

OUR PARISH

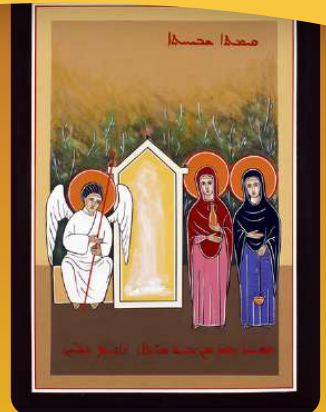
Our Lady of Lebanon Co-cathedral - Harris Park

Issue 25 | Sunday 23 April 2023 | Third Sunday of the Resurrection "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Lk 24: 13-35



THE GOSPEL

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the Scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread Lk 24:13-35



Third Sunday of the Resurrection

Job 42: 1-6, 12

2Tim 2: 8-13

Lk 24: 13-35

Message from the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the third Sunday of the Resurrection, the Maronite Church guides us to reflect on the encounter of the disciples with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Jesus sets their hearts on fire by breaking open the Scriptures, but it is when He breaks the bread that their eyes are opened to who Jesus really is.

In this story, recounted in Luke's Gospel, the disciples provide us with a model of how to meet Jesus in our own lives, captured in three key words: **walk, listen and celebrate**.

The first step on our spiritual journey to encounter Jesus is to get moving. We cannot simply desire this meeting; we must take the time to reflect on our daily lives and share our aspirations and fears with others, as the disciples of Emmaus did with one another, and then with Jesus when he joined them.

Next is listening to the Word of God. Through this, the



disciples of Emmaus were able to understand what had happened and enter into God's plan for His people. Guided by Jesus Himself, the Spirit enlightened their minds and caused their hearts to burn within them.

Finally, the disciples were blessed with the living presence of Jesus. We too are invited to break bread with Jesus in faith. At each mass, we have a special meeting with Him where we bring our concerns and allow ourselves to be taught by the Word of God and nourished by His Body.

I ask you to pray with me to our Lord Jesus Christ, so that like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, He may stay with us that we may recognise Him as the Bread of Life, the One who sustains us on our journey. May we always encounter Jesus in Scripture and the Mass, and be sent forth to proclaim with the Apostles, "The Lord has truly been raised" (Luke 24:34).

Feast of St George and Jubilee Year

On this Sunday, we commemorate the Feast of Saint George, a Roman soldier who was martyred for his Christian beliefs in Lydda, which is today in modern-day Palestine, in 303 AD. He was subjected to torture and ultimately beheaded for his faith.

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES

LOLOL 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

CONTACT

Fr Tony Sarkis (Dean): 0433 211 248
Fr Youwakim Noujaim: 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 Bernard Assi: 0411 811 807
Fr Pierre Khoury: 0411 735 258
Fr Paul Joubair: 0414 900 016
Dcn Ron Hassarati: 0403 504 384
Dcn Ghassan Nakhoul: 0410 524 335
Dcn Sayed Isaac: 0422 886 062

Parish Office:

9689 2899

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday
9am - 4:30pm

Saturday
9am - 1pm

Fax: 9689 2068

Email: info@lolol.org.au

Website: www.lolol.org.au

Let us pray for the intercession of St George, so that we may always have the courage to remain faithful to Christ in all circumstances.

As we continue to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Eparchy, the relics of our saints are currently at St George Maronite Parish where they remain until Saturday 29 April for the Feast Week celebrations, for prayer and veneration. It is a

joy to be able to celebrate St George Feast mass on Sunday with the wonderful parish community there.

Just as the disciples on the Road to Emmaus were transformed by their encounter with Jesus, so too let us be transformed by our encounters with Christ, inspired by the example of St George and all the saints.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Slow of heart, or a burning heart?

It is remarkable to observe just how much God can do with so very little. Like a piece of raw timber in the hands of a carpenter, waiting to be chiselled into something magnificent, or the transformation of fishermen into disciples of the Lord and preachers to all nations. Yet, these same disciples were still paralysed by the death of their promised Messiah, until He returned and opened their eyes to God's plan of salvation. This is the fear and paralysis that many of us experience when we don't understand why certain things happen to us or to others. Fear of the unknown is paralysing, unless we trust in God, unconditionally.

Over six decades ago, as a frightened and shy immigrant to Australia, I had to learn a new language and adapt to the rejection and name-calling which became a daily ritual at school. Perhaps this set the foundations for my fighting spirit to survive in the coming years. It certainly gave me a hunger to learn and aspire to achieve more in life. From these past experiences I found myself instinctively defending anyone who was being treated unfairly, or helping those in need of assistance. It became clear to me, as I grew in maturity and wisdom, that God had allowed me to carry many crosses so that I may know how to help others in carrying theirs. Jesus, my Lord and my God, was always with me even when I thought he was 'dead'. I guess this is how the disciples may have felt in their darkness of soul and spirit.

