريقا. كمسيحي مؤمن هل أقف صامتاً ولا أفعل شيئاً في الوقت الذي ينجرف فيه العالم لأسفل وينهار؟ هل أكون سطحيّ وأسأل الله: كيف تحتمل يا الله أن ترى ما يحدث في العالم من مجاعات, حروب,إغتصاب,إتّجار بالبشر ....ولا تفعل شيئا!

لا وألف لا , فهذا بالضبط هو نوع التفكير الذي أبقانا مشلولين بينما استمر الشر في إنتصاره , فصحيح أنّه لا يُمكنني كما يقول المثل "أن أشيل الزير من البير." ولكن لا يمكنني تجاهل الوضع, فالله لن يُحمّلني مسؤولية ما لم أستطع فعله ولكنّه سيُحمّلني مسؤولية الأشياء التي كان باستطاعتي فعله! أنّ أقل ما يمكنني فعله هو أن أحارب هذا الشرّ بكلمة الله وأقف في وجه الظلم لأصنع فارقا ("ولو بسيطا") في العالم كي لا أسمح للمحبة أن تختفي , لأتي إن لم أفعل ذلك فأنا أسلم ببرودة أعصاب هذا الكوكب للشرّ . ولذلك ما دمتُ على قيد الحياة, سيبقى شعاري ثابت وهو: "التغيير يبدأ بي , أنا ثورة المحبّة, فهلّ تودّ الإنضمام لهذه الثورة؟؟

روني شيحا



www.zenit.org

#### 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, Antoun Azar, (B)

Raymond, Hanne & Charbel Bazouni, Asaad Gerges Boustani, Elias Becharra(C) (D) (E)(F) (G)

Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George, (H) Madeline & Paul Haddad and son

Joseph, Anis Haddad, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, (I) (K) Naim Khattar & George Khattar, (J)

(L) Peter Lichaa and his wife Marie, Youssef Lichaa, (M)Anthony Mamah Moses and Moses Family,

Arthur (Otre) Moses, Elias Barbar Moussa, Boutros & Johra Moussa, John Toufic Merhi, Youssef &

Ghousoub Maroun, Ghantous Jabbour Mikhael and his wife Jamile, Alichaa & Youssef Malkoun,

Chahade Maroun, George Maroun, Baby Maria Maroun, Charbel Maroun and all the departed from
the Maroun Family (N) Jamil, Badwi, Hasna & Yasmine Ndaira, (R) Milia Bou Raidan, Jamil & Labibi

Roumanus, Raymond & Etour Romanos & son Joseph, (S) Boutros Kozhaya Sassine, Joseph John Saad & his wife Mazie, Souls in Purgatory (T) (W) Jamil Wehbe & Barbara Wehbe, (Y) (Z)

# زيارة العذراء لإليصابات



اخوتي بالمسيح يسوع, بعد بشارة الملاك لمريم العذراء، وحلول الروح القدس عليها، إندفعت بسلام وصفاء ونعمة ومن دون تردد لزيارة العجوزة التي أفاض عليها الله حبه في أواخر حياتها، فحبلت بشيخوختها، وتخطت محدودية البشر وظلمهم. فكان السلام دائماً يحرك الأحشاء فيعكس الفرح والغبطة. فنرى بهذا اللقاء ارتكاض الجنين في بطن اليصابات فرحاً حينما ألقت العذراء سلامها وهي حاملة في أحشائها إبن الله. وهكذا نحن أيضاً يحل علينا الروح القدس ويسكن في احشائنا ولكن: هل نقف حائرين ومستغربين؟ أم نندفع ونكون مستعدين لإستقباله لا عيب فينا، ونتفاعل بإرادته ونذهب حيث يريد وحيث من ينتظر منا الفرح والإطمئنان، ونتبادل معاً هذا الغنى. ونجعل من حضور الله: السلام والمحبة والوفاق؟

هكذا علينا أن نجعل الروح القدس الذي في أحشائنا يتفاعل ويعمل، ليبرز الحقيقة الصافية والسليمة، دون أن نخفيه لنبرر

