

# OUR PARISH

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-cathedral - Harris Park



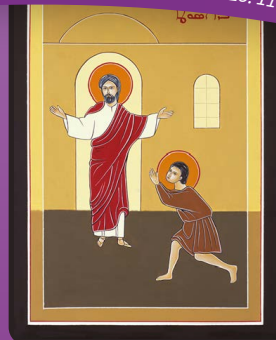
Issue 18 | Sunday 3 March 2024 | Sunday of the Prodigal Son

"because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found" Lk 15: 11-32



## THE GOSPEL

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' Lk 15:11-32



Sunday of  
the Prodigal Son  
Zech 3: 1-7  
2Cor 13: 5-13  
Lk 15: 11-32

## Message from the Bishop



Youhanna (John) Maroun was the first Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, elected in 685 to lead the people who came to be known as the Maronites and we celebrate his feast on the 2nd of March. Born into a noble family in 628 in Sirmaniyah (or Sarum), a village in modern-day Syria, he was initially known as John the Sarumite. His early education in Antioch and then in the Monastery of Saint Maroun equipped him with profound knowledge spanning sacred scripture, mathematics, sciences, philosophy, theology, and linguistics.

Entering monastic life and taking the name Youhanna Maroun, he was a gifted preacher, teacher, and writer. He taught and preached the Doctrine of the Council of Chalcedon, which proclaimed that in Christ there are two natures – human and divine. His style of teaching converted many to the Maronite faith. He authored the Eucharistic Prayer, which is still part of our Maronite Mass.

Amidst the tumultuous period marked by the vacancy of the Patriarchal See of Antioch from 609 to 683, the Maronites elected Youhanna Maroun as Patriarch in 685AD. He journeyed to Rome for papal approval, where he received confirmation from Pope Sergius, solidifying his position as "Patriarch of Antioch and all the East." With the Pallium bestowed upon him, Youhanna Maroun's authority became indisputable. Under his leadership, the Patriarchal See was

relocated to Lebanon, unifying the Maronites and safeguarding the unique liturgical and theological identity of the Maronite Church.

St. Youhanna Maroun's unwavering commitment and leadership serve as an inspiration to confront challenges with hope and steadfast faith. Today, we seek his intercession for our Maronite Church and its leaders, invoking his example and intercession to guide us toward salvation.

### Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Gospel of the Prodigal Son which we read this Sunday invites us to reflect on the boundless love and mercy of God. In this parable, we see a son who leaves his father's house, squandering his inheritance in reckless living. Yet, when he comes to his senses and returns, expecting only to be treated as a servant, he is met with open arms and compassion from his father.

This story reminds us that no matter how far we may wander or how grievous our sins, God's love remains steadfast. Like the prodigal son, we may find ourselves in moments of brokenness and despair, feeling unworthy of forgiveness. However, God eagerly awaits our return, ready to embrace us with unconditional love.

During this Season of Lent, let us reflect on whether we strayed from God's path and sought happiness in worldly pursuits. Now is the time to come back to ourselves, acknowledge our mistakes, and turn back to the loving embrace of our heavenly Father.

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

## "Seeking out the lost"

As a teenager in the 1970's and growing up on the northern beaches of Sydney, my days were spent either in the local library studying, or swimming at Balmoral Beach. I was one of thousands who found solace in the sun and waves of our beautiful Pacific Ocean. It was during a holiday break that I met a group of 'hippies' who introduced me to their unusual beliefs and ideals. After encountering a few other groups of the age, such as 'the children of God' and 'Hare Krishna', it became clear to me that not everyone in the world believed in the same Triune God as Catholics believe. Often I wonder and ask myself "What if I went astray and followed one of these non-Christian groups? What if I were not born into a Catholic family?" This question haunts me every time I see an advertisement that seeks donations for children and families in third-world countries that are starving and homeless, on the brink of death. I wonder, with gratitude of course, why God chose to place me where I am. That could have been me...but it wasn't, by the grace of God. It begs the question though: is God's Mercy and Love exclusive to followers of Christ and those who are not wandering astray? Definitely not!

