



THE GOOD NEWS

FROM YOUR PARISH



OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL - HARRIS PARK

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE GLORIOUS CROSS

If you wish to be like Christ, call or look always for the cross.

St John of the Cross



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You blessed us all with a cross to carry, some heavier than others. In this season of the Holy Cross, we pray for those who have a heavy cross to carry. May you allow them to always offer up their crosses for your glory and may it lead them closer to heaven. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Mk 10: 35-45

THE EPISTLE

Brothers and sisters, You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David - that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

2Tim 2: 1-10

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES

OLOL Co-Cathedral, Harris Park

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

WEEKDAY HOLY LITURGIES

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7am, 9am & 6pm

Wed 7am, 9am & 5:30pm (Arabic)
7pm (English Youth)
Sat 7:30am & 6pm (Ar/Eng)

CONFESSIONS

By appointment
on weekdays

WEEKDAY DEVOTIONS

Rosary:
Mon - Sat
8:30am (Arabic)
7pm (English)
Divine Mercy followed by Rosary
Fri 7:30 pm
Adoration Hour:
Thursdays 8 pm - 9 pm
Live Streaming Through Social
Media

CONTACT

Fr Tony Sarkis (Dean): 0433 211 248
Fr Youwakim Noujaim 0406 060 445
Fr Danny Nough 0477 008 787
Fr John-Paul Bassil 0401 545 454
Fr Youssef Matta 0427 922 092
Fr Yuhanna Azize 0435 764 824
Fr Bernard Assil 0411 811 807
Fr Pierre Khoury 0411 735 258
Fr Paul Joubel 0414 900 016
Deacon Charbel Dib 0410 759 795
Deacon Robert - Pio Al Bayeh 0414 447 883
Subdeacon Ghassan Nakhoul 0410 524 335

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WHEN JESUS DOES NOT HEAL

It seems like a pretty insensitive question. The disciples come across a person who had been blind from birth and ask Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus, of course, sets them straight. This guy is not blind because he sinned. He is blind so that the work of God might be made manifest in him. And then—BOOM—Jesus heals him. Blindness, disease, misfortune—when we encounter these things it is not God sending down his wrath because we have been bad. God does not work that way. Jesus comes to bring life, to breathe healing. In this fallen and imperfect world, God allows us to experience trials and misfortune so that His work might be made manifest in us. But what about when Jesus does not heal?

Redemptive suffering, you say. It is the correct answer, but it is not an easy one. The whole point of this Christianity thing is that the path to heaven is the cross. We will all come to Calvary. We will all suffer. Yet, because of the Cross—because of Jesus—our suffering can have meaning. Our suffering is a part of our sanctification. It is meant to be offered up to Jesus in order to "complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions" (Colossians 1:24). Knowledge of this fact may not make the chemo easier or the grief hurt less, but at least, because of Jesus, we can do something with our suffering. We can give our hurt to Jesus. Not to make it hurt less, but to allow it to be used for good. Still, it is a bit difficult grappling with the fact that the same Jesus who healed the blind man sometimes allows us to continue in our blindness, our sickness or our pain without manifesting His power through a miraculous healing. Yet I also know that Jesus does not owe me anything. I know that on this side of heaven there will always be suffering. I really do not presume God to grant me miracles to reward my good behavior, and I know my struggles are not Jesus punishing me for bad behavior. Sometimes bad things just happen.

But if I am being totally honest, sometimes my "God doesn't owe me anything" attitude has less to do with faith than it does with just not trusting God all that much. I spout off fancy, two-dollar phrases like, "Redemptive Suffering," while on the inside, I am asking with the disciples, "Jesus, who sinned?"

TO FOLLOW

'Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?' (v38). To follow Jesus is no easy task, as we enter deeper into the Season of the Glorious Cross.

Can we follow Jesus? It means so much more than we realise. It is a total self-giving of ourselves. We will have to drink the cup of suffering in this world because Jesus' way is not the way of the world and so to follow him means to go out on a limb.