كبرياءنا في أعمالنا الخاصة وأنانياتنا ورغباتنا المحدودة. لا نعمل ولو للحظة في منافسة الاخر، لما أفاضه علينا الروح من مواهب وعطايا، لأنه يريدنا ابرازها بصدق وشفافية وتعاون مع الاخر. ولنجعله يدفعنا دوماً لملاقاة الاخر والتعاون معه، بتبادل المواهب وإنمائها، ومن أجل البنيان الصحيح والحقيقي. لنضع السلام دائماً في حضورنا ولقاءتنا وأعمالنا وأحاديثنا. كما فعلت مريم حين أتت والتقت اليصابات، لتعكس تلك النعمة فرحاً وطمأنينة. وهكذا حضور الرب في احشائنا، لحظة المناولة للقربان المقدس، يدعونا إلى ملاقاة الاخر بجو من الفرح والغبطة والإرتياح. فلا نجعل شيئاً يبعدنا عن هذا الغبى الذي حل فينا، ولا نتخلى عن هذا المجد الذي أفاضه علينا الرب فيما بيننا.

ولا نكن جهالاً لما قدمه الله لنا من كنوز ، تفوق كنوز هذا العالم. بل لنكن حقاً أبناء السلام في لقاءاتنا وأعمالنا، واليوم وليس غداً. بهذا نؤكد للرب، وبكل صدق وشفافية، اننا حقاً امينين على الوديعة التي زرعها في أعماقنا. وأننا على إستعداد دائم لإستقباله من خلال لقاءاتنا مع الفقير والمنبوذ، مع الضعيف والضائع ومع الكبير والصغير ... وبهذا تكتمل رسالتنا وتصل الوديعة التي وضعها الله في كل واحد منا، إلى كل إنسان يحتاج إلى السلام والإحترام، وبهذا يكون العيد الصحيح، الفرحة الكاملة، والسلام الحقيقي.

الخوري برنار عاصي

### الكنيسة تدعونا اليوم ...

إنّه الأحد الثالث من زمن الميلاد وفيه تدعونا الكنيسة إلى حمل يسوع في قلوبنا في كلّ مكان وإلى كلّ مكان، على مثال مريم، وإلى تمجيده وتكريم أمّه، على مثال أليصابات، وإلى وعي دورنا في الكنيسة كرسل وكقدّيسين. فهل نحن اليوم ندرك أهميّة دعونتا لحمل رسالة يسوع واسم يسوع وجعل حيانتا "مراية" لحياة يسوع، كما تقول إحدى تراتيل الأطفال؟

# لا تستسلموا لليأس بل ابقوا رؤوسكم مرفوعة



"حتى في أحلك الظروف، على المسيحي ألاّ يستسلم لليأس" هذا ما أكّده البابا فرنسيس اليوم في أثناء عظته الصباحية في دار القديسة مارتا محذرًا من أنّ "الفساد" و"اللامبالاة" يبعداننا عن الرب.

استوحى البابا عظته من قراءات بحسب الطقس اللاتيني من رؤيا القديس يوحنا الذي يتحدّث عن بابل ومن إنجيل القديس لوقا (21: 20-28) الذي يتحدّث فيه يسوع عن أورشليم. وشدد البابا على أن هاتين القراءتين تحدثاننا عن نهاية العالم وأشار إلى أن انهيار هاتين المدينتين بابل وأورشليم يتمّ لأسباب مختلفة. "بابل هي رمز للشر والخطيئة والفساد" ("صارت موطنًا للشياطين وملجأ لجميع الأرواح النجسة وجميع الطيور النجسة الممقوتة") محذرًا من تراكم الخطيئة التي تفقدنا القدرة على الاستجابة فنعفن إذ "الفساد يمنحك الشعور بالسعادة لوقت قليل ويجعلك تشعر بالقوة والارتياح أيضًا مع نفسك فلا تعود تترك مجالاً للرب حتى تهتدي" وتابع البابا بأن كلمة "الفساد" لا تتدرج في لائحة

الاقتصاد فحسب لا بل هي أيضًا ترتبط بخطايا مختلفة بروح من الوثنية وبروح الدنيوية. "إنّ أسوأ شكل للفساد هو روح الدنيوية"!

وأشار البابا: "إنّ هذه "الثقافة الفاسدة" تجعلك تشعر كأنك في السماء" وتابع بأنّ رمز بابل هو كل مجتمع وثقافة وشخص بعيد عن الله، وبعيد عن محبة الآخر فينتهي بالتعفّن. أما أورشليم فتسقط لسبب آخر" أورشليم هي عروس الرب ولكنها لم تتنبّه إلى زيارة عريسها، "لقد سببت البكاء للرب": "بابل تسقط بسبب الفساد وأما أورشليم فبسبب لامبالاتها، لم ترحّب بالله الذي أتى لنجدتها. لم تشعر بأنها بحاجة إلى الخلاص. لقد كانت تملك كتابات الأنبياء وموسى وهذا كان كافيًا... لم تترك مكانًا للخلاص! لقد أغلقت بابها أمام الرب! إنّ الرب كان يقرع على بابها ولكنها لم تكن تتوي أن تستقبله وأن تصغى إليه وأن تدعه ينقذها! وهكذا سقطت"...