Seeking out and saving the lost, like the 'prodigal son' who appears to be enjoying his sinful ways, is as simple as showing mercy and compassion to those who cannot find purpose or direction in their lives, sometimes unaware that they are lost, thinking their way is the right way. This is what Jesus expects of those who follow Him: to imitate His Love and His Mercy when dealing with others, no matter where they've been or who you think they are; everyone deserves mercy, love, and forgiveness. When I was growing up in that "hippie era" God knew all I wanted was to find "the Truth" and He led me on that winding path of discovery which brought me back to Him. Thanks be to God, I am where I am today.

Imagine how all of heaven rejoices over one repentant sinner! We are all children of the One True God – no matter what or who we believe in. Let us remember this, next time we're tempted to question the worthiness of another soul, for God alone sees the heart and repays each accordingly. When we see others offending God by their actions, words, or lifestyle, let us pray for their conversion of heart, rather than condemn them. Jesus healed many souls with the words "your sins are forgiven" so let us pray that His Mercy will abound upon the poor souls who are living lives that are completely contrary to the Gospel of Life. We can offer our Lenten penances with this intention in mind, asking God to find a way into their hearts. "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine."

Salwa Elias

### QUESTION

With what name does God reveal Himself?

### ANSWER

God revealed himself to Moses as the living God, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6). God also revealed to Moses his mysterious name "I am Who I am (YHWH)". Already in Old Testament times this ineffable name of God was replaced by the divine title Lord. Thus in the New Testament, Jesus who was called Lord is seen as true God



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**THE DIVINE LITURGY.**  
*February/March*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

**THE DIVINE LITURGY.**  
Presented by Deacon Eliah

Every Thursday at 7pm  
29th February - 21st March

Seniors Room - CYPC Ground Floor  
Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral

**OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL**

*Mother's day*

**DELUXE SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE LUNCH**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

DEPARTURE 9AM SHARP FROM OLOL. RETURN 3 PM

**\$150 PER PERSON INCLUDES:**

DELUXE LUNCH & SOFT DRINKS - 4 HOURS HARBOUR CRUISE  
BUS TRANSPORT FROM OLOL TO CRUISE BOAT & RETURN - ENGLISH & ARABIC ENTERTAINMENT  
ALCOHOL CAN BE PURCHASED.

**TICKET PURCHASE FROM: CHURCH OFFICE & OLOL GIFTSHOP - PH 02 9689 2899**

TO FACILITATE SEATING ARRANGEMENT, WE RECOMMEND PURCHASING A TABLE OF 10 FOR A GROUP OF FRIENDS  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MARIA 0433 182 246 OR JOAN 0411 709 249

**Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral**

**CARPARK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**FRIDAYS OF LENT FROM 5PM TO 8:30PM**

Contact Anthony: 0437 653 674



# PARISH NOTICE BOARD

## Sunday 3 March:

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**Masses 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm and 7:00pm**

**8:00am** Sodality Mass

**9:30am** One Year Mass for the late Kairas Kapadia from Pakistan

## Tuesday 5 March:

**6:00pm** The late Barbara Melhem Youssef Melhem from Kfarsghab (died in Lebanon)

## Wednesday 6 March:

**11:30am** Mass followed by Lenten Lunch

**7:00pm** 40 Day Mass for the late Chafic Assad Wehbe from Blouza

## Friday 8 March:

**Masses 7:00am & 9:00am**

**5:45pm** Stations of the Cross, Evening Prayer and Procession (Arabic)

**8:00pm** Stations of the Cross, Evening Prayer and Procession (English)

## Saturday 9 March:

The 40 Martyrs

**6:00pm** 40 Day Mass for the late Juliette Estephan Abboud wife of John Ghaleb Joseph from Kfarsghab

## Sunday 10 March:

Sunday of the Paralytic

**Masses 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm and 7:00pm**

## PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION & LOANS REPAYMENTS

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS** For week ending: 25/02/2024

