

# OUR PARISH

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-cathedral - Harris Park

Issue 13 | Sunday 28 January 2024 | Sunday of the Righteous and the Just



## THE GOSPEL

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Mt 25: 31-46



## Sunday of the Righteous and the Just

Wis 5: 1,3-6,8,15-16

Heb 12: 18-24

Mt 25: 31-46

## Message from the Bishop



As we mark the Feast Day of St. Ephrem, celebrated on January 28th, we reflect on the profound influence he had on the spiritual and liturgical life of the Maronite Church. Known as the "Harp of the Holy Spirit", St. Ephrem's life and works continue to inspire and guide our Maronite tradition.

St. Ephrem was a deacon and little is known about his life. Born around the year 306, he likely originated from the vicinity of Nisbis, then a city in Persia. Some historians infer from his writings that he came from a Christian family and was baptised as an adult. St. Ephrem, also an ascetic, had St. James of Nisbis as his spiritual father, to whom he dedicated a hymn. In about 364, he entered solitude on Mount Edessa, a practice not uncommon in Antioch and Edessa at the time. The Maronite community grew out of this commitment to asceticism and monasticism, inspired by our spiritual father, St. Maroun. St. Ephrem passed away on 9 June 373.

Writing in Syriac, St. Ephrem used hymns and powerful poetic imagery to address the heresies of his time. Recognising the power of music as an educational tool, he emphasised its role for both young and old alike. St. Ephrem also had a particular devotion to the Virgin Mary, dedicating a hymn, the Hymn on the Nativity, to her.

In the Syriac Churches, poetry and hymns serve as primary vehicles for teaching theology, a fact evident in Maronite Liturgy where a significant portion is sung by both the celebrant and the congregation. The rich imagery and poetry of the liturgy leave a lasting impression. It is so often that a Maronite child who attends Mass from a young age can be heard chanting the "Qadishat" at home. This is because hymns stay with children and they can learn from them.

## Preserving Our Traditions

St. Ephrem's example teaches us that in our liturgy, hymns are not mere music to listen to; they are powerful praying and teaching tools integral to our Maronite tradition. Whether you are aware or not, if you attend the Maronite Mass, you are using the words of St Ephrem. Let us live, sing, and teach these hymns to our children and in our Masses, going beyond passive listening to the choir during liturgy. Let the words of the hymns resonate within us, actively participating in this beautiful aspect of our Maronite faith.

I wish you a blessed feast day of St Ephrem – may his writings and compositions continue to resonate within our hearts, guiding us in faith and tradition.

Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

### SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES

OLOL Co-Cathedral, Harris Park

8am (Arabic)  
9:30am (English)  
11am (Ar/Eng)  
5pm (Ar/Eng)  
7pm (English)

Live Streaming  
Through Social Media

### WEEKLY HOLY LITURGIES

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri  
7am, 9am & 6pm

Wed 7am, 9am & 5:30pm (Ar)  
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 - Sat  
8:30am (Arabic) | 7pm (English)

Divine Mercy followed by

Rosary Fri 7:30pm

Adoration Hour & Confessions  
Thur 8 pm - 9 pm

24 Hour Adoration  
Every first Friday of the month  
from 9:30 a.m - Saturday 7:30

### PARISH CLERGY CONTACTS

Fr Youwakim Noujaim (Acting Dean):  
0406 060 445

Fr Charbel Dib: 0410 759 795

Fr John-Paul Bassil: 0401 545 454

Fr Alain Fares: 0433 507 389

Fr Sam Wehbe: 0417 171 737

Fr Robert-Pio Al Bayeh: 0414 447 883

Fr Yuhanna Azize: 0435 764 824

Fr Ron Hassarati: 0403 504 384

Fr Joseph Maatouk: 0413 245 501

Dcn Ghassan Nakhoul: 0410 524 335

Dcn Sayed Isaac: 0422 886 062

CLERGY ON LEAVE

Fr Tony Sarkis (Dean)