We easily forget how much God can do with 'nothing' and rather than recalling His promises, we tend to focus on the negatives before us, until He opens our eyes. The Carpenter

and His chisel are at work in us every day, and our hearts should continue to burn each time we receive the Sacraments and hear the Word of God. The Fountain of Mercy and Love is the shelter and refuge we seek. He alone is the True Light into which our journey must lead. It has been empowering for me to serve Him as I do, in my own little part of the world. He died so that all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. He rose from the dead to reaffirm His promise, and we must continue to bear witness to this.

The "little flower" Saint Therese, inspires me with a verse: "The greatest honor that God can do for a soul is **not** to give it much, but to ask much of it." Only a burning heart can accept such an honor.

Salwa Elias

QUESTION

In what sense is the life of Christ a Mystery?



ANSWER

The entire life of Christ is a revelation. What was visible in the earthly life of Jesus leads us to the invisible mystery of his divine sonship: "whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Furthermore, even though salvation comes completely from the cross and the resurrection, the entire life of Christ is a mystery of redemption because everything that Jesus did, said, and suffered had for its aim the salvation of fallen human beings and the restoration of their vocation as children of God



UPCOMING EVENTS

6-WEEK COURSE
SIMON CARRINGTON PRESENTS
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY
Awaken Your Desire
Weekly from 7pm to 10pm
Thur 11th May - Thur 15th Jun 2023
Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral
40 Alice St, Harris Park NSW 2150
Cost (Incl. dinner, refreshments and consultations):
Price: \$80 for the full 6-week program
Registrations: George @ 0423451722




**ANZAC DAY MASS**
Tuesday 25th of April 2023 at 5:30 am
Celebrated by His Excellency **Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**
Followed by Australian Breakfast

Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
21 May 2023
Parish Hall
Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral
from 8:30am
Entry: \$30PP
• \$10 5-12yrs
• Under 5 is free
Raffle, Food & Activities for Kids!
Donate Via the Link on Parish and MYD Socials

OLOL Vocations Group
"Come follow Me" - Mt 4:19
Do you feel called to serve the Lord?
Do you feel a calling to the Priesthood?
Prayer | Fellowship
Our Next Event: 6 May 2023
10AM | OLOL
Contact: Joseph Khoury 0405 122 064

BLOOD donations
MAY 2023
Tuesday 2nd | 6:45pm
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: The average adult has about 10 pints of blood, but a typical whole-blood donation is only 1 pint.



PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Sunday 23 April:

3rd Sunday of Resurrection – St George

11:00am One Year Mass for the late Hanna Doumit Katrib from Karem Al Mohr

5:00pm All living and departed of Zghartaghine for the Feast of St George

Tuesday 25 April:

Anzac Day

Masses 5:30am, 9:00am & 6:00pm

5:30am Anzac Day Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Wednesday 26 April:

5:30pm 40 Day Mass for the late Wardan Boumelhem from Imar

Thursday 27 April:

6:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Roumanos Boutros Kraizza from Hadchit

Saturday 29 April:

6:00pm One Year Mass for the late Maroun Nayef Younan from Wadi Qannoubine

Sunday 30 April:

4th Sunday of Resurrection

11:00am One year Mass for the late Salim Antonios Tadros from Kfaryachit

3:00pm Mass of thanksgiving on the announcement of beatification of the Venerable Patriarch Estephan Douaihy celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, offered by The Association of Zgharta Youssef Bey Karam Batal Lebanon

5:00pm One Year Mass for the late Nadia Zghaib widow of the late Fouad Sassine from Zahle

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION & LOANS REPAYMENTS

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS For week ending: 16/04/2023

Plates: \$13,612 & **Easter Week** \$51,662

Donations: \$800 | **Candles:** \$1,942

PARISH LOANS

CYPC: \$3,470,255

UNITS: \$1,143,047

MONTHLY LOAN REPAYMENTS

CYPC: \$36,268 POST-COVID INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

UNITS: \$11,899 POST-COVID INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

WHAT HAPPENED IN YOUR PARISH



What's happening in your parish? Well, it only takes a few small steps into our doors (& social media pages) to find out!