Jesus goes on to say, 'but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all' (vv43-44). In a culture where leading, climbing the ladder, succeeding and being served is strived for, the way of the Christian is to be one of humble service. It is to go into the fray, roll up our sleeves, get down and dirty, doing the things no one else would do, bending our knees and using elbow grease, to get things done. To listen to the needs of others and to serve them willingly and where necessary.

Even more so, Jesus says, 'For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many' (v45). So we are not only to drink the bitterness that life pours out, and not only to serve in humility one and all, but we are also to go all the way in self-sacrifice. To give our lives over to total love for others, in compassion and forgiveness, always to the very end of our days. Are you ready? Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn MSHF

Why did this have to happen?" After all, God causes it to rain on the righteous and the unrighteous alike? What, then, is even the point in praying? Is it all just essentially "points" and chugging along so that you can end up in the right place when you die? When my knee-jerk reaction to suffering or trials is, "Well, God doesn't owe me anything."



I think there is something sort of "off" in my relationship with God. The statement itself is true. God does not owe me anything. He has already given me everything and then some. Yet, God loves me with the love of the Father. When I am crushed in spirit, His response is never simply, "Well, remember, I don't owe you anything, Mary." It might not be in His perfect will to take my suffering away in the way that I am praying for, but it is not out of contempt or forgetfulness on God's part that miracles appear to not come. It is out of love.

God understands my pain. He wants me to draw near to Him in times of trial, not as some kind of test of my love for Him, but because He has a plan and purpose for every moment of my life. God causes all things to work together for my good—my ultimate good, yes, but the seldom spoken truth is that my ultimate good and my immediate good are actually not in opposition to one another. I once heard a priest (I think it was Father John Riccardo) say that the only thing that is going to happen at the end of our lives/at the end of time is that the veil separating us from seeing things as they truly are will be pulled away. It will not be that we suddenly will not remember the events in our lives that caused us great pain, we will just finally see them in their fullness. We will see where God was and what He was doing in our lives' greatest trials. We will see that God never abandoned us, not even in our weakest moments, He was drawing us closer to Himself.

Mary Pearson - Shalom Tidings

FACES OF OLOL - SD GHASSAN NAKHOUL

What encouraged you to take the steps to begin your vocation?

I heard the call to the priesthood since I was a little child. I did the first three years of my high school education at a seminary in Lebanon. Due to the war, the seminary had to close, and we were moved to another school. After my HSC, I wanted to experience life so I could discern better. I found that I was called to raise up a family. I met my wife at the university, we were classmates and together we raised a wonderful family. Yet, the longing to the vocation never left me. In every mass, right before the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, I see Jesus in the person of the priest who is at the altar, regardless of who that priest might be, looking right into my eyes and saying: "waynak? Where are you!" It took me many years to gather enough courage and say: "Here I am Lord.. Speak... your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3: 8-9)



What advice would you give to others who have a vocation?

This path requires a lot of courage. Pray, fast, meditate, persevere and never give up hope. You have also to have a fighting spirit! The Devil could be lurking for you at any dim corner of your journey. Two things the devil does not like: vocation to the consecrated life and vocation to start and raise up a family. Let Mary be your mother, let her take your hand so she can walk you through all the mazes and challenges of life. She is the mother of the priest. I read once those wonderful words of hers in a Marian Movement's book in which Our Lady speaks to the priests: "From your very mother's womb I have received you into my Immaculate Heart and, in life, I myself have arranged everything for you." She is definitely speaking to me!

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Maronite Church has now entered a new season in our liturgical calendar – the Season of the Glorious Cross. The Gospels of this season direct us towards suffering and the cross as instrument of our salvation.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we learn that two of the apostles, James and John, asked the Lord to be seated at His right hand and left hand. It seems to us to be a fairly bold request. But we should not forget that just before they make this request, St Mark tells us that as the apostles were going up to Jerusalem, the Lord took them aside and told them what would happen to Him: that He would be betrayed, condemned to death, mocked, scourged, spat on, and killed, but that on the third day He would rise again.

So when James and John made their request, they knew that Jesus was to suffer and also to overcome that suffering. They wished to be associated with the Lord as those closest to Him and sharing in the rule of His Kingdom. There was nothing greater that they could ask for.