Fr Pierre Khoury

RETIRED CLERGY

Fr Bernard Assi

Fr Paul Joubair

### Safeguarding Officers:

Younan Friefer: 0400 080 000  
Joanne Elias: 0427 503 008

### Parish Office:

9689 2899

### Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday  
9am - 4:30pm

Saturday  
9am - 1pm

Fax: 9689 2068

Email: info@olol.org.au

Website: www.olol.org.au

# Inheriting the Kingdom of God

Over the past few weeks, the following words that Jesus spoke in His Beatitudes have resounded ever so clearly in my heart and in my mind - "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." Having to bury a loved one gives rise to many emotions, but only God can comfort us with the promise of eternal life. As scripture and many saints have reminded us, 'the wise man seeks his own salvation with fear and trembling.' Anyone who has lost a loved one immediately turns to prayer for consolation. Then having also wept, and felt the anguish, pain and distress of loss, we pray that grieving families will find their consolation in offering the Qorbono for their souls, as we celebrate our Liturgy for the Righteous and the Just who will pray and intercede for us.

Ongoing tragedies around the world have made us more aware of the plight of so many families needing assistance, comfort, and support of every kind. The struggles and heartaches endured by victims of war, poverty, fire, drought, floods, oppression, famine, homelessness, etc. are clearly seen by all, thanks to media coverage. What about the distressing situations which are not so apparent, happening on a daily basis behind closed doors, hidden in the dark nights of loneliness and abandonment? Isn't it sad that we tend to contemplate 'eternity' when struck with the reality of our human losses, rather than living each day in preparation for, and in the hope of, eternal life with God?

Being a Christian in today's world means being radical, and that's what I've learned from following Christ - to be radical. It's not enough for me to "learn" about God, for I must "know" my God in order to follow Him and to better guide those placed under my care. I have asked myself "what must one do to inherit the Kingdom of God"? I guess a good start is to trust in the Triune God, to stand up for what is right and just, defending the defenceless and speaking out for the voiceless...to be a light in the darkness for those who are too ashamed or frightened to cry out for help - the homeless and hungry, the abandoned, oppressed, abused, and rejected. It takes courage to do what is right and just in the eyes of God without appearing to be fanatical in the eyes of the world, but this is what it would take to inherit the promised Kingdom. Hearts filled with love for God and neighbour, merciful and fair, growing in heroic virtues, must certainly be worthy to merit such a great inheritance from such a loving and merciful Father.

Salwa Elias

## QUESTION

Is there a prayer of Mary in the Gospel?

## ANSWER


Along with the prayer of Mary at Cana in Galilee, the Gospel gives us the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) which is the song both of the Mother of God and of the Church, the joyous thanksgiving that rises from the hearts of the poor because their hope is met by the fulfillment of the divine promises



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# St Maroun

## Triduum



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**  
7:00 pm: Mass  
9:00 am: Mass  
5:30 pm: Arabic Mass  
7:00 pm: English Mass

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
7:00 pm: Mass  
9:00 am: Mass  
6:00 pm: Mass  
8:00 pm: Adoration

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**  
*Feast Day*  
7:00 pm: Mass  
9:00 am: Mass  
6:00 pm: Mass  
24 Hours Adoration

Our Lady of Lebanon Co- Cathedral | 40 Alice Street - Harris Park Nsw 2150

### A Lent retreat for men

**"By His wounds we are healed"**

**Speaker:**  
**Dr Andrew Mullins**



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 (8:30am to 3:30pm)**  
St Joseph's Baulkham Hills

**Cost: Free** (Thanks to a generous sponsor)  
**Registration is required** via SMS to Joe on 0411 752 993 (by 18 Feb)  
Day includes talks, discussions, reflection, Adoration, Confession and Mass.  
Morning tea and lunch will be provided.  
Organized by OLOL Family Committee



OLOL Maronite Flames invites all  
highschool students in years 7-12  
to our...