وأشار الباباً إلى أنّ هذين المثالين يجعلاننا نتأمل بحياتنا الخاصة: هل نحن فاسدون ومكتفون بذاتنا مثل بابل؟ أم غير مبالين مثل أورشليم؟ وتابع البابا ليؤكّد على "رسالة الكنيسة في هذه الأيام التي لا تنتهي بالدمار ففي النصين نجد وعدًا بالرجاء. يسوع يسألنا أن "ننتصب قائمين ونرفع رؤوسنا لأنّ افتداءنا يقترب" وعلينا أن ننتظر ذلك بصبر."

وختم قائلاً: "عندما نفكر في نهاية الأزمنة مع كل خطايانا وتاريخنا، فلنفتكر بالوليمة التي ستقدّم لنا بمجانية ونرفع رؤوسنا. لا تستسلموا لليأس: بل آمنوا بالرجاء! إنّ الواقع قبيح: يوجد العديد من الناس الذين يعانون؛ يوجد العديد من الحروب والكثير من الحقد والحسد والدنيوية والكثير من الفساد! نعم، هذا صحيح! كل هذا سيسقط! فلنسأل الله نعمة أن نتحضّر للوليمة التي تتنظرنا، مبقين رؤوسنا مرفوعة دائمًا"!

# نورٌ في الظلمة

كاتدر آئية سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

۳۰ تشرین الثانی ۲۰۱۶

www.olol.org.au

# أحد زيارة العذراء لإليصابات

# الرسالة

يا اخوتي، مِنْ بُولُس، رَسُولِ المَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ بِمَشِيئَةٍ الله، إلى القِدِّيسِينَ الَّذِينَ هُم في أَفَسُسَ والأُمَنَاءِ في ا المَسِيح يَسُوع: أَلنِّعْمَةُ لَكُم والسَّلامُ مِنَ اللهِ أَبِينَا والرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ المَسِيح! تَبَارَكَ اللهُ أَبُو رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ المَسِيح، الَّذي بَارَكَنَا بكُلِّ بَرَكَةٍ رُوحِيَّةٍ في السَّمَاوَاتِ في المَسِيح؛ فإنَّهُ اخْتَارَنَا فيهِ قَبْلَ إِنْشَاءِ العَالَم، الْنَكُونَ في حَضْرَتِهِ قِدِّيسِين، لا عَيْبَ فينَا؛ وقَدْ سَبَقَ ا بِمَحَبَّتِهِ فَحَدَّدَنَا للبُنُوَّةِ بِيَسُوعَ المَسِيح، ومِنْ أَجْلِهِ، بحَسَب رضَى مَشِيئَتِهِ، لِمَدْح مَجْدِ نِعْمَتِهِ الَّتِي أَنْعَمَ بِهَا عَلَيْنَا فِي الْحَبِيبِ؛ وفيهِ لَنَا الْفِدَاءُ بِدَمِهِ، أَي مَغْفِرَةُ الزَّلِأْت، بِحَسَب غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ، الَّتِي أَفَاضَهَا أَ إ عَلَيْنَا فِي كُلِّ حِكْمَةِ وَفَهُم؛ وقَدْ عَرَّفَنَا سِرَّ مَشِيئَتِهِ، بِحَسَبِ رِضَاهُ الَّذِي سَبَقَ فَجَعَلَهُ في المَسِيح، لِيُحَقِّقَ تَدْبِيرَ مِلْءِ الأَزْمِنَة، فَيَجْمَعَ في المَسِيح تَحْتَ رَأْس وَاحِدٍ كُلُّ شَيء، مَا في السَّماوَاتِ ومَا عَلَى الأَرْضِ؛ وفيهِ أَيْضًا اخْتَارَنَا مِيرَاثًا لَهُ، وقَدْ سَبَقَ فَحَدَّدَنَا إبحَسَب قَصْدِهِ، هُوَ الَّذي يَعْمَلُ كُلَّ شَيءٍ بقَضَاءٍ مَشِيئَتِهِ، لِنَكُونَ مَدْحًا لِمَجْدِهِ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ سَبَقْنَا فجَعَلْنَا في المَسِيح رجَاءَ نَا؛ وفِيهِ أَنْثُم أَيْضًا، بَعْدَ أَنْ سَمِعْتُم كَلِمَةَ الحَقِّ، أَي إِنْجِيلَ خَلاصِكُم، وآمَنْتُم، خُتِمْتُمْ بِالرُّوحِ القُدُسِ المَوعُودِ بِهِ، وهُوَ عُربُونُ مِيرَاتِنَا، لِفِدَاءِ شَعْبِهِ الَّذي اقْتَنَاه، ولِمَدْح مَجْدِهِ.