Community Language Teachers Annual Conference 2023

During the school holidays, the OLOL Arabic School teachers, along with Sister Rita, attended the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools Annual Conference at the University of Technology. It was a great day of professional learning for over 500 community languages teachers, principals and school leaders. New and updated teaching approaches and ideas will further assist in teaching our heritage language to the OLOL community

Senior's Committee

Recently, we celebrated our annual Easter Mass with Father Sam & Father Paul, along with the Sodality members. Our precious seniors were in attendance, and they enjoyed a wonderful lunch and entertainment. Praise be to God, it was truly a wonderful day. We always look forward to seeing our beloved seniors every second Thursday. May the blessings of Easter fill our hearts and homes with joy and peace

On Tuesday

Fr Andraos Faraj led the Family of Divine Word talk and explored on the topic "the hymn of victory"

OLOL Family Committee & Heaven on Earth

The Family Committee had the privilege of assisting the Heaven on Earth committee last week with their weekly mission of providing food for the needy and homeless in Parramatta. HoE has been serving the homeless in this area for over 13 years, and it was an honor to work alongside them.

The experience reminded us of the passage in Matthew 25:31-46, "Whatsoever You Do to the Least of My Brothers You Do unto Me."

We are grateful for the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need and look forward to continuing to support the mission of Heaven on Earth.

Keep up to date with all spiritual and social initiatives of your parish by checking our social media platforms, keeping your ears peeled to the latest parish announcements and being subscribed to our newsletter.

Last Sunday

At 3pm we celebrated the Feast of Divine Mercy with stations of the cross, confession and Mass

On Wednesday

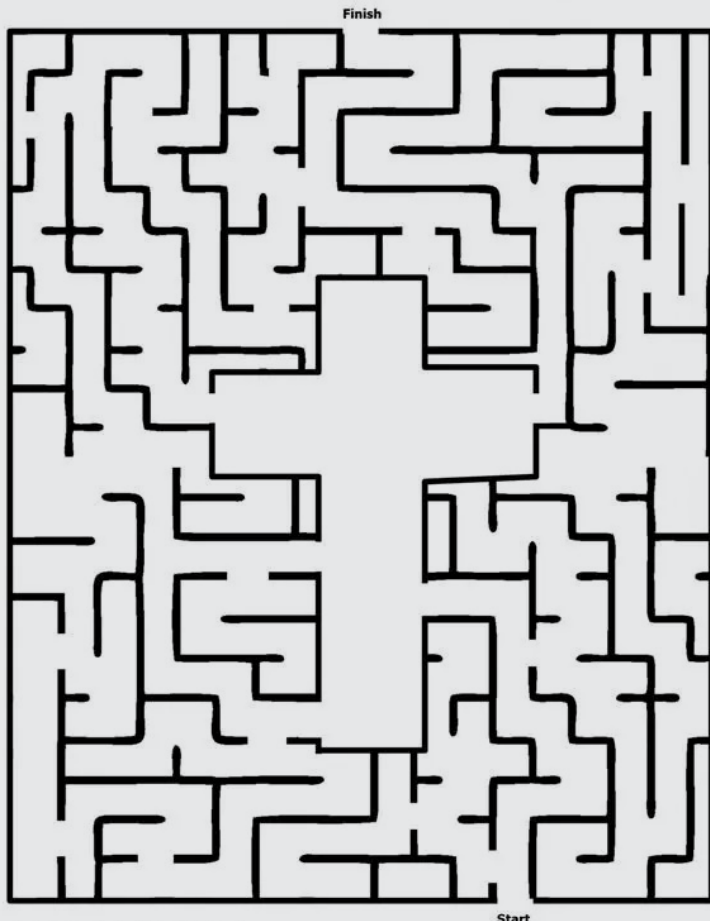
Our youth came together with Fr Charbel for English Faith Formation. Our talk was on "how do we know our works are good and come from God". This topic helped those wanting to become more confident in the works they do and knowing how to use them to praise God

On Thursday

Many discerning the call to the priesthood, or a vocation came together for Mass, a talk held by Fr Robert-Pio and Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament. We pray for all our priests and for all those who are discerning a vocation

KIDS CORNER

Cross Maze Activity Page



Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral's

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL'S

A Grand Salute

GALA DINNER

Date & Time

Saturday, 27th May 2023 | 7pm

Venue

Doltone House | 121-133 Prairie Vale Road, Bossley Park

Dress Code

Formal

Price

\$175pp

Tickets to be pre-sold

Cause

To Support Parish Pastoral Activities & Development

Special Guest Star

Rob Shehadie

Contacts for Tickets/Tables

Anthony Yacoub | 0405 717 163

Peter Semaan | 0411 300 891

Tina Salame | 0448 247 336

Church Reception | 9689 2899

Presenting Partner (1 only) at \$22,000

- Company Logo to appear on Official Website and Newsletter for April/May/June
- Company Logo to appear on Official Facebook page for April/May/June
- 2x Complimentary Corporate Table of 10 with company logo, valued at \$3,850 each
- Recognised as Presenting Partner in Official Program for the night
- Entitled to a full-colour page on inside front cover of Official Program
- Recognised on the Powerpoint Presentation as Presenting Partner for the Night
- Officially acknowledged by MC as Presenting Partner
- Acknowledged in any press-related and marketing material for the event