## REGISTRATION DAY!

**Who:** Parents and teens  
**Where:** The MacKillop Room  
**When:** February 3rd from 2-5pm  
**Contact:** Ghadi on 0424 411 174



**EXPECT:**

- SNACKS
- GAMES AND INFLATABLES
- FUN AND LAUGHS



# PARISH NOTICE BOARD

## Sunday 28 January:

Sunday of the Righteous and the Just

**11:00am** 40 Day Mass for the late Helen Nkoula Tanos from Wadi Al Laymoun – Saida widow of the late Toufic Geagea from Becharre

## Wednesday 31 January:

**7:00pm** 40 Day Mass for the late Antoine Joseph Scoulou from Ain Al Roumaneh

## Thursday 1 February:

**10:30am** Seniors Mass followed by lunch

## Friday 2 February:

Entrance of Our Lord into the Temple – Blessing of the Candles

**Masses 7:00am, 9:00am and 6:00pm**

## Saturday 3 February:

**6:00pm** 40 Day Mass for the late Romanos Antonios Saba from Blouza

## Sunday 4 February:

Sunday of the Faithful Departed

**5:00pm** 40 Day Mass for the late George Abraham Andary from Kfour Al Arbeh

## PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION & LOANS REPAYMENTS

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS** For week ending: 21/01/2024

**Plates:** \$11,005 | **Donations:** \$10 | **Candles:** \$240

### PARISH LOANS

**CYPC:** \$3,344,258

**UNITS:** \$1,094,872

### MONTHLY LOAN REPAYMENTS

**CYPC:** \$37,681 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

**UNITS:** \$12,503 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

## KIDS CORNER



"Whatever you did for one of the least of these \_\_\_\_\_ of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40 (RSV)

DELSSEB

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1

HGRUNY

--	--	--	--	--	--

5

7

YHRTSIT

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4

SGATRENR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8

6

PORISN

--	--	--	--	--	--

2

3

SOLUTION:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

## Our Lady Mercy Place Aged Care Home welcomes first resident

Earlier this week, the Our Lady Mercy Place residential aged care home in Harris Park officially welcomed its first resident as it opened its doors in Harris Park.

This long-anticipated day is the realisation of a vision set forth by Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, in collaboration with the board members of Our Lady Aged Care Centre (OLACC).

Bishop Tarabay was on hand - along with distinguished guests - to welcome Mrs Saad and present her with a Rosary. Bishop Tarabay said, "We are here to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Juliette Saad, as her arrival signals the commencement of a new chapter in residential aged care for elderly people in Harris Park."

Mr Barry Barakat, Chairperson of OLACC said, "This is a significant milestone for our community and marks a pivotal step in meeting the increasing demand for aged care services in a home environment that addresses practical and health requirements but also ensures the fulfilment of the pastoral and spiritual needs of our older community members."

Helping welcome Mrs Saad were The Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for the Arts, Dr Andrew Charlton, Member for Parramatta, Lord Mayor Pierre Esber, Parramatta City Council, Deputy Mayor Rachelle Harika, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Ms Catherine Davies, Director, People & Corporate at Multicultural NSW, representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care and representatives from Mercy Health; Ms Virginia Bourke, Chair of the Board, Ms Angela Nolan CEO and Ms Clare Douglas, Chief Executive Residential Aged Care.

**Anyone interested in residential care at Our Lady Mercy Place Harris Park is encouraged to contact Mercy Health on 1300 159 265.**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LOL FAMILY COMMITTEE PRESENTS**  
**PRE - LENTEN FAMILY BRUNCH**  
LOCATION  
RECREATION ROOM  
LOL YOUTH CENTRE

**FREE EVENT** **4TH FEBRUARY** **AFTER 9.30AM SUNDAY MASS**

**عيد دخول المسيح إلى الهيكل**  
ورتبة تبريك الشموع  
**The Feast of the Presentation of The Lord in the Temple**  
With The Rite of Blessing of the Candles

**Date**  
Friday 2nd February

**Mass Times**  
7 am - 9 am  
6 pm. Celebrated by His Excellency  
**Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**

**7 DAYS UNTIL REGISTRATION DAY!**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD**  
**2-5PM**  
**Parents and teens in the Mackillop Room**

**Men's Faith & Fellowship**

**From Pessimist to Realist**

Join us to ask and hear about how our attitude to life affects our success and worth as men.