**Plates:** \$13,866 | **Donations:** \$- | **Candles:** \$791

### PARISH LOANS

**CYPC:** \$3,330,389

**UNITS:** \$1,089,516

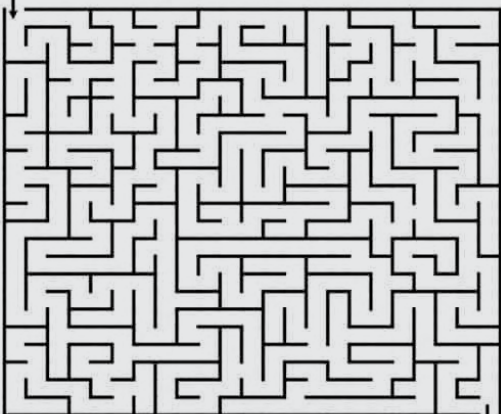
### MONTHLY LOAN REPAYMENTS

**CYPC:** \$38,152 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

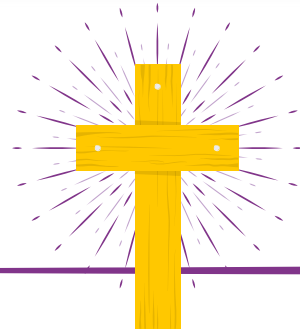
**UNITS:** \$12,652 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

## KIDS CORNER

### RETURN TO THE FATHER



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**Heavenly Father,** as a child I mostly thought of you as a 'granter of wishes'.

As an adult I now understand that having a relationship with you is not about wishes. It is about Faith and Trust; Hope and Honesty.

Help me to be honest with myself and you. You know my heart and my deepest desires. Please answer my prayers according to your wishes – your will – so that your will may be done in me. May my prayers include the intentions and needs of others more than for myself.

Through your Son Jesus – with the intercession of Mary – may I continue to grow as a person of Faith, Hope and Love. **Amen.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS



# LEBANESE SCHOOL *appeal*

IN COLLABORATION WITH MARONITES ON MISSION



*The future of Lebanon passes first through the school.*

In the face of crises in Lebanon, children are being forced out of school.  
This represents the biggest threat to the education of an entire generation.  
Please donate to the Lebanese School Appeal

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON [WWW.MARONITE.ORG.AU/APPEALS](http://WWW.MARONITE.ORG.AU/APPEALS)  
CONTACT THE MARONITE CHANCERY ON 02 8831 0000 SHOULD YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION



During this Season of Lent, all Maronite parishes and schools are collecting donations to help pay overdue fees of students in need in schools across Lebanon.

The Lebanese School Appeal, which was launched last year during our Eparchy's Golden Jubilee, has raised over \$530,000 to help more than 800 students in 17 schools across Lebanon.

However the need is great so let us continue working together to help those in our homeland who need it most.

We kindly ask you to take a small appeal box home if you haven't already done so, to collect donations, and return them to the Parish when ready or during Easter week. No amount is too little and every dollar helps.

**Donations can also be made at  
[www.maronite.org.au/appeals](http://www.maronite.org.au/appeals)**

We are always grateful for your generosity and support

# BLOOD *donations*

**MARCH 2024**

Tuesday 5th | 6:30pm

Thursday 7th | 6:30pm

Multiple spots available or to book a time that best suits you:

Contact Elana on 0466 283 883

**Rosehill Blood Service**

There is the option to donate whole blood or just plasma.