Diamond Sponsors at \$11,000

- Company Logo to appear on Official Website & Newsletter for April/May/June
- Company Logo to appear on Official Facebook Page for April/May/June
- Complimentary Corporate Table of 10 with Company Logo, valued at \$3,850
- Recognised as Diamond Sponsor in Official Program for the Night
- Entitled to half-colour page in Official Program
- Recognised on Powerpoint Presentation as Diamond Sponsor
- Officially acknowledged by MC
- Thanked as part of Main Address

Gold Sponsors at \$5,500

- Company Logo to appear on Official Website for April/May
- Complimentary Corporate Table of 10 with Company Logo, valued at \$3,850
- Recognised as Gold Sponsor in Official Program for the Night
- Entitled to quarter-colour page in Official Program
- Recognised on Powerpoint Presentation as Gold Sponsor
- Officially acknowledged by MC
- Thanked as part of Main Address

Corporate Tables at \$3,850

- 1x Table of 10
- Company Name and Logo on Powerpoint Presentation
- Recognised as Corporate Sponsor in Official Program
- Company Logo to appear on Facebook Page for May

Table of 10 at \$1,750

All prices are inclusive of GST

Presenting
Partner

enviro
waste services group

Major Prize Partners



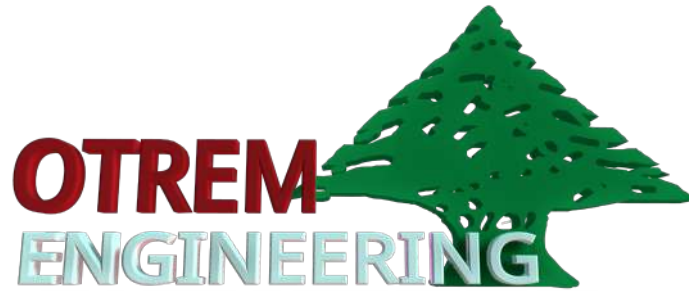
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EST. 1967



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Gold Sponsors



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VISIT OF RELICS TO OLOL



Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral

Program for the Visit of the Saints Relics to Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral, Harris Park
Sunday 07th May- Sunday 14th May 2023

Sunday 07 th May	10:45am Arrival and procession of the Relics 11:00am Solemn Mass for the Opening of Relics Visit celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay and the Australian Catholic Bishops
Monday 8 th May	5:15pm Prayers of the Holy Rosary 5:45pm Prayers of veneration of the relics 6:00pm Mass with the Rite of Anointing of the Sick (Anointing with the Blessed Oil)
Tuesday 9 th May	5:15pm Prayers of the Holy Rosary 5:45pm Prayers of veneration of the relics 6:00pm Mothers' Day Mass for the Living and Departed. 7:30pm Talk led by Deacon Ghassan Nakhouli on the topic of: "How can I be a Saint." Organised by Family of Divine Word
Wednesday 10 th May	6:15pm Prayers of the Holy Rosary 6:45pm Prayers of veneration of the relics 7:00pm Solemn Mass for the Newly Married couples in our Parish, celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel followed by Tea and Coffee
Thursday 11 th May	10:00am Prayers of the Holy Rosary 10:30am Seniors Mass followed by lunch. 5:15pm Prayers of the Holy Rosary 5:45pm Prayers of veneration of the relics 10:00am Prayers of the Holy Rosary 6:00pm Mass for the Homeless in Australia, organised by Heaven on Earth 8:00pm Adoration with the intention of an increase in sanctity and holiness among all people.
Friday 12 th May	9:00am MCHF Mother's Day Mass 10:00am - 1:00pm MCHF Students visit to the Relics. 5:15pm Prayers of the Holy Rosary 5:45pm Prayers of veneration of the relics 6:00pm Mass for the Sodality Committees in the Eparchy followed by cocktail.
Saturday 13 th May	10:30am Prayers of the Holy Rosary followed by Mass for the Peace in the World 5:15pm Prayers of the Holy Rosary 5:45pm Prayers of veneration of the relics 6:00pm Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
Sunday 14 th May	9:30am Mass for Fersen Al Adra, Teens, 1st Holy Communion Children, Families of the Parish 6:15pm Prayers of the Holy Rosary 6:45pm Prayers of veneration of the relics 7:00pm Youth Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Farewell procession of the Relics.



Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral

برنامج زيارة ذخائر القديسين الى كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك
الأحد 7 أيار - الأحد 14 أيار 2023

الأحد 7 أيار	10:45 صباحاً استقبال الذخائر 11:00 صباحاً قداس احتفالي برئاسة صاحب السيادة المطران نطوان - شربل طربيه راعي الأبرشية يعاونه لفيف من أساقفة أستراليا الكاثوليك
الاثنين 8 أيار	5:15 مساءً صلاة المسبحة 5:45 مساءً صلاة تكريم الذخائر 6:00 مساءً احتفال برتبة مسحة المرضى و قداس على نية المرضى مع الدمى بالزيت المقدس
الثلاثاء 9 أيار	5:15 مساءً صلاة المسبحة 5:45 مساءً صلاة تكريم الذخائر 6:00 مساءً قداس على نية الأموات في الرعية الأحياء منهم والأموال بمناسبة عيد الأم 7:30 مساءً لقاء مع الشماس غسان نخول بعنوان: كيف أصبح قديساً من تنظيم عائلة الكلمة للإيمية
الأربعاء 10 أيار	6:15 مساءً صلاة المسبحة باللغة الإنكليزية 6:45 مساءً صلاة تكريم الذخائر 7:00 مساءً قداس على نية المتزوجين الجدد من أبناء الرعية برئاسة صاحب السيادة المطران نطوان - شربل طربيه راعي الأبرشية، من تنظيم لجنة العائلة بلمه لقاء وضيافة قهوة شاي
الخميس 11 أيار	10:00 صباحاً صلاة المسبحة 10:30 صباحاً قداس على نية كبارنا من تنظيم لجنة المسنين بلمه غداء 5:15 مساءً صلاة المسبحة 5:45 مساءً صلاة تكريم الذخائر 6:00 مساءً قداس على نية المشردين في أستراليا من تنظيم Heaven on Earth 8:00 مساءً ساعة سجود على نية إزدياد القداسة والقديسين
الجمعة 12 أيار	9:00 صباحاً قداس ميمم العائلة المقدسة المارونية MCHF بمناسبة عيد الأم 10:00 صباحاً - 1:00 ب ظ زيارة طلاب الميمم للبرك من الذخائر 5:15 مساءً صلاة المسبحة 5:45 مساءً صلاة تكريم الذخائر 6:00 مساءً قداس على نية الأخويات في الأبرشية بلمه كوكتيل
السبت 13 أيار	10:30 صباحاً صلاة المسبحة بلمه قداس على نية السلام في العالم 5:15 مساءً صلاة المسبحة 5:45 مساءً صلاة تكريم الذخائر 6:00 مساءً قداس على نية الدعوات الكهنوتية والربانية
الأحد 14 أيار	9:30 صباحاً قداس على نية الفرسان والطالقات والعائلات والأطفال في الرعية 6:15 مساءً صلاة المسبحة 6:45 مساءً صلاة تكريم الذخائر 7:00 مساءً قداس على نية الشبيبة برئاسة صاحب السيادة المطران نطوان - شربل طربيه راعي الأبرشية وختام زيارة الذخائر

COMMUNITY ADVERTISING



Mercy Health brings healthy ageing to Harris Park



Mercy Health is a trusted, leading Catholic provider of health, aged and community services with 30 residential aged care homes in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

In collaboration with the Maronite Catholic community, we are excited to announce the opening of our newest home, Our Lady Mercy Place Harris Park.

This 85-bed purpose-built facility, with an on-site wellness centre, café and hairdresser, offers quality aged care with a focus on family, friendship and community.

To find out more, call us on 6022 5800, email OLMPHarrisPark@mercy.com.au or visit our website mercyhealth.com.au

لوحة إعلانات الرعية

الأحد ٢٣ نيسان:

الأحد الثالث من زمن القيامة - مار جرجس

١١:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم حنا ضوميط قطريب من كرم المهر
٥:٠٠ قداس على نية أحياء وأموات زغر تغرين بمناسبة عيد مار جرجس

الثلاثاء ٢٥ نيسان:

عيد شهداء أستراليا

القداسات ٥:٣٠ و ٩:٠٠ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً

٥:٣٠ صباحاً قداس على نية شهداء أستراليا بمناسبة
Anzac Day، يحتفل به صاحب السيادة المطران أنطوان -
شربل طريبه السامي الإحترام

الأربعاء ٢٦ نيسان:

٥:٣٠ أربعون المرحوم وردان بو ملحم من عيماز

الخميس ٢٧ نيسان:

٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم رومانوس بطرس الكريسا من حدشيت

السبت ٢٩ نيسان

٦:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم مارون نايف يونان من وادي قنوبين

الأحد ٣٠ نيسان:

الأحد الرابع من زمن القيامة

١١:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم سليم أنطونيوس تادروس من