**MONDAY 29TH JANUARY | 7:30PM**  
**MACKILLOP ROOM | LEVEL 1 CYPC**

**OUR LADY OF LEBANON**  
Maronite Catholic Parish  
**Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Arabic School**  
مدرسة اللغة العربية في رعية سيدة لبنان - سيدني، أستراليا

**Adult Arabic Classes 2024**

Adult Arabic Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings in the Community Youth & Parish Centre, Ground Level, 40 Alice Street, Harris Park NSW 2150.

Registration for Term 1 is open.

Start date: **Tuesday February 13, 2024 (TBC);**  
Time: **7:00pm-8:30pm;**  
Duration: **8 weeks per school term**

To register, please call the Parish Office on **02 9689 2899** or **0478885580**, or email **arabicschool@lol.org.au**.

"Our language is part of our history, culture and traditions."



**OUR LADY OF LEBANON**  
Maronite Catholic Parish  
**Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Arabic School**  
مدرسة اللغة العربية في رعية سيدة لبنان - سيدني، أستراليا

**Let your heritage and culture thrive in 2024 at the LOL Arabic Language School.**

Arabic Classes will be held on Saturday mornings in the Community Youth & Parish Centre, Ground Level, 40 Alice Street, Harris Park NSW 2150.

Registration for Term 1 is open.

Start date: **Saturday February 10, 2024;**  
Time: **9:30am - 12:30pm**

To register, please call the Parish Office on **02 9689 2899** or **0478885580**, or email **arabicschool@lol.org.au**.

"Our language is part of our history, culture and traditions."



The NSW Government is helping kids get creative with the new Creative Kids program.

Apply for the \$50 Creative Kids Voucher online: [www.service.nsw.gov.au](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au)

(The voucher will be available twice a year, February & July).  
Name of Provider: Maronite Eparchy of Australia Arabic School



# لوحة إعلانات الرعية

الأحد ٢٨ كانون الثاني:

أحد الأبرار والصدّيقين

القداست ٨:٠٠، ٩:٣٠ و ١١:٠٠ صباحاً، ٥:٠٠ و ٧:٠٠ مساءً

١١:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة إيلان نقولا طانس من وادي الليمون - صيدا  
أرملة المرحوم توفيق جعجع من بشري

الأربعاء ٣١ كانون الثاني:

٧:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم أنطوان جوزيف سكولو Scoulou من عين الرمانة

الخميس ١ شباط:

١٠:٣٠ قداس المسنين على نية كبارنا في الرعية يليه غداء

الجمعة ٢ شباط:

عيد دخول المسيح الى الهيكل ورتبة تبريك الشموع  
القداست ٧:٠٠ و ٩:٠٠ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً مع تبريك الشموع

السبت ٣ شباط:

٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم رومانوس أنطونيوس سابا من بلوزا

الأحد ٤ شباط:

أحد الموتى المؤمنين

٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم جورج أبراهام العنداري من كفور العربة

دخول السيد المسيح  
الى الهيكل  
٢ شباط



أبى رب الشريعة له المجد الا ان يُتم  
مع والدته العذراء الشريعة الموسوية،  
شريعة التطهير والتكفير كما جاء في سفر الاحبار (١٢ / ٨-٦).

وعلى ذلك قال لوقا البشير: "ولما تمت أيام تطهيرها  
بحسب ناموس موسى، صعدا به الى اورشليم ليقرباه للرب  
على حسب ما كتب في ناموس الرب". (لوقا ٢ / ٢٢-٢٣).  
ففي مثل هذا اليوم يقف قدّوس القديسين مع والدته  
العذراء البريئة من وصمة الخطيئة موقف الخطاة ويقدم  
تقدمة الفقراء ليعلمنا نبذ الكبرياء القتالة والخضوع  
لشرائعه الالهية. وكان في اورشليم رجل صدّيق اسمه  
سمعان أقبل بالروح الى الهيكل فحمل الطفل يسوع على  
ذراعيه وقال: "رب، أطلق الآن عبدك بسلام، وفاقا لقولك.  
فقد رأيت عيناى ما أعدته من خلاص للشعوب كلها نوراً  
لهداية الامم ومجداً لشعبك". وقال سميان لمريم امه:  
"انه جعل لسقوط كثير من الناس، وقيام كثير منهم في  
اسرائيل وآية ينكرونها. وانت سينفذ سيف في نفسك حتى  
تتكشف الافكار عن قلوب كثيرة".