**FUNFACT:** 1/3 of donated red cells are used in treatment of cancer and blood diseases



## Sports Day 2024

EASTER MONDAY | APRIL 1 | 7 AM

Sasha 0452 303 426 Jayden 0499 900 079

**BANKSTOWN BASKETBALL STADIUM,  
KINCH RESERVE, CONDELL PARK**

\$30 PLAYERS | \$5 SPECTATORS

REGISTER WITH PARISH REPRESENTATIVE





## UPCOMING EVENTS

"Get up and Pray, so that you will not fall into temptation"  
"قُومُوا وَصَلُّوا لئلا تَدْخُلُوا فِي تَجْرِبةٍ" Luke 22:40

2024 YEAR OF PRAYER

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral

### Lenten Weekly Program

- Monday:** 9:00 pm | Rosary
- Tuesday:** 7:30 pm | Bible Study in Arabic
- Wednesday:** 11:30 am | Mass followed by Lenten Lunch  
8 pm | Bible Study in English
- Thursday:** 8 pm | Adoration
- Friday:** 5:45 pm in Arabic, & 8 pm in English  
Stations for The Cross, Evening Prayer  
& Ziyeh Al Salib.
- Saturday:** Fersen Al Adra & Teens Meetings
- Sunday:** 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 5 pm & 7 pm  
Divine Liturgy - Mass

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



Every  
Wednesday  
During Lent

كل يوم أربعاء  
خلال الصوم

### Lenten Lunch غداء صيامي

تدعوكم أخوية كاتدرائية سيّدة لبنان  
كل يوم أربعاء خلال فترة الصوم الساعة ١١:٣٠ لقداس  
يليه غداء صيامي متنوع في قاعة الرعية  
أكثر من ٤٠ صنف مأكولات صيامية  
وجودكم يفرحنا

\$10 للشخص الواحد يعود ريع هذا العمل لمساعدة عائلات محتاجة في لبنان

The Ladies of the Sodality of Our Lady of Lebanon  
Co-Cathedral invite you to a Lenten Lunch of over 30 dishes  
every Wednesday during Lent. 11:30am Mass followed by  
lunch in the Church Hall

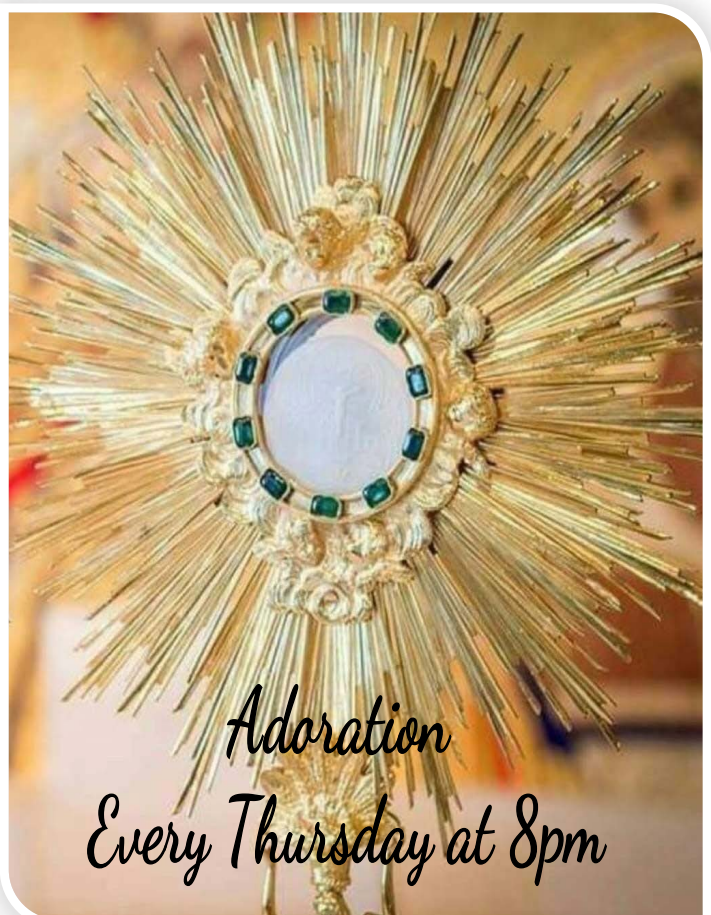
\$10 donation per person. All funds raised goes to help poor families in Lebanon