كفرياشيت

٣:٠٠ قداس إحتفالي بمناسبة إعلان المكرّم البطريك

إسطفان الدويهي طوباوياً، يحتفل به سيادة المطران

أنطوان - شربل طريبه السامي الإحترام. تقدمة جمعية بطل

لبنان يوسف بك كرم الزغر تاوية

٥:٠٠ السنة للمرحومة ناديا زغيب أرملة المرحوم فؤاد ساسين

من زحلة

أهمية الإفخارستيا في حياتنا



تَعَلَّمُوا مِنِّي، لِأَنِّي وَدِيعٌ وَمَتَوَاضِعٌ الْقَلْبِ

طوبى لمن يشترك في مأدعة الرب، فالرب بطعامه يدخل الى جسد المؤمن والى قلبه الصغير. الله يهتم بأن يسكن في قلبك الصغير وأن يهمس من داخل قلبك بكلمة "أحبك" وكم يحب أن يسمع قلبك يردد في صمته "وأنا أيضا احبك جداً". بهذا الطعام، المسيح باق في وسطنا بل أكثر من ذلك فإنه بسر جسده ودمه يسكن فعلياً وبدون أي شك في جسدنا. فإنه بهذا يشترك في كل نسمة من حياتنا ويجعلنا أيضا نشترك في حياته، في كماله في قداسه وفي لاهوته. "من أكل جسدي وشرب دمي أقيم فيّ وأنا فيه" يؤكد لنا الرب (يوحنا ٦: ٥٦). و"من يأكل من هذا الخبز يحيا الى الأبد" لأن الله الساكن فيه هو الحي الى الأبد.

يقول القديس بيو: "إنّ المسيحيّ الذي يُدرك عظمة الذبيحة الإلهية في حياته لا يمكنه إلا أن يقسّم حياته إلى قسمين: القسم الأول من حياته يصرفه في حضوره وعيش هذا السرّ، والقسم الثاني يظلّ يشكر الله على عظمة هذا السرّ الممنوح للإنسان". إن معرفتنا لله تبقى معرفة ناقصة ومبهمة إن لم تنطلق من الكتاب المقدّس، والإفخارستيا التي هي المكان الوحيد الذي تتمّ فيه معرفة الله وخلاصه وحيث تحدث فيها كلّ التحوّلات. فهل ندع تجلّيه في إفخارستياتنا يتجلّى أيضًا في حياتنا اليومية؟ هل نحن أمناء على ما طلبه منا أن "إصنعوا هذا لذكري"؟

القيامة حياة واختبار يومي
نذوقه في كلّ مرة
نقترّب من الصليب
ونحمله بفرح

آباء الكنيسة

في عالم اليوم الذي يعزّز الكبرياء والغرور وينمّي الفردية بواسطة التسويق والدعايات التي تدعو إلى المظاهر ووسائل التواصل الاجتماعي والموضة التي تدفع إلى الأضواء والشهرة، يدعونا يسوع أكثر من أي وقت للتعلّم منه الوداعة وتواضع القلب وهو منطق يسير بعكس إتجاه العالم.

يدعونا يسوع دائماً للتشبه به وهذه هي دعوة الله للإنسان لاستعادة صورته البهية التي شوّهتها الخطيئة. وخطيئة الكبرياء هي أمّ الخطايا وجذر كلّ شرّ. الكبرياء هو سبب السقوط، هو عندما نستبدل مشيئة الله بمشيئتنا ونضع أنفسنا مكان الله ومن الكبرياء تأتي كلّ الخطايا. لقد عاش يسوع التواضع في كلّ ما عمل. علم التواضع ودعا إليه باستمرار لأنّ التواضع هو المدخل إلى القداسة والحضن المنيح ضدّ الخطيئة وتجارب الشرّير.

إنّ الله متواضع، ويسوع ابن الله وصورته يعكس لنا هذا التواضع وهو على ما يقول مار بولس "لم يحسب مساواته لله غنيمة بل أخلى ذاته أخذاً صورة العبد". فسير التجسّد هو قمة تواضع الله. يسوع يدعونا للإقتداء به بإخلاء ذاتنا والإمتلاء من الله.

وكما تقول القديسة تيريزا دي كالكوتا "إذا كنّا مسيحيين، يجب أن نتشبه بالمسيح، لأنّ قلبه كان متواضعاً وكان دائم الانتباه إلى حاجات البشر. حيث كان يمرّ يسوع، كان يزرع الخير الآن وقد علمتم بأنّ الله يحبكم، أليس من الطبيعيّ أن تمضوا الفترة المتبقية من حياتكم وأنتم تشعّون بهذا الحبّ؟ أن نكون مسيحيين حقيقة يعني أن نستقبل المسيح حقاً وأن نتحوّل إلى مسيح آخر. يعني أن نحبّ كما نحن محبوبون، كما أحبنا المسيح على الصليب"