وقد أعلن البابا يوحنا بولس الثاني هذا اليوم عيد لكل  
المكرّسين، وتذكّاراً بهذا العيد المبارك وضعت الكنيسة رتبة  
تبريك الشموع. إذ ترمز الشمعة التي تُبارك يوم دخول  
المسيح الى الهيكل الى نور المسيح الذي هو نور العالم (يو  
١٢ / ٨)، وننتظر النور كما انتظره وعايته وحمله سميان  
الشيخ. ونحن نحمل هذه الشمعة الى بيوتنا علامة على أنّنا  
نحمل نور المسيح الى بيتنا.

إبتهاج يسوع  
بالبسطاء



الرب يفرح بنا عندما نعيش إيماننا بفرح وبساطة. هذا ما  
أراد يسوع أن يعلمنا إياه عندما تهلّل بدافع من الروح وشكر  
الآب لكشف حكمته للبسطاء والصغار وإخفائها عن الحكماء  
والأذكىاء (لوقا ١٠: ٢١ - ٢٤). لماذا تُفرحُ بساطتنا الرب حتى  
يتهلّل؟

ما يريده منا الرب، أن نمو في كل ما نفعل لنكتشف أن  
هناك هدفاً أسمى وهو خلاصنا. الفرح الحقيقي هو في أن  
نستخدم خبراتنا ونعمننا لنسير على درب الخلاص. كل خبرة  
مع الرب سبيلٌ لخلاصنا، خصوصاً القداس، فهو ليس واجباً  
أو مناسبة للإكثار من الطلبات بل لقاء حقيقي مع يسوع.  
حبذا لو ندري أن الرب يلتفت إلينا في القداس ليقول لنا،  
كما قال لتلاميذه في هذا النص، "طوبى للعيون التي تبصر  
ما أنتم تُبصرون" (لوقا ١٠: ٢٣).

في إرشاده الرسولي "إفرحوا وابتهجوا"، يقول البابا  
فرنسيس إن "الوداعة تعبير آخر للفرح الداخلي، فقر المرء  
الذي يضع ثقته في الله فقط". إذا كنّا مسيحياً حقاً، أضع  
ثقتي بالله الصادق الأمين لوعوده. أخطأت؟ أعطاني الرب  
كرسي الاعتراف، أسير إليها ببساطة الإيمان. بهذه البساطة  
أدرك أن الله أحبني ودفع عني كل ديوني لأنال الخلاص.

نعيش البساطة كما عاشها القديسون، بالصلاة والإماتة  
والصوم والطاعة والوداعة. نعيشها بالفقر الإنجيلي لكي  
نبشّر بأعمالنا. نعيشها كما عاشها أبائنا وأمّهاتنا الذين ما  
كانوا يطلبون سوى عناية الله وبركته وتديره. عندما  
تعيش العائلة ببركة الله تصبح مقلعاً للقديسين. بالبساطة  
نُدرك أن كلّ ما نفعله هو لمجد الله. فكيف لا يتهلّل الرب  
بالبسطاء؟

# عَيْنَتْنَا

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

عدد ١٣ | الأحد ٢٨ كانون الثاني ٢٠٢٤ | أحد الأبرار والصديقين "كُلُّ مَا عَمَلْتُمُوهُ لِأَخَوْتِي هَؤُلَاءِ الصِّغَارِ، قَلِي عَمَلْتُمُوهُ!" مت ٢٥: ٣١-٤٦