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral - 40 Alice St, Harris Park NSW 2150 - Ph: 02 9689 2899 - www.olol.org.au



### Fridays of Lent Stations of the Cross Evening prayers & Ziyeh

5:45 pm Arabic  
8:00 pm English



Adoration  
Every Thursday at 8pm





# لوحة إعلانات الرعية

## الأحد ٣ آذار:

حد الإبن الشاطر

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

٨:٠٠ قداس على نية أبناء الأخوة أحياء ومرضى وأموات

٩:٣٠ السنة للمرحوم كيراس Kairas كباديا Kapadia من باكستان

## الثلاثاء ٥ آذار:

٦:٠٠ المرحومة بربارة ملحم يوسف ملحم من كفرصغاب (متوفاة في لبنان)

## الأربعاء ٦ آذار:

١١:٣٠ قداس على نية المرضى والعائلات يليه غداء صيامي في هول الرعية

٧:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم شفيق أسعد وهبه من بلوزا

## الجمعة ٨ آذار:

القداسات ٧:٠٠ و ٩:٠٠ صباحاً

٥:٤٥ مساءً درب الصليب، صلاة المساء و الزياح (عربي)

٨:٠٠ مساءً درب الصليب، صلاة المساء و الزياح (إنكليزي)

## السبت ٩ آذار:

الشهداء الأربعون

٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة جوليات إسطفان عيود زوجة جون غالب دجوزف من كفرصغاب

## الأحد ١٠ آذار:

أحد شفاء المخلع

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

## "يا بني أعطني قلبك"

عندما تثقل الخطيئة كاهل مقترفها وتقف له بالمرصاد وتعرقل مسيرة نموّه الروحي وتطوّره الاجتماعي، عندما لا يعود شيء قادراً على التخفيف عنه، يبقى كرسي الاعتراف ملجأه الوحيد. هناك نعود أعضاء طاهرة في جسد الرب. هناك، نتغلب على ضعفنا، نستعيد إيماننا ونتعهد بالتكفير عن ذنوبنا بالصلاة والإماتات والأفعال الصالحة.

لذلك عندما تتقدّم من سرّ التوبة لا تضع خطاياك فقط أمام الله وترحل، فهو لا يريد خطاياك فحسب بل المكوث أيضاً في قلبك.

عندما تتقدّم للصلاة لا تضع كلماتك فقط أمام الله وترحل، فهو لا يريد كلماتك فحسب بل تلبية نداءات قلبك أيضاً.

عندما تتقدّم للشكر لا تضع مالك وخيراتك فقط أمام الله وترحل، فهو لا يريد ماديّاتك فحسب بل أن يملك دائماً على قلبك.

الله قدّم لك قلبه لتعيش فيه وهو يريد "الغالي" عندك، أي قلبك.

الله يملك كلّ ما تريد أن تقدّمه له لأنّه هو من قدّمه لك في البداية... قدّم ما هو خاص بك، ما هو ملكك، ما هو يعود لك... قدّم له قلبك... تذكر "حيث يكون قلبك، يكون كنزك".