أف ۱:۱ – ۱٤



قراءات الأحد القادم أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان غل ۲۱:٤ - ۱:٥ لو ۱: ۷٥ – ٦٦

# الإنجيل

لو ١: ٣٩ – ٥٤

في تِلْكَ الأَيَّام، قَامَتْ مَرْيَمُ وَذَهَبَتْ مُسْرِعَةً إلى الجَبَل، إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ في يَهُوذَا. ودَخَلَتُ بَيْتَ زَكَرِيًّا، وسَلَّمَتْ عَلَى إليصَابَات. ولَمَّا سَمِعَتْ إليصَابَاتُ إُسَلامَ مَرْيَم، ارْتَكَضَ الجَنِينُ في بَطْنِها، وَامْتَلأَتْ مِنَ الرُّوحِ القُدُسِ. فَهَتَقَتْ بِأَعْلَى صَوتِها وقَالَتْ: المُبارَكَةُ أَنْتِ في النِّسَاء، وَمُبارَكَةٌ ثَمَرَةُ بَطْنِكِ! ومِنْ أَيْنَ لِي هَذَا أَنْ تَأْتِيَ إِلِيَّ أُمُّ رِبِّي ؟ فَهَا مُنْذُ وَقَعَ صَوْتُ سَلامِكِ في أُذُنِّيَّ، ارْتَكَضَ الجَنينُ الْبُتِهَاجًا في بَطْنِي! فَطُوبَي لِلَّتِي آمَنَتُ أَنَّهُ سَيَتِمُ ما إَقِيلَ لَهَا مِنْ قِبَلِ الرّبِّ!".

صلاة الأسبوع

# من أقوالهم...



الله يراني! "فكّر دائمًا بأنّ الله ايرى كل شىيء"

(القديس بيو الكبوشي)

يا ربّ، في أحد زيارة العذراء إلى أليصابات، أرفع إليك قلبي وروحي شاكراً نعمك في حياتي وفي طليعتها نعمة

الإيمان المزروع في قلبي.

ولكن اسمح لى أن أسألك نعمةً أخرى هي نعمة الحماسة للرسالة المسيحيّة، على مثال مريم العذراء القديسة، فأندفع حاملاً اسم ابنك يسوع وإنجيله غير عابئ بصعوبات الطريق والحياة، فيتحوّل كلّ لقاءٍ في حياتي فرصةً لتمجيدك وشكرك وتسبيحك، يا من منحتنا أغلى من لديك، ابنك الوحيد الذي بذل ذاته لخلاصنا وروحك القدوس الذي إينيرنا ويرشدنا، لك المجد إلى الأبد، آمين.

# قدّاسات يوم الأحد

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان – هاريس بارك 8:00 (عربي)، 9:30 (إنكليزي)، 11:00 (عربي، إنكليزي)، 5:00 (عربي، إنكليزي)، 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) قدّاسات الأسبوع

الإثنين – الجمعة 7:00، 8.45 صباحاً و 6:00 مساءً، الأربعاء 8.45،7:00 صباحاً و 5:30؛ 7:00 مساءً (انكليزي) السبت 7:30 صباحاً و 6:00 مساءً الإعترافات

مؤمنّة قبل وخلال قداس السبت الساعة 6:00 مساءً وقدّاسات الأحد أو بتحديد موعد خلال أيام الأسبوع ساعات السجود : كل يوم خميس 8:00 – 9:00 مساءً 24 ساعة سجود أمام القربان: نهار الجمعة 5 كانون الأول من الساعة 9:30 صباحاً لغاية السبت 7:30 صباحاً