الإنجيل



"مَتَى جَاءَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ فِي مَجْدِهِ، وَجَمِيعُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مَعَهُ، يَجْلِسُ عَلَى عَرْشٍ مَجْدِهِ. وَتُجْمَعُ لَدَيْهِ جَمِيعُ الْأُمَمِ، فَيَمَيِّزُ بَعْضَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْضٍ، كَمَا يَمَيِّزُ الرَّاعِي الْخِرَافَ مِنَ الْجِذَاءِ. وَيُفِيمُ الْخِرَافَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ وَالْجِذَاءَ عَنْ شِمَالِهِ. حِينَئِذٍ يَقُولُ الْمَلِكُ لِلَّذِينَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ: تَعَالَوْا، يَا مُبَارَكِي أَبِي، رَثُوا الْمُلُكُوتَ الْمُعَدَّ لَكُمْ مِنْذُ إِنشَاءِ الْعَالَمِ؛ لِأَنِّي جُفْتُ فَأُطْعِمْتُمُونِي، وَعَطِشْتُمْ فَسَقَيْتُمُونِي، وَكُنْتُ غَرِيبًا فَأَوَيْتُمُونِي، وَغَرِيبًا فَكَسَوْتُمُونِي، وَمَرِيضًا فَرَزَمْتُمُونِي، وَمَخْبُوسًا فَأَتَيْتُمُنِي إِلَيَّ. حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُ الْأَنْبَرَاءُ قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبِّ، مَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ جَانِعًا فَأُطْعَمْنَاكَ، أَوْ غُشَّيْنَاكَ بِمَنْثَرَةٍ، أَوْ غَرِيبًا فَاغْتَبَيْنَاكَ، أَوْ غَرِيبًا فَكَسَوْنَاكَ؟ وَمَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ مَخْبُوسًا فَأَتَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ؟ فَيُجِيبُ الْمَلِكُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ: أَلَحَقْتُ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: كُلُّ مَا عَمَلْتُمُوهُ لِأَخَوْتِي هَؤُلَاءِ الصِّغَارِ، قَلِي عَمَلْتُمُوهُ! ثُمَّ يَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ عَنْ شِمَالِهِ: اذْهَبُوا عَنِّي، يَا مَلَاعِينِ، إِلَى النَّارِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ الْمُعَدَّةِ لِلنَّارِ وَجُنُودِهِ؛ لِأَنِّي جُفْتُ فَمَا أَطْعَمْتُمُونِي، وَعَطِشْتُمْ فَمَا سَقَيْتُمُونِي، وَكُنْتُ غَرِيبًا فَمَا أَوَيْتُمُونِي، وَغَرِيبًا فَمَا كَسَوْتُمُونِي، وَمَرِيضًا وَمَخْبُوسًا فَمَا رَزَمْتُمُونِي! حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُ هَؤُلَاءِ أَيْضًا قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبِّ، مَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ جَانِعًا أَوْ غُشَّيْنَاكَ أَوْ غَرِيبًا أَوْ مَرِيضًا أَوْ مَخْبُوسًا وَمَا خَدَمْنَاكَ؟ حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُمْ قَائِلًا: أَلَحَقْتُ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: كُلُّ مَا لَمْ تَعْمَلُوهُ لِأَخَوْتِي هَؤُلَاءِ الصِّغَارِ، قَلِي لَمْ تَعْمَلُوهُ. وَيَذْهَبُ هَؤُلَاءِ إِلَى الْعَذَابِ الْأَبَدِيِّ، وَالْأَنْبَرَاءُ إِلَى الْحَيَاةِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ." مت ٢٥: ٣١-٤٦



أحد الأبرار والصديقين

سفر الحكمة ٥: ٣١-٤٦، ١٥-١٦

عب ١٢: ٢٤

مت ٢٥: ٣١-٤٦

هذه الرحمة تجاه إخوتنا الصغار ليست مجرد شعور بالشفقة بل هي فعلٌ حبٍّ يعطي الحياة للآخرين. في زمنٍ كَثُرَ فيه الإخوة الصغار الذين يحتاجون إلى محبتنا، فهذه دعوةٌ لنا ومسؤوليةٌ سندان عليها. وذلك أنها واجبٌ من باب العدل.