## مَقاصِدَ أَصوامِنَا



إِنَّ مِنَ الْوَاجِبِ عَلَيْنَا أَنْ نَعْرِفَ مَقاصِدَ أَصوامِنَا، فَلَا نَكُونُ كَالنَّائِثِينَ فِي الْبَحْرِ، يَتَوَهَّمُونَ أَنَّهُ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ قاصِدُونَ، وَهُمْ فِي مَنَاجِئِ آخَرٍ هَائِمُونَ. فَإِنْ قُلْتُ مَا الصَّوْمُ فِي الْحَقِيقَةِ، أَهوَ غَيْرُ الْامْتِنَاعِ عَنْ جَمِيعِ الرِّذَائِلِ وَالْتِمَسُكُ بِجَمِيعِ الْفَضَائِلِ، بِمَنْعِ النَّفْسِ عَنِ اللَّذَاتِ الْبَدَنِيَّةِ كَالْأَطْعِمَةِ وَالْأَشْرَبَةِ وَسِوَاهَا. لَيْسَ الصَّوْمُ أَنْ يَضَعَ الْإِنْسَانُ نَفْسَهُ وَيَحْبِي عُنْقَهُ وَيَفْتَرِشَ لَهُ مِسْحاً وَرَمَاداً، بَلْ أَنْ تَحُلَّ أَغْلالُ الْإِثْمِ، وَتَقْطَعَ رُبُطُ الظُّلْمِ، وَتُجَانِبَ الْمَكْرَ وَالغِشَّ، وَتُعْتِقَ الْمُسْتَعْبِدِينَ، وَتُكْسِرَ حُبْرَكَ لِلجَائِعِ، وَتُؤْوِيَ الْغَرِيبَ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ، وَتُنْصِفَ الْإِثْمَانَ وَالْأَرَامِلَ، وَلَا تَتَغاضَى عَنْ لَحْمِكَ وَدَمِكَ. فَإِنْ تَفَعَّلَ ذَلِكَ، فَيُشْرِقْ نُورُكَ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ، وَيُظْهِرَ بَرِّكَ سَرِيعاً، وَيُنْقِضَ ضِيَاؤُكَ مِثْلَ الصُّبْحِ، وَتَجْمَعَ كَرَامَةُ الرَّبِّ شَمْلَكَ، وَيُدَبِّرَكَ اللهُ تَدْبِيراً صَالِحاً، وَتَشْبَعُ نَفْسُكَ مِنَ الْخُضْبِ، وَتَصِيرَ كَالْبُسْتَانِ الَّذِي تَمُوجُ أَغْصَانُهُ نَضْرَةً، وَكَيُنْبُوعِ الْمَاءِ الَّذِي لَا يَنْقُطِعُ. وَتَبْنِي مِنْ خَبْرَاتِكَ الْخَرْبَ الَّتِي خَرِبْتَ مِنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ، وَتُقِيمَ الْأَسَاسَ الَّذِي سَقَطَ مِنْ أَوَائِلِ الزَّمَانِ".

القدّيس يوحنا فم الذهب

"ما نَسِيسُوعَ لِأَجْلِكَ،

وَأَنْتَ لَا تَحْيَا لِأَجْلِهِ!

أَعْطَاكَ دَمَهُ، وَحَيَاتَهُ، وَأَنْتَ

تَحْبِلُهُ، وَلَا تَعْطِيهِ قَلْبَكَ!

إِفْخَصْ عَمَقَ قَلْبِكَ... هَلْ

يَسْكُنُهُ اللهُ وَهَرَهُ؟؟؟

أَبُونَا يَعْقُوبُ الْكَبُوشِي



# عَيْنُنَا

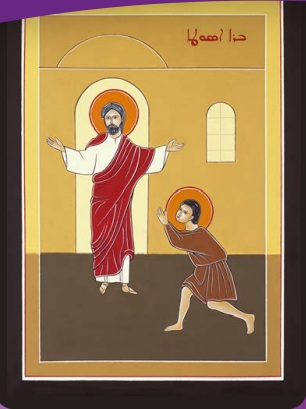
كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

عدد ١٨ | الأحد ٣ آذار ٢٠٢٤ | أحد مثل الابن الشاطر " هذا كان مِيتًا فَعاش، وَضَائِغًا فَوُجِدَ " لو ١٥: ١١-٣٢