Our Lord then tells them that they would share in the fullness of His experience: they would undergo the sufferings of both soul and body which He would face. James and John knew that the Lord meant they would suffer before entering into His glory, but they did not understand how much. They bravely replied to Him that they were able to share in what He was to suffer.

This was a great privilege. We cannot understand this passage if we do not see that the Lord and His apostles also saw being able to share in His sufferings as being a great privilege and a reward. This is the opposite of how we think of suffering.



The Lord then taught them this great truth, that suffering prepares us for the Kingdom of Heaven, by purifying us of selfishness and self-attachment, for "...whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant. And whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all." The Lord led the way by His example.

This suggests to us a way to make this Gospel reading practical for us: we can change the way we even think about service. Service is not a "chore" or something to be avoided, it is a sign of responsibility. And service for the sake of Our Lord and His Gospel is a sign of responsibility in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Friends, this Season of the Cross is an opportunity for us to reflect on the great love of the Lord demonstrated on the Cross. We must respond to this love which goes so far as to give his life for us by being ready as well to love Christ to the very end. And it is this love for Christ that will allow us to be the slaves of our brothers and sisters. It is this love for Christ that will allow us, too, to seek first the happiness of our brothers and sisters through unity and solidarity.

Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

TEEN'S CORNER



Dear Teens, how are you being a Christian witness in your daily life and amid the Covid pandemic? There have been many times before 2020 where pandemics threatened the world. The response of Christians then can show us something.

In the 2nd Century there was a pandemic brought to the Roman Empire that we now call the Antonine Plague. Historians think it was the measles or smallpox. It might have killed up to a third of the population in some areas. In the midst of this disaster, however, was a bright light. That light was Christ, in his body, the church.

Like in the later times of the 'Black Death' (the bubonic plague) many people tried to run, to escape from a disease which they could not contain. Christians had a different response. Instead of running, they knew they were commanded to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Caring for the sick, offering prayer and staying behind in companionship, Christians made a name for themselves across the Roman Empire. This is one reason why the Gospel is believed to have spread so quickly across Europe.

What can we take away from this today? Here is one lesson: Do not underestimate the power of your Christian witness. Like those Christians during times of pandemic and plague, are you standing by your friends when they have a rough time? When you see your parents are stressed or exhausted from a long day at work, do you offer an extra hand with the dishes or vacuuming?

Every small act of charity has its reward. Heroic acts too. The 14 year old Saint José Sánchez, a teenager like you, gave up his life for Christ the King. Let us ask for his intercession that we might share his courage and the compassion of those early Christians to be a light in this darkened world.

Gabriel khaicy

KIDS CORNER

Mark 10:35-45

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O E E				S E S				O E O E				E A													
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SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Padre Pio

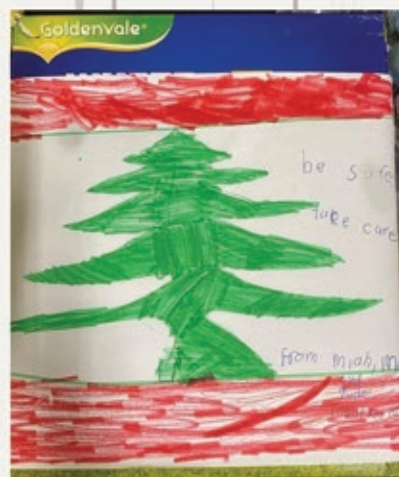


Padre Pio (Francesco Forgione) was born in the small farming town of Pietrelcina, Italy on May 25, 1887. Although the Forgiones were poor in material goods, they were certainly rich in their faith life and in the love of God. As a young boy, Francesco had already shown signs of extraordinary gifts of grace. At the age of five, he dedicated his life to God. His mother described him as a quiet child who, from his earliest years, loved to go to church and to pray. He was able to see and communicate with, not only his guardian angel but also with Jesus and the Virgin Mary. In his simplicity, Francesco assumed everyone had the same experiences. When Francesco was fifteen years old, he was admitted to the novitiate of the Capuchin Order of the Friars Minor in Morcone, Italy. One of the novices stated, "There was something which distinguished him from the other students. He was always humble, recollected, and silent. What struck me most about Brother Pio was his love of prayer."