صلاة

اللَّهُمَّ إن ذروة عمالك فينا هو أن تهبنا قوة قيامتك، كما حدث مع تلميذي عقاوس، فبعد أن كانا متجهين إلى عقاوس مُعطيين ظهرهما لأورشليم، حوّلت بنعمة حضورك ظهرهما لعقاوس بإعادة نحو الاتجاه الصحيح أي أورشليم. هكذا يا رب، ساعدنا لكي نلتقي بك رغم ضجيج وقلق حياتنا اليومية، وحول إتجاهنا من اليأس والعيش لهذا العالم، لنكون بقلبنا وفكرنا متجهين نحو أورشليم السماوية حيث نراك وجهاً لوجه، آمين

عَيْتِنَا

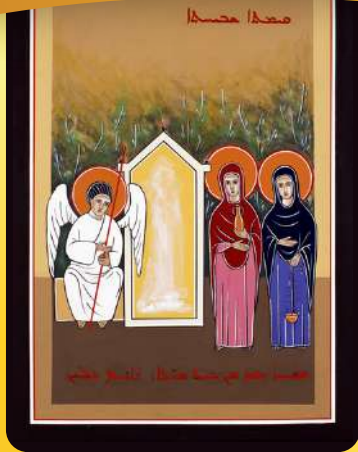
كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

عدد ٢٥ | الأحد ٢٣ نيسان ٢٠٢٣ | الأحد الثالث من زمن القيامة "حقاً إن الرب قام، وتراءى لسمعان!" لو ٢٤: ١٣ - ٣٥

الإنجيل



في اليوم عينه، كان إثنان من التلاميذ ذاهبين إلى قرية تدعى عفاوس، تبعد نحو سبعة أميال عن اورشليم. وكانا يتحدثان بكل تلك الأمور التي حدثت. وفيما هما يتحدثان ويتسألان، إذا يسوع نفسه قد اقترب منهما، وراح يسير معهما. ولكن أعينهما أمسكت عن معرفته. أما هو فقال لهما: "ما هذا الكلام الذي تتحدثان به، وانتما تسيران؟" فوقفا عابسين. وأجاب أحدهما، واسمه كليوباس، فقال له: "هل أنت وحدك غريب عن اورشليم، فلا تعلم ما حدث فيها هذه الأيام؟" فقال لهما: "وما هي؟" فقالا له: "ما يتعلق بيسوع الناصري، الذي كان رجلاً نبياً قوياً بالقول والفعل، قدام الله والشعب كله. وكيف أسلمه أhabارنا ورؤساؤنا ليحكم عليه بالموت، وكيف صلبوه! وكنا نحن نرجو أن يكون هو الذي سيفدي إسرائيل. ولكن مع هذا كله، فهذا هو اليوم الثالث بعد تلك الأحداث. لكن بعض النساء من جماعتنا أدهشنا، لأنهن ذهبن إلى القبر عند الفجر، ولم يجدن جسد يسوع، فرجعن وقلن إنهن شاهدن ملائكة تراءوا لهن وقالوا إنه حي! ومضى قوم من الذين معنا إلى القبر، فوجدوه هكذا كما قالت النساء، وأما يسوع فلم يروه." فقال لهما يسوع: "يا عديمي الفهم، وبطيئي القلب في الإيمان بكل ما تكلم به الأنبياء! أما كان يجب على المسيح أن يعاني تلك الآلام، ثم يدخل في مجده؟ وفسر لهما ما يتعلق به في كل الكتب المقدسة، مبتدئاً بموسى وجميع الأنبياء. واقتربا من القرية التي كانا ذاهبين إليها، فتظاهر يسوع بأنه ذاهب إلى مكان أبعد. فتمسكا به قائلين: "أمتك معنا" فقد حان المساء، ومال النهار" فدخل ليمكث معهما. وفيما كان متكئاً معهما، أخذ الخبز، وبارك وكسر، وناولهما. فانفتحت أعينهما، وعرفاه، فإذا هو قد توارى عنهما. فقال أحدهما للآخر: "أما كان قلبنا مضطرباً فينا، حين كان يكلمنا في الطريق، ويشرح لنا الكتب؟" وقاما في تلك الساعة عيناها، ورجعا إلى اورشليم، فوجدا الأحد عشر والذين معهم مجتمعين، وهم يقولون: "حقاً إن الرب قام، وتراءى لسمعان!" أما هما فكانا يخبران بما حدث في الطريق، وكيف عرفا يسوع عند كسر الخبز لو ٢٤: ١٣ - ٣٥



الأحد الثالث من زمن القيامة
أيوب ٤٢: ٦ - ١٢
ط ٢: ٨ - ١٣
لو ٢٤: ١٣ - ٣٥

هو حاضر معي كما كان حاضراً مع تلميذي عفاوس ذاك المساء، يقول لي: لا تخف الموت، لا تخف الشر الذي يحيط بك، لا تخف المرض فأنا قبلك حملت أوجاعك لأشفيك. لا تخف القبر فما هو إلا انتقال. لا تدع الظلم يفقدك الرجاء، فأنا احتملت الظلم، حكموا عليّ كمجرم. أسلمت الروح بين لصين، وعلمت أن لا بدّ للآب من أن يحوّل الظلم إلى أمل، واليأس إلى رجاء، والموت إلى قيامة.