## الإنجيل



قال الرب يسوع: " كان لِإِخْلُ ابْنان. فقال أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يا أباي، أَعْطِني حِصْتي مِنَ المِيراث. فَقسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَروَتُهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الابْنُ الأصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصْتيهِ، وَسافَرَ إلى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهناكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ في حَيَاةِ الطَّلَشِ. وَلَمَّا انْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَثَ في ذَلِكَ البَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسِ بِالْعُوزِ. فَهَربَ وَلَجاً إلى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ البَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إلى خُفولِهِ لِيَرْزِيَ الخَنَازِيرَ. وَكانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الخُرُوبِ الَّذِي كانَتِ الخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَرجَعَ إلى نَفْسِهِ وقالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الأَجْزَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضِلُ الخُبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا ههنا أَهْلُكَ جُوعاً! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضي إلى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يا أباي، خَطِئْتُ إلى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْني كأَحَدِ أَجْزائِكَ! فَقامَ وَجاءَ إلى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كانَ لا يَزَالُ بَعِيداً، رَأاهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَأَلْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فقالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يا أباي، خَطِئْتُ إلى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا... فقالَ الأبُ لِغَيبِيهِ: أَسرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الخَلَّةَ الفَاجِزَةَ وَالْبِشُومَ، واجْعَلُوا في يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفي رِجْلَيْهِ جِذَاءً، وَأَتُوا بِالِجِذْلِ المُسَمَّنِ واذْبُخُوهُ، وَلتَأْكُلْ وَتَتَنَعَّم! لَأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كانَ مِيتًا فَعاش، وَضَائِغًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَءُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكانَ ابْنُهُ الأَكْبَرُ في الحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جاءَ واقْتَرَبَ مِنَ البَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِناءَ وَرَقْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ العُلَمانِ وَسأَلَهُ: ما عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فقالَ لَهُ: جاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ العِجْلَ المُسَمَّنَ، لَأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجابَ وقالَ لِأَبِيهِ: ها أَنَا أَخْذُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السَّيِّئِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالَفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِني مَرَّةً جِذْيًا، لَأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْديقائي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَروَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ العِجْلَ المُسَمَّنَ! فقالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِي في كُلِّ جِينٍ، وَكُلُّ ما هُوَ لي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ تَتَنَعَّمَ وَتَفْرَحَ، لَأَنَّ أَخاكَ هَذَا كانَ مِيتًا فَعاش، وَضَائِغًا فَوُجِدَ ". لو ١٥: ١١-٣٢



أحد مثل الابن الشاطر

سفر زكريا ١٣: ٧-١٠  
٢ قو ٥: ١٣-١٠  
لو ١٥: ١١-٣٢

أما الابن الأكبر الراض مصالحة أخيه التائب والمشاركة في وليمة الفرح، بالرغم من إلحاح أبيه ومحاولة إقناعه، هو موقف مؤلم. ويدل على أن المصالحة بين الناس، وحتى بين الإخوة والأقارب، صعبة، وفي بعض الأحيان مستحيلة، بسبب تحجر القلوب وفقدان مشاعر الحنان والرحمة.

فلننضم بفحص ضمير جدِّي وصادق ومسؤول. ونسأل ذواتنا هل تركنا البيت الوالدي على مثال الابن الضال وذهبتنا لنعيش في غربته عن الأب الحنون الذي يُحبُّنا؟ هل نعرف بأن الله الذي خلَقنا بِدُونِ إرادتنا لا يُخلِّصنا بِدُونِ إرادتنا؟ هل نعلم بأن الأب ينتظرنا بِقَارِعِ الصَّيْرِ لِنَعُودَ إِلَيْهِ لا لِخَاسِبِنَا أو لِغَافِلِنَا أو لِذُلِّنا، بَلْ لِيَرُدَّ لَنَا ما أَضَعْنَاهُ بِاسْتِعْمالِنا حُرِّيَّتَنا لِمَا يَذُلُّنا وَيَحْقرُنا وَلِيَغْفِرَ خَطايانا؟. اليوم إذا سمعنا صوته فلا نُقسِّ قُلُوبَنا. فلنَشْجَعْ وَنأخُذْ خُطوَةً الألفِ مِيلٍ بِاتِّجاهِ بَيْتِنا الأبويِّ غَارِفِينَ أَنْ مَنْ يَنْتَظِرُنا هُوَ أَبٌ حَنُونٌ.



## صلاة

أهلاً يا رب، على مثال الابن الضال أن نفحص ضميرنا ونكتشف أخطاءنا للتوب عنها ونقصد ألا نعود إليها فنقبل بعضنا البعض بالمحبة والرحمة، آمين

## "غفرانهُ الأبِ"

الخطيئة تبدأ تعلُّقاً بالمخلوقات وابتعاد القلب والحياة عن خالقها. هي تعلُّق بعطايا الله ونسيان أو إنكار معطيها. هذا ظاهر في الابن الأصغر الذي طالب بحصته. فأخذها وسافر إلى بلد بعيد عن البيت الأبوي غائشاً على هَواه، مُبَدِّراً مَالَ أَبِيهِ وَتَعَبَ عَمَلِهِ على أُمُورٍ لا تَبني بَلْ تَهْدِمُ. إِفْتَقَرَ وَاشْتَهَى أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنْ أَكْلِ الخَنَازِيرِ، وَيَفْعَلِ هَذَا أَصْصَحَتِ الخَنَازِيرُ الَّتِي تُعْتَبَرُ في الدِّينِ اليَهُودِيِّ نَجِسَةً، أَصْصَحَتِ أَفْضَلَ مِنْهُ. عادَ هَذَا الابْنُ إلى نَفْسِهِ وَأَذَلَّ ذَاتَهُ بِعَوْدَتِهِ إلى أَبِيهِ وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَ لِيَكُونَ ابْنًا بَلْ أَجْبَرًا، لِيَعْمَلَ لَدَى أَبِيهِ قَيِّعِيشَ مُعْتَرِفاً بِخَطِيئَتِهِ عَلَيْهَا. لَكِنَّ الأبَ الَّذِي ظالَمَ انْتِظَارُهُ لِعَوْدَةِ ابْنِهِ، لَمَّا رَأاهُ تَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ وَأَلْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ على عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. وَقَبِلَ الأبُ أَنْ يَسْمَعَ مِنْهُ: "يا أباي، خَطِئْتُ إلى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ وَلا أَسْتَحِقُّ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا". وَلَكِنْ لَمْ يَدَعْهُ يُكْمَلْ ما كانَ يَعتَرِضُ قَوْلَهُ بِأَنْ يَجْعَلَهُ كأَحَدِ أَجْزائِهِ، أَعادَ هَذَا الأبُ الحَنُونُ كُلَّ الإِمْتِيازاتِ الَّتِي خَسِرَها ابْنُهُ وَأَعادَهُ ابْنًا يَفْرَحُ بِهِ قَرَحًا عَظِيمًا لَأَنَّهُ كانَ مِيتًا فَعاش، ضالًّا فَوُجِدَ.

## 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, Youssef Saed Ayoub, Hila Wadih Almansour (B) Milia Bou Raidan (C) (D) (E) Matthew Essey, Marta Esmail (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 Churri Khoudair, Tanious Elias Kassi and the deceased of his family, Genevieve Khouri and all the departed of Khouri & Elzahoul families, Wahideh Touma Kheme (L) (M) Youssef Maroon & his wife Ghoun, Therese Melhem, Betty Merhi, Bechara Boutrous Moussa, Robert Bechara Moussa, Rose Mulik & her family (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) Jamil & Labibi Roumanus and all their deceased family & friends (S) Youssef Mikhael Shaheen, Nabih Nassim Saad & Children Kevin & Emile Saad (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)