On August 10, 1910, at the age of twenty-three, Padre Pio was ordained to the priesthood. Everything about him spoke of how intensely he was living the Passion of Christ. The parish priest in Pietrelcina called Padre Pio's Mass, "an incomprehensible mystery." He prayed almost continuously. His prayers were usually very simple. He loved to pray the Rosary and recommended it to others. To someone who asked him what legacy he wished to leave to his spiritual children, his brief reply was, "My child, the Rosary." He had a special mission to the souls in Purgatory and encouraged everyone to pray for them. He used to say, "We must empty Purgatory with our prayers." Whilst Padre Pio was kneeling in front of a large crucifix deep in prayer, he felt pain in his hands and feet. He noticed the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, the experience was painful and bleeding occurred. The wounds smelled of roses, and although they continued to weep, they never became infected. Doctors who later examined the stigmata were amazed at their perfectly round shape. Padre Pio became internationally famous. He was known for his piety, charity and the quality of his preaching. He famously advised, "Pray, hope and don't worry." Pope John Paul II recognized Padre Pio as a saint on June 16, 2002. His feast day is September 23. He is the patron of civil defense volunteers, adolescents, and the village of Pietrelcina.

BENEATH THE CROSS,
ONE LEARNS TO LOVE

PARISH CAMERA



Special messages of love and support for our homeland Lebanon which are being sent with donations. Thank you all for your generosity!



PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Sunday 20 September: 1st Sunday after the Glorious Cross

11:00 One year George Chebat from Daraya

5:00 40 Day Antonios Ibrahim from Fradiss

Wednesday 23 September

7:00pm Jamilee Kamel Jabbour Tanna widow of the late

Tannous Hanna Ghaleb Joseph from Kfarsghab

Thursday 24 September

6:00pm Soussan Naoum widow of the late Habib Reman

from Miziara (died in Lebanon)

Saturday 26 September: St John the Beloved

6:00pm 40 Day Emile Tadros Hauchab from Bekaakafra

Sunday 27 September: 2nd Sunday after the Glorious Cross

8:00am All living and departed of Karm El Mohr for the Feast of St Moura

11:00am 40 Day John Griego Bakhos from Hadchit

5:00pm 40 Day Mikhael Assaad Bourizk from Kfaryachit

الأحد ٢٠ أيلول: الأحد الأول بعد عيد الصليب

١١:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم جورج شباط من داريا

٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم أنطونيوس إبراهيم من الفراديس

الأربعاء ٢٣ أيلول

٧:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة جميلة كامل جبور التنا أرملة المرحوم طنوس حنا

غالب جوزيف من كفرصغاب

الخميس ٢٤ أيلول

٦:٠٠ المرحومة سوسان نعوم أرملة المرحوم حبيب رمان من مزيارة

(متوفاة في لبنان)

السبت ٢٦ أيلول: مار يوحنا الحبيب

٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم إميل تادروس حوشب من بقاعكفرا

الأحد ٢٧ أيلول: الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب

٨:٠٠ قداس على نية أحياء وأموات كرم المهر في الوطن وبلاد

الانتشار بمناسبة عيد القديسة مورا

١١:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم جون جريج باخوس من حدشيت

٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم مخايل أسعد بو رزق من كفرياشيت

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Harris Park

Contact: Deacon Robert - Pio Albayeh
0414 447 883

Charlie Mejalli - 0410 306 009

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لأحمل صليبي بفرح

لاحظت الأرملة الجميلة أولادها الصغار يهربون من أمام وجهها عندما تعود من عملها مرهقة للغاية. تساءلت في نفسها: لماذا أحمل هذا الصليب الثقيل؟ لقد مات زوجي الحبيب وأنا في ريعان شبابي، تاركاً لي ثلاثة أطفال، وها أنا أكذب وأشقى كل يوم، ولا تفارق العبوسة وجهي. كرهني الجميع، حتى أطفالي يهربون من وجهي. إنني لا أحتملهم وهم يلعبون ويلهون... ولكن ما ذنبي؟ صليبي أثقل من أن يحتمل!