لا تخف الالتزام بمنطق القيامة، فمنطق القيامة وحده يشفي العالم، ويعطي السلام. كن رسول منطق القيامة، كن الشمعة المنيرة ظلام العنف وقلة العدالة. لا تقل، ماذا يمكن لشمعتي الصغيرة أن تغتير، فالنور الذي تحمله أنت هو نور القيامة الذي درج الحجر الثقيل عن قبري وأثار العالم. لا تخف، فأنا معك. أما قرأت الكتب.

الجواب كان المسيح ذاته يقول لهم: "كسرت الخبز من أجلكم، كسرت ذاتي حباً بكم، وهبتكم الدّم يغسلكم عند الجلجلة، وهبتكم الدّم يغفر خطيئكم على المذبح، أنا أنا، في عليّة الأسرار، على صليب الجلجلة، في القبر الفارغ، في الكتب المقدسة وفي الإفخارستيا. أنا المسيح معكم، فما بالكم تقشون قلوبكم ترفضون الإصغاء، لا تخافوا، دعوا رجاء القيامة ينتصر فيكم."

دعوتنا أداً هي مسيرة دائمة نحو الأمام وحياة تستحق المغامرة، فمهما كانت وعورة الطريق كبيرة والمسالك تشعربنا بالخوف فالتردد، لا نجزعن بل فلنقدم بشجاعة وثقة، لأن الهدف مضمون واللقاء بالحبيب لا بدّ منه: إنه هنا معك ومعني يسير.

معنا يسير، هل نعرفه؟

بعد موت يسوع عاش التلاميذ حالة إحباط وتشوّت وفشل ذريع حيث عاد كلّ منهم إلى تجربة الماضي، إلى ما كان عليه.

تلميذا عفاوس غادرا اورشليم، وبينما كانا عائدين إلى قريتهما، كانا يتحدثان في الطريق بكلّ تلك الأمور التي حدثت ليسوع الناصري، يتكلمان يتحدثان ويهربان، يريدان الابتعاد عن مدينة احتضنت كلّ آمالهم، يريدان أن ينسيا كلّ شيء،

يريدان العودة الى صيد السمك بعد أن حصلا على الوعد بأن يصبحا صيّادي بشر.

إنجيل تلميذي عفاوس هو إنجيل كلّ تلميذ خائف، هو قصة كلّ قلب جريح، هو صورة سقوط التلميذ في الشك، واليأس وفقدان الأمل. هي قصتنا نحن أيضاً، نهرب خارج اورشليم، نخاف الألم، نخاف الخطر، نظنّ أن وعود الرب لن تتحقّق وأن كلّ ما قاله لنا كان وهماً. هي قصتنا نحن اليوم حين نظنّ أن شرّ العالم هو أقوى من حضور المسيح. هذا الإنجيل هو مختصر سيرة حياتنا: نعجز عن رؤية أنوار القيامة، نهرب لأنّ ليل اليأس والشكّ أقبل. نظنّ أن المسيح قد تركنا، لا نلتفت إليه يسير إلى جنبنا، يريدنا أن نطرح عنا الشكّ ونعود إليه، فهو حاضر، وهو يعطينا الخلاص.

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: 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, Sharban (Shirley) Boutros (C) (D) (E) Matthew Essey, Tanious Elias Kazzi & the deceased of his family (F) (G) Helen George, Majid George (H) Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, Paul & Madeline Haddad & son Joseph & daughter Colleen George (I) Khalil Youssef Issa and his wife Marina (J) Jamil Kamel Mtanios Jabbour, Khosseh Gerges Jallis and his wife Meryana (K) Sarkis Chucuri Khoudair, Genevieve Khoury and all departed of Khoury & ElZahoul Families (L) Peter & Mary Lichaa and Arthur Lichaa (M) Youssef Maroon & his wife Ghsoun, Therese Melhem, Betty Merhi, Bachara Botrous Moussa, Robert Bachara Moussa (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) Raymond & Atour and their son Joe Romanos, Jamil & Labibi Roumanus and all the deceased from their family (S) Youssef Mikhael Shaheen, Boutros & Therese Sassine and their son Kenny, Nabih Nassim Saad & Children Kevin & Emile Saad, Georges Shammas (T) Therese Tanna, Bernadette Tanna (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)