فالأبرار والصديقون الذين نذكرهم في هذا الأحد وفي هذا الأسبوع، هم القديسون الذين سبقونا إلى الملكوت، بعد أن جسدوه في حياتهم الأرضية. لقد وجدوا المسيح في إخوتهم الصغار وخدموه خدمة الرحمة، منحنيين عليه كالسامري الصالح. هم المباركون الذين علموا أنَّ المسيح يطرق بآبهم كلَّ يومٍ ويزورهم في إخوتهم، رأوه في الجائع والعطشان، والعريان والغريب والمريض والسجين، فأنحنوا عليه بحبٍّ ورحمةٍ. هم مثلنا وشفعاؤنا لدى منبر الملك الديان.



صلاة

أيها الآب الأزلي، يا من بميلادك في الجسد من البتول مريم القديسة، باركت طبعنا البشري، وبدخولك هيكل القدس فرّجت قلب يوسف ومريم، وعزّيت الشيخ البار سمعان والأرملة حنة النبية، إجعلنا لك هياكل حية مقدسة، وفرّحنا بحضورك فينا، فتمجّدك ونشكر وأباك وروحك القدوس، الآن وإلى الأبد، آمين

## أحد الأبرار والصديقين

ليس كل من انتقل إلى المجد السماوي قد أعلنته الكنيسة قديساً يُكرّم على المذابح، فمنهم من لم يشأ الله إعلان مجده للكنيسة، إنما هو قديس يشترك في الحياة الإلهية، قد يكون من أهلنا، من أجدادنا، من أصدقائنا ومعارفنا يتشفع لنا عند الأب دون أن تكرّمه الكنيسة رسمياً.

في أحد الأبرار والصديقين، يستوقفنا هذا النص الكتابي ليذكرنا بأن حياتنا المسيحية، هي دعوةٌ لعيش الحب والرحمة تجاه إخوتنا الصغار، فتنكريمُ الله وخدمته، لا يتوقفان على القيام بواجب الصلاة والخدمة الليتورجية فقط، إنما يكتملان بعيش الرحمة بكل أبعادها. فالمسيح يتجلّى لنا بإخوتنا الأكثر حاجةً، هم فرصتنا لتكريمه وسبيلنا للقاءه وخدمته وهم بآبنا إلى الحياة الأبدية.

ويؤكد الرب يسوع أننا في مساء الحياة، سندان على المحبة الاجتماعية، التي فصلها على سبيل المثال في ست حالات يمرّ فيها كل إنسان ويحتاج إلى محبة الناس تجاهه، في الجائع والعطشان، والعريان والغريب والمريض والسجين. وفي الوقت عينه، نحن مدعوون لنساعد من هم في إحدى هذه الحاجات. وهي لا تقتصر على الحاجات المادية فقط بل تشمل أيضاً تلك الروحية والمعنوية والنفسية والاجتماعية والحقوقية.

### 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) All the departed souls, All the lost souls, All the faithful departed, All the souls in Purgatory, All souls who have no one to pray for them (B) Milia Bou Raidan (C) (D) (E) Matthew Essey (F) (G) Helen George, Majid George (H) Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, Paul & Madeline Haddad & Son Joseph & daughter Colleen George (I) (J) Jamil Kamel Mtanios Jabbour (K) Baraban Georges Karam, Sarkis Chucri Khoudair, Tanious Elias Kassi and the deceased of his family, Genevieve Khoury and all the departed of Khoury & Elzahoul families (L) (M) Youssef Maroon & his wife Ghosoun, Therese Melhem, Betty Merhi, Bechara Boutrous Moussa, Robert Bechara Moussa (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) Jamil & Labibi Roumanus and all their deceased family & friends (S) Youssef Mikhael Shaheen, Boutros & Therese Sassine and their son Kenny, Nabih Nassim Saad & Children Kevin & Emile Saad, Adele Seghabe, Therese Semaan Seghabe (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)