ركعت الأرملة في إحدى الليالي تطلب من الله أن يأخذ نفسها منها، فإن صليبيها لا يحتمل. وإذا نامت رأت في حلم أنها في غرفة مملوءة صليباناً. بعضها كبير والآخر صغير، بعضها أبيض والآخر أسود، وقد وقف بجوارها السيد المسيح الذي تطلع إليها في حنو وقال لها: لماذا تنزمرين؟ أعطني صليبيك الذي هو ثقيل جداً عليك، وأختاري لنفسك صليباً من هذه الصليبان التي أمامك، لكي يسندك حتى تجتازي هذه الحياة. إذ سمعت الأرملة هذه الكلمات قذمت صليبيها بين يدي السيد المسيح، صليب حزنها المر، ومدت يدها لتحمل صليباً صغيراً يبدو أنه خفيف. لكن ما أن رفعته حتى وجدته ثقيلاً للغاية. سألت عن هذا الصليب، فأجابها السيد المسيح: هذا صليب شابة أصيبت بالفالج في سن مبكرة وستظل كسيحة كل أيامها، لا ترى الطبيعة بكل جمالها. ويندر أن يلتقي بها صديق يعينها أو يواسيها. تعجبت الأرملة لما سمعته، وسألت السيد المسيح: ولماذا يبدو الصليب صغيراً وخفيفاً؟ أجابها السيد المسيح: لأن صاحبه تتقبله بشكر وتحتمله من أجلي فتجده صغيراً للغاية وخفيفاً. تحركت الأرملة نحو صليب آخر يبدو أيضاً صغيراً وخفيفاً، لكنها ما أن أمسكت به حتى شعرت كأنه قطعة حديد ملتهبة ناراً. صرخت الأرملة: صليب من هذا يا سيدي؟

أجابها السيد المسيح: إنه صليب سيدة زوجها رجل شرير للغاية عتيف جداً معها ومع أولادها... لكنها تحتمله وتصلّي لأجل خلاص نفسه. انطلقت نحو صليب ثالث يبدو أيضاً كأنه صغير وخفيف، لكن ما أن أمسته حتى وجدته كقطعة جليد. صرخت: صليب من هذا يا سيدي؟ أجابها: هذا صليب أم فقدت أولادها الستة... ومع كل ولد ينتقل ترفع قلبها إلى تطلب التعزية. وها هي تنتظر خروجها من العالم بفرح لتلتقي معهم في فردوس النعيم! انطرحت الأرملة أمام مخلصها وهي تقول: ساحمل صليبي الذي سمحت لي به. لكن، لتحمله أنت معي أيها المصلوب، أنت تحول آلامي إلى عذوبة، أنت تحول مرارتي إلى حلاوة. لأحمل معك صليبيك بشكر، ولتحمل أنت معي صليبي يا مخلص نفسي..

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الشدياق غسان نخول



كيف علمت أن الرب يدعوك للعمل في حقلة؟

سمعت النداء للكهنوت منذ أن كنت طفلاً صغيراً. أكملت السنوات الثلاث الأولى من دراستي الثانوية في اكليركية في لبنان. بسبب الحرب، اضطرت اكليركية إلى إغلاق، وتم نقلنا إلى مدرسة أخرى. بعد الحصول على شهادة الثانوية العامة، أرادت تجربة الحياة حتى أستطيع التمييز بشكل أفضل. فوجدت أن دعوتي هي إنشاء عائلة. التقيت بزوجتي في الجامعة ومعاً انشأنا عائلة رائعة. ومع ذلك، لم يفارقني شوقي إلى دعوة الكهنوت. في كل قداس، مباشرة قبل تحويل الخبز والخمر إلى جسد المسيح ودمه، أرى يسوع في شخص الكاهن الموجود على المذبح، بغض النظر عن قد يكون هذا الكاهن، ينظر مباشرة في عيني و قائلاً: وينك؟ أين أنت؟! لقد استغرق الأمر مني سنوات عديدة لأجمع ما يكفي من الشجاعة وأقول: "أنا هنا يا رب .. تكلم ... عبدك يستمع."

(١ صموئيل ٣: ٨-٩)

ما هي النصيحة التي تعطيها للذين يشعرون بدعوة الرب لهم؟

هذا الطريق يتطلب الكثير من الشجاعة. صلوا، صوموا، تأملوا، ثابروا ولا تفقدوا الأمل أبداً. يجب أن يكون لديكم أيضاً روح قتالية فالشيطان مترصد لكم ليعيق وصولكم. شيطان لا يحبهما الشيطان: الدعوة إلى الحياة المكرسة، والدعوة إلى تكوين الأسرة وتبنيها. دعوا العذراء تكون أمكم، دعوها تمسك بيديكم حتى تتمكن من إرشادكم على الطريق وتساعدكم على مواجهة الصعوبات وتحديات الحياة. هي أم ال كهنة. لقد قرأت ذات مرة هذا الكلام الرائع الذي تحدثت فيه مع الكهنة: "من بطن أمك استقبلتك في قلبي الطاهر، وفي الحياة، قمت بنفسي بترتيب كل شيء من أجلك." هي بالتأكيد تتحدث معي!

وينك؟ أين أنت!

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) Milian Bou Raidan (C) (D) (E) Matthew Essey (F) (G) Helen George & Majid George (H) Anis Jamil Haddad, Madeline & Paul Haddad and their Son Joseph and their daughter Colleen George, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad (I) (J) Charbel Jabbour (K) Tanios Elias Kazzi & Family, Sarkis Chucir Khoudair (L) (M) Boutros & Johra Moussa and their daughter Malki, Youssef & Ghssoun Maroon, Therese Melhem, Bechara Boutros Moussa, Robert Bechara Moussa, Jamal Mousa & all faithful departed of Moussa family, Anthony Marmah Salim Moussa (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) Jamil & Labibe Roumanus (S) Youssef Mikhael Shaheen, Nabih Nassim Saad & Family (T) Rahib Saad Tannous & Family (U) (V) (W) Ray Wehbe Wehbe (X) (Y) Mrs Sayde Simaan Yazbeck & husband Mr Loutfallah Mokdassi (Z)



في الأحد الأول بعد عيد ارتفاع الصليب الممجد، بحسب طقس كنيسةنا المارونية، نجد أنفسنا أمام تحديات يواجهنا بها مقطع من الإنجيل، وهي تحديات تحاكي واقع مجتمعنا اليوم أينما كنا، سواء هنا في أستراليا أو في لبنان أو في أي بلد آخر على وجه الأرض.

إنجيل هذا الأحد يسير عكس التيار السائد في عالمنا اليوم، كاشفاً لنا عن واقع يتناقض مع كل ما يعلمه المجتمع، وكل ما تدأب المعاهد والجامعات على إملائه على طلابها عن القيادة، ومقدماً لنا شرعة مختلفة عن كيفية عيش حياتنا المسيحية. عندما نقرأ قول يسوع لنا: "من أراد أن يكون فيكم عظيماً فليكن لكم خادماً"، قد نتساءل: "هل يعرف هذا الرجل حقاً ما يقوله؟" من يأمرنا في هذه الأيام وهذا الزمن أن نكون "خدماً" أو "عبيداً"؟ ألا يشجعنا الجميع على أن نكون قادة أقوياء؟ لا بل، يتحدثوننا دائماً لأن نصل إلى القمة بأي ثمن، سواء عبر المركز، الشهرة، المال، السلطة أو حتى بظلم الآخرين، مع الأسف. أما يسوع فقد جاء ليعلمنا طريقة جديدة للوصول إلى القمة. علمنا أنه يجب أن نخدم كل إنسان بمحبة. علمنا أنه يجب أن نتواضع لا أن نسعى للوصول إلى قمة المؤسسة التي نعمل فيها، بل إلى القمة القصوى وهي ملكوت الله.

"من أراد أن يكون فيكم عظيماً فليكن لكم خادماً"، نستور ونهج حياة من الصعب اتباعه، لكنها كلمات قائد حقيقي. إذا توقفنا وتأملنا لحظة بهذه الكلمات، نستطيع أن نرى كم كان يسوع محقاً. فلنكن صريحين، من تفضلون أن يكون قائدكم؟ أفضّلون شخصاً متعجرفاً، مغروراً أو أنانياً يفخر بذاته ولا يهتم سوى المرتبة والمركز؟! وما أكثر أمثال هؤلاء في هذا الزمن! أم تفضلون شخصاً متواضعاً، لطيفاً، سخيّاً، محباً يحترم رأيكم وحرمتكم وكرامتكم؟!!

من جهتي، أختار الشخص الثاني، أختار شخصاً مثل يسوع، القائد الحقيقي. فلننظر إلى ربنا دائماً على أنه المثال الأعلى ولنعيش كلمته فعلاً ونبشر بها في كل ما نفعل ونقول. والقادة الحقيقيون هم أنتم أبناء وبنات رعيّتنا الأعزاء، من خلال عملكم وكرمكم ومد يد العون إلى كل محتاج، وخاصة إلى أهلنا في وطن الأرز لبنان. كل الشكر لكم، والرب الإله يعطيكم نعم السماء وخير الأرض. والشكر للجنة Heaven on Earth في الرعاية لتتسبب هذا العمل. وبفضل الجميع، استطاعت الأبرشية جمع ما يقارب أربع حاويات (containers) من المساعدات التي ستصل إلى من هم بحاجة ماسة لها. فليبارككم الرب أيها القادة!

ولا بد من الإشارة إلى أن المساعدات مستمرة والدعم سيستمر لأن المحنة الكبرى التي يتخبط فيها لبنان ليست بسيطة أو عابرة. المساعدات ستستمر من خلال الصناديق الموجودة على مدخل الكنيسة، ومن خلال التبرع الآن بلوازم القرطاسية المدرسية خلال هذا الأسبوع فقط. الدعوة مفتوحة لكي نكون قادة للأعمال الخيرية لأجل مجد الله الموجود في كل إنسان. النشاط الرعوي يعود تدريجاً إلى قلب الرعاية مع الحفاظ على كل التدابير الوقائية.

وفي هذه الظروف أحثكم على بذل الجهد في حياتكم الروحية خاصة في المشاركة بالقداس الإلهي عبر وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي، على رجاء العودة الكاملة إلى كنيسة الرعاية، متذكّرين بأن الرب حاضر دائماً معنا وبيننا، لأنه القائد الحقيقي الوحيد، وهو يعرف حق المعرفة ماذا يفعل.

الخوري طوني سركيس

تأمل من وحي الإنجيل

غريبٌ أمرُ يعقوب ويوحنا! فهما كانا حاضرين مع المسيح خلال تجليّه على جبل طابور، يطلبان منه في هذا النصّ الجلوس عن يمينه وشماله. الغريب أيضاً هو أمر التلاميذ الذين إغتاظوا من يعقوب ويوحنا. أليس مشككاً أمرهم؟ ألا يدفعنا إلى الهروب والتخلّي عن إيماننا؟ أليس هذا ما يحدث عندما يخطئ الكاهن أو نظنّه هكذا فننتخلى عن ممارسة إيماننا بحجة ضعفه؟ مرقس التبشير لم يخف من إظهار الرّسل بهذه الحالة، حالة الغيرة وحُبّ المناصب، ليقول وليؤكد أن يسوع لم يختار رسلاً كاملين بل إختار رسلاً ينتمون إلى عامّة الشعب لكن المسيح رافقهم وعلمهم وأظهر لهم جوهر الصليب وهو جوهر الخدمة والتواضع. مسيرة الايمان هي مسيرة نضج روحي وإنساني تعترضه الكثير من الصعاب، لذا على المؤمن ألا يخاف من ضعفه وجهله بل أن يضع نفسه بين يدي الرب كما هو والربّ هو الذي يغيرنا بنعمته الحاضرة فينا.



هل يعرف هذا

الرجل حقاً ما يقوله؟

لو كنت طبيباً، قد يتهمك الناس بأنك تضرر خلف هذه الطيبة أمراً سيئاً...، كن طبيباً على أي حال. لو كنت صريحاً وواضحاً قد يخذعك الناس...، كن صريحاً وواضحاً على أي حال. ما تبنيه في سنين عديدة، قد يأتي من يهدمه في ليلة...، إبن على أي حال. الخير الذي تفعله اليوم، سينساه الناس غداً... افعل الخير على أي حال. أعط العالم خير ما عندك على أي حال...، ففي النهاية الأمر بينك وبين ربك... ولم يكن الأمر بينك وبين الناس على أي حال...!

القديسة الأم تريزا دي كالكوتا



الخبر السار من رعيّتك



الأحد الأول بعد عيد الصليب

إِنَّ كَلِمَةَ الصَّليبِ عِنْدَ الْهَالِكِينَ جَهَالَةٌ، وَأَمَّا عِنْدَنَا نَحْنُ الْمُخَلَّصِينَ فَهِيَ قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ

١ كور ١: ١٨

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

الإنجيل

الرسالة

يا إخوتي، أنت يا ابني، تشدّد بالنعمة التي في المسيح يسوع. وما سمعته مِنِّي بِخُصُورِ شُهُودٍ كَثِيرِينَ، اسْتَوْدَعُهُ أَنَا سَأْمَنَاءُ، جَدِيرِينَ هُمْ أَيْضًا بِأَنْ يُعَلِّمُوا غَيْرَهُمْ. شَارِكُنِي فِي اخْتِمَالِ الْمَشَقَّاتِ كَجُنْدِيٍّ صَالِحٍ لِلْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. وَمَا مِنْ جُنْدِيٍّ يَنْهَمِكُ فِي الْأُمُورِ الْمَعِيشِيَّةِ، إِذَا أَرَادَ أَنْ يُرْضِيَ مَنْ جَنَّدَهُ. وَمَنْ يُصَارِعُ لَا يَنَالُ إِكْلِيلًا إِلَّا إِذَا صَارَعَ بِحَسَبِ الْأُصُولِ. وَالْحَارِثُ الَّذِي يَتَغَبَّ لَهُ الْحَقُّ بِالنَّصِيبِ الْأَوَّلِ مِنَ الثَّمَرِ. تَأْمَلْ فِي مَا أَقُولُ: وَالرَّبُّ سَيُعْطِيكَ فَهْمًا فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ! تَذَكَّرْ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ الَّذِي قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَهُوَ مِنْ نَسْلِ دَاوُدَ، بِحَسَبِ إِنْجِيلِي.



صلاة

أيها الإبن السماوي، نرفع قلوبنا إلى العلى لتمدنا بالرجاء وتنفعنا بروحك المعزّي فنغلب كلّ الصعاب ونتابع تأدية دورنا في بناء الملكوت السماوي فيتمجد بنا إسمك القدوس مع أبيك وروحك القدوس، من الآن وإلى الأبد، آمين.

٢ طيم ١: ١٠-١١

لِيُخَذَمَ، بَلْ لِيُخَذَمَ، وَيَبْذُلَ نَفْسَهُ فِدَاءً عَنْ كَثِيرِينَ.

مر ١٠: ٣٥-٤٥

قُدَّاسَاتِ يَوْمِ الْأَحَدِ

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك ٨:٠٠ (عربي) ٩:٣٠ (إنكليزي) ١١:٠٠ (عربي، إنكليزي) ٥:٠٠ (عربي، إنكليزي) ٧:٠٠ (إنكليزي)

قُدَّاسَاتِ الْأُسْبُوعِ

الاثنين، الثلاثاء، الخميس والجمعة: ٧:٠٠ و ٩:٠٠ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً؛ الأربعاء: ٧:٠٠ و ٩:٠٠ صباحاً، ٥:٣٠ و ٧:٠٠ مساءً؛ السبت: ٧:٣٠ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً

الإعترافات

بتحديد موعد خلال أيام الأسبوع

ساعات السجود

ساعة سجود: كل يوم خميس ٨:٠٠ - ٩:٠٠ مساءً من خلال البث المباشر عبر وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي