

OUR PARISH

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-cathedral - Harris Park

Issue 43 | Sunday 27 August 2023 | Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost



THE GOSPEL

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Lk 10: 38-42

Message from the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this, the 14th Sunday of Pentecost, we reflect on the familiar story of Mary and Martha, two sisters who welcomed Jesus into their home. This encounter guides us to look at our own relationship with Christ and the priorities we set in our lives.

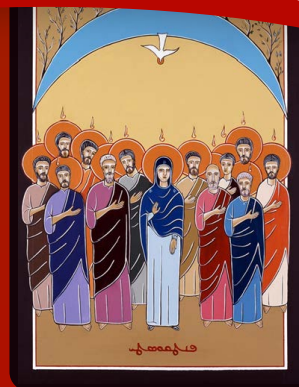
Martha was a woman of action, bustling about with various tasks to serve Jesus. Through the Gospel of Saint John, we glimpse the deep affection Jesus had for this family. We also see how this affection was later demonstrated when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Martha's energy is admirable. She tirelessly moves from one corner of the house to another, ensuring everything is perfect for Jesus. She was absorbed by multiple tasks. Yet, despite her sincere love motivating her actions, Martha couldn't help but notice her sister, Mary, sitting at Jesus' feet, seemingly doing nothing. "Tell her to help me." Her frustration stems from working while Mary seemingly does nothing. Martha could have easily joined Mary but she did not.

This scene mirrors our own lives: how we often focus on others and their situations instead of nurturing our own relationship with the Lord.

"There is need of only one thing," Jesus tells Martha. Let us not misunderstand His words. He is not pitting Martha's activity against Mary's contemplation. In fact, "there is need of only one thing" signifies that all our actions in service of God and others should be rooted in prayer. This way, our efforts become genuine acts of love.

In the midst of our own busy lives, let us be active in our service to others, pouring out our love and dedication, as Martha did. But



Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Deut 6: 4-9
1 Thess 2: 1-13
Lk 10: 38-42

let us also remember that our service gains depth and meaning when we take time to sit at the feet of our Lord, just as Mary did, nurturing our relationship with Him through prayer and contemplation.

A holy man who found this perfect balance between action and contemplation is Blessed Estephan Nehme, whose feast we celebrate on the 30th of August. Born in Lehfed, Jbeil, on 8 March 1889, he was the youngest of six children and faced the loss of both parents at a young age. In 1905, he entered the Lebanese Maronite Order at the monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina in Kfifan.

Throughout his life, he worked the fields of various monasteries he was assigned to, gaining a reputation as a peaceful man with a strong build and a heart full of joy. Often, he would repeat the words, "God sees me." Through this simple way, Brother Estephan taught us that by living our lives with a constant awareness of God's presence we can sanctify our daily routines with love-infused actions. He passed away at the age of 49 on 30 August 1939, a date that now marks his feast day and entrance into eternal joy.

May Blessed Estephan, Mary and Martha guide us to strike a balance between action and contemplation, always putting Christ at the centre of all we do. May this Sunday and the feast day of Blessed Estephan be a source of blessings for all of us. Amen.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES

LOLO 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

Parish Office:

9689 2899

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday
9am - 4:30pm

Saturday
9am - 1pm

Fax: 9689 2068

Email: info@lol.org.au

Website: www.lol.org.au

"God sees me"

If Jesus came knocking on your door one day, would you invite Him inside and show your hospitality or would you rush Him away abruptly because you have "too much else to do" and there's no time to sit with your Divine guest? What would you do? This question is directed to all of us, in a spiritual sense more than a physical one. Too often we allow ourselves to become "busy bodies" and neglect the needs of our soul which hungers for the eternal nourishment of much higher aspirations.

Many of us fulfil several roles while serving the Lord within our vocation, whether married, single, or religious. Many times I've had to tackle this question regarding my own priorities when my prayer life was threatened by an overload of other tasks. In all honesty, I would give anything to be at the Feet of my Beloved Jesus 24/7, but when other duties call, I must discern and ask God to arrange my schedule as He wishes. This does not mean that I cannot make time for prayer, which is essential and not an option.

My Spiritual Director told me many years ago, at the beginning of my formation, "You must always pray while you work, but NEVER work while you pray." It is only through my time in prayer that I am sustained, renewed, inspired, and encouraged with strength and holy zeal. It is only through my time with Jesus, receiving the Sacraments and adoring His Real Presence on the Altar, that I can persevere in the roles and duties entrusted to me. I know that God sees me, and He directs my path according to His Divine Will.

I believe it may be possible to imitate both Martha and Mary – making time for Jesus without neglecting the essential duties in our state of life. Saint Monica, a devout wife and mother,

offered her tears and prayers for her son Augustine, who later became a Bishop, Saint, and Doctor of the Church. Saint Monica didn't go out into the world evangelising or teaching or doing anything extraordinary – she simply surrendered her will to God, while offering her daily trials and struggles for the salvation of her son.

I pray that I will have the energy to continue providing for my family's needs, but I also pray that God will watch over my family's needs while I make the time to serve Him. I have always trusted that when I put God "first" in my life, He puts my family first in His plans also. With God's help, I continue caring for my family, like Martha, without abandoning my time at the Lord's Feet, like Mary - with God all things are possible! Saint Augustine's conversion is proof that God sees every tear, hears every prayers, and directs every soul that embraces His Word.

Salwa Elias

QUESTION

Why are the beatitudes important for us?

ANSWER

The beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching and they take up and fulfill the promises that God made starting with Abraham. They depict the very countenance of Jesus and they characterize authentic Christian life. They reveal the ultimate goal of human activity,



UPCOMING EVENTS



COMMUNITY BUSINESS ADVERTISING



The MYO are having their first ever Youth Night Markets!! It'll be a night full of fun, food, music and dancing! If you or anyone you know has a business, please consider assisting us through sponsoring our new and upcoming Youth event on **October 28th!** All proceeds will be used to support our youth in flourishing and the various sponsorship packages provide a range of advertising opportunities for your business. **For enquiries and further details,** please private message @olol_youth on Instagram or email myoexec@olol.org.au

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Sunday 27 August:

14th Sunday of Pentecost

9:30am One Year Mass for the late Cecilia Boutros Charara widow of the late Mustafa Issa from Saghbine

11:00am 40 Day Mass for the late Jamal Youssef Gebrael Hssairati from Blouza wife of Youssef Saab from Hadchit

3:00pm All livings and Departed of Zgharta for the Feast of Our Lady of Zgharta

5:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Sarkis Nakhoul (Asfoura) from Kfardlakos

Saturday 2 September:

6:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late George Laba Sassine from Hadchit

Sunday 3 September: Father's Day

15th Sunday of Pentecost

11:00am The Divine Liturgy is celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine- Charbel Tarabay for the repose of the souls of the martyrs: Malek and Haitham Tawk, Elias Al-Hasrouni and Fadi El-Bejjani

5:00pm One Year Mass for the late Khalil Elias Assaf from Aramoun- Keserwan

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION & LOANS REPAYMENTS

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS For week ending: 20/08/2023

Plates: \$10,886 | **Donations:** \$100 | **Candles:** \$3,709 (includes 14 days feast week)

PARISH LOANS

CYPC: \$3,428,734

UNITS: \$1,127,177

MONTHLY LOAN REPAYMENTS

CYPC: \$37,202 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

UNITS: \$12,201 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL



KIDS CORNER

We celebrate the Feast of Blessed Estephan Nehme on 30 August. Let us always remember that in all we do and all we encounter "God sees me"

GOD SEES ME



UPCOMING EVENTS



THE MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

GOLDEN JUBILEE SOLEMN MASS

SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 11 AM
KEN ROSEWALL ARENA
Sydney Olympic Park NSW

celebrated by
HIS BEATITUDE AND EMINENCE
MAR BECHARA BOUTROS CARDINAL RAI
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

 TO BOOK YOUR SEATING AT THIS FREE EVENT,
please visit www.ticketmaster.com.au
or Scan the QR Code

FOR LATEST DETAILS, PLEASE FOLLOW US ON:
 Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania
 maronite_eparchy_australia





The Maronite Eparchy of Australia invites you to the

GOLDEN JUBILEE Dinner

Celebrating the past, building together the future

In the presence of His Beatitude & Eminence
Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East.

Dinner proceeds will go towards supporting struggling Maronite students in Lebanon

21 Thursday
September
6.30 PM **2023**

Dress Code: Formal

\$300 per person
\$3000 per table of 10
Sponsorship Packages available

Rosehill Gardens

Grand Pavilion, Rosehill

To secure your table or sponsorship
contact the Maronite Chancery
02 8831 0000 | events@maronite.org.au

The Golden Jubilee Dinner in the presence of His Beatitude & Eminence Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East is our opportunity to come together as one community around our Patriarch, and help students in need in Lebanon.

Schools are on the brink of unwillingly closing their doors and many students are having to work, which is forcing them to attend school less frequently. While this may come as a surprise to so many of us, this is the reality of the situation in Lebanon. Shortly, we will also be sharing video assets to continue to promote the Golden Jubilee Dinner.

Table sales are now open, and everyone is invited to be a part of this event on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 7.00pm at the Grand Pavilion, Rosehill Gardens. We are calling for your help. Please secure your table or sponsorship now. Call 02 8831 0000 or email events@maronite.org.au

GOLDEN JUBILEE PARTNERS

DASCO
CREATING WITH CARE SINCE 1993

NSW GOVERNMENT

Bank of Sydney



Golden Jubilee Dinner Sponsorship Packages

Gold Sponsorship \$25,000 (ex GST)

- Premium Reserved Seating for 10 at the Dinner (1 table with company logo)
- Reserved Parking for 2 cars at Rosehill Gardens
- Half page advertisement in the Dinner Event Booklet
- Acknowledgement of Gold Sponsorship by the Master of Ceremonies on the night
- On-Screen advertising as Gold Sponsor throughout the night

~ 1 complimentary bottle of Blue Label Scotch Whiskey on dinner tables
~ Promotion of Dinner Gold sponsorship on website and Eparchy social media pages in July, August and September 2023
~ Company logo to be placed on the red carpet sponsorship wall
~ Presentation of an Appreciation Plaque during the formalities of the Event

Silver Sponsorship \$10,000 (ex GST)

- Reserved Seating for 10 at the Dinner (1 table with company logo)
- Reserved Parking for 2 cars at Rosehill Gardens
- Quarter page advertisement in the Dinner Event Booklet
- Acknowledgement of Silver Sponsorship by the Master of Ceremonies on the night
- On-Screen advertising as Silver Sponsor throughout the night

~ 1 complimentary bottle of Blue Label Scotch Whiskey on dinner tables
~ Promotion of Dinner Silver sponsorship on website and Eparchy social media pages in August and September 2023
~ Company logo to be placed on the red carpet sponsorship wall
~ Presentation of an Appreciation Plaque during the formalities of the Event

Bronze Corporate Sponsorship \$5,000 (ex GST)

- Reserved Seating for 10 at the Dinner (1 table with company logo)
- Advertisement in the Dinner Event Booklet
- Acknowledgement of Corporate Sponsorship by the Master of Ceremonies on the night
- On-Screen advertising as Corporate Sponsor throughout the night

~ 1 complimentary bottle of Blue Label Scotch Whiskey on dinner tables
~ Acknowledgement of Dinner Corporate sponsorship on website and Eparchy social media pages in September 2023
~ Company logo to be placed on the red carpet sponsorship wall

For Further Information

Please contact Claudia Azzi at the Chancery Office, Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania on 02 8831 0000 or email events@maronite.org.au



UPCOMING EVENTS

*Don't forget next
Sunday
3 September is
Father's Day!*



Calling for Volunteers for the Golden Jubilee Mass on 24/9/23

We are calling for volunteers to support at this once in a lifetime event: The Maronite Eparchy's Golden Jubilee Mass, to be celebrated by our Patriarch, Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai, and our Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, along with Maronite Bishops of the Expansion. The Mass will be held at 11am, on Sunday 24 September at Ken Rosewall Arena, Sydney Olympic Park and we are expecting almost 10,000 people.

We invite you to put an expression of interest to volunteer for roles including ushering, crowd marshalling, directing the congregation during communion and plate collection.

You will still be able to participate in the Mass.

All you need to do for now is be:

- Over 18 years of age and have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC)
- Available on Saturday 23 September for a rehearsal and on Sunday 24 September all morning, until 2pm
- If interested, please fill out the form here <https://form.jotform.com/232130826972860> or scan the QR code below
- We will then be in touch with next steps and induction details

Please feel free to contact the Maronite Chancery direct on 02 8831 0000 if you have any queries.



Bus Transport to the Golden Jubilee Mass

If you are seeking transport to the Golden Jubilee Mass on 24 September, Our Lady of Lebanon has buses arranged to transport to and from the Mass.

Departure: 9:30am sharp from OLOL

Arrival: 1:30pm to OLOL

Cost: \$15 per person

If you would like to book transport please contact the parish office on 02 9689 2899.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tickets to the Golden Jubilee Mass!

Thank you to everyone who booked for themselves, their families and their friends to participate in the Golden Jubilee Mass of the Maronite Eparchy on 24 September. Please make sure you confirm with all your group members their attendance and let us know if you have any spare tickets.

We also encourage you to return any extra tickets that you do not need to the Eparchy office in Harris Park or you can call us on 02 8831 0000. There are large numbers on standby, waiting for the opportunity to participate in the mass, so we thank you for your cooperation.

نشكر كل الذين حجزوا تذاكر لهم ولعيالهم و لأصدقائهم للمشاركة في القداس الاحتفالي لليوبيل الذهبي للأبرشية في ٢٤ أيلول.

ونرجو منكم تأكيد الحضور أو إعادة التذاكر الإضافية والتي لا تحتاجونها إلى مكاتب الأبرشية في هاريس بارك أو الاتصال على الرقم ٨٨٣١٠٠٠٠ .

هناك أعداد كبيرة على لوائح الانتظار ويريدون المشاركة في القداس، فنرجو تعاونكم.



لوحة إعلانات الرعية

الأحد ٢٧ آب؛

الأحد الرابع عشر من زمن العنصرة

٩٣٠ السنة للمرحومة سيسيليا بطرس شرارة أرملة المرحوم مصطفى عيسى من صغبين

١١٠٠ أربعون المرحومة جمال يوسف جبرائيل الحصرياتي من بلوزا زوجة يوسف صعب من حدشيت

٣٠٠٠ قداس على نية أحياء وأموات زغرta بمناسبة عيد سيدة زغرta تقدمة الجمعية

٥٠٠٠ أربعون المرحوم سركريس نخول (عصفورة) من كفر دلاقوس

السبت ٢ أيلول؛

٦٠٠٠ أربعون المرحوم جورج لبا ساسين من حدشيت

الأحد ٣ أيلول؛ عيد الأب

الأحد الخامس عشر من زمن العنصرة

١١٠٠ يحتفل صاحب السيادة المطران أنطوان - شربل طريه السامي الإحترام بالذبيحة الإلهية لراحة أنفس الشهداء: مالك وهيثم طوق،

الياس الحصريوني وفادي البجاني

٥٠٠٠ السنة للمرحوم خليل الياس آصاف من عرمون - كسروان



يوحنا المعمدان

يوحنا المعمدان، شهيد الحقيقة وزعيم الشهادة شكّل رابطاً بين العهدي القديم (آخرا أنبياء) والجديد (أول القديسين). كانت رسالته التحضير لمجيء السيد المسيح لذلك كان ينادي بمعمودية التوبة لغفران الخطايا. لم يكن يحابي الوجوه أو يخاف من الملوك والسلاطين والمسؤولين، فقد قاوم السلطتين الدينية والمدنية - قال للفريسيين والصدوقيين ورؤساء الكهنة: "يا أولاد الأفاعي، من علمكم الهرب من الغضب الآتي، توبوا واثمروا ثمراً يليق بالتوبة، ها إن الفأس موضوعة على أصل الشجرة فكل شجرة لا تثمر تقطع وتلقى في النار" كما أنه قال عن هيرودس الذي كان ملكاً على اليهود: "قولوا لذلك الثعلب، لا يحق لك أن تأخذ امرأة أخيك زوجة لك". لذلك صبت هيروديا جام غضبها عليه وطالبت بقطع رأسه. حقاً، لقد كان شاهداً للحق وشهيداً للحقيقة!

كم نحن بحاجة لمثل هؤلاء الرسل والأنبياء الذين لا يخشون لومة لائم ولا يخافون من تهديد بل يرفعون أصواتهم النبوية في وجه طغاة هذا العالم، لكي يقولوا بوضوح وصراحة، بجرأة وقوة وشجاعة، كلمة حق مفادها: "كفى ظمناً، كفى حرباً ودماء، كفى قتلاً للأبرياء، كفى استغلالاً للمساكين والضعفاء، كفى تسلطاً وتجبراً وتعسفاً على الفقراء" ويطالبونهم بالتوبة والعودة إلى الطريق الله. لنصلي أحياناً إلى الثالوث الأقدس طالبين منه أن يجعلنا شهود حقيقيين للمسيح على مثال يوحنا المعمدان لنكون سرج مضاءة في ظلمة بريّة هذا العالم ونصرخ: "توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السموات".

www.zenit.org



٣ آب الطوباوي الأخ اسطفانوس نعمة

"الله يراني"

على العمياني - ثقة بالله لا توصف لازمت الطوباوي اسطفانوس نعمة طيلة حياته الأرضية، فاختر من خلالها حقيقة الثقة بالله والاستسلام لعنايته المقدسة، وكيفية مطابقة الفكر والقلب والارادة مع نظرتة المقدسة.

على الرغم مما مرّ به من تجارب صعبة، إلا انه ظلّ راسخاً في سلام روحي عميق، مستمداً قوته من تلك النظرة الإلهية "الله يراني". وعندما اختار الطوباوي الأخ اسطفانوس هذا لشعار "الله يراني"، أراد التأكيد أنّ الله معنا في كلّ حين، ولا يتركنا لوحدها. يرى ضعفنا فيقوّينا، يرى حزننا فيعزّينا، يرى حاجتنا وحالاتنا ويخاطب قلوبنا ويلهم المخرج منها، إذا عدنا إليه، واستغثنا برحمته وجودته. وثقة الأخ اسطفانوس بالله جعلته يتحرر من القلق والخوف من الغد والارباك والحنق، فكانت نظرة الله المحبة عصب حياته الروحية والإنسانية

وهو يحثنا اليوم الى خوض بناء علاقة الثقة الراسخة والعمياء فقط بالله الذي يرانا بمحبة، علاقة كلها استسلام كلي، التي تنعكس ايجاباً على علاقاتنا ونظرتنا على الآخرين، مما تجنّبنا خطر التهور والوقع ضحية الخداع الذي يشبهه بسيف طلاؤه عسل.



صلاة

يا رب، أنت تعلّمنا في انجيل اليوم أن المطلوب الواحد في الحياة هو سماع كلام الله. هبنا نعمة الثبات في سماعه لكي يستتير كلّ عمل نقوم به، فيأخذ عزيمته وقيّمته ومعناه. وإليك نرفع المجد والتسبيح أيها الآب والإبن والروح القدس، الآن وإلى الأبد، آمين

عَيْنَا

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

عدد ٤٣ | الأحد ٢٧ آب ٢٠٢٣ | الأحد الرابع عشر من العنصرة "مَرَّتَا، مَرَّتَا، إِنَّكَ تَهْتَمِّينَ بِأُمُورٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَتَضْطَرِّبِينَ!" لو ١٠: ٣٨-٤٢

الإنجيل



دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ إِخْدَى الْقَرْيَ، فَاسْتَقْبَلَتْهُ فِي بَيْتِهَا امْرَأَةٌ اسْمُهَا مَرَّتَا. وَكَانَ لِمَرَّتَا أُخْتُ تُدْعَى مَرْيَمَ. فَجَلَسَتْ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْ الرَّبِّ تَسْمَعُ كَلَامَهُ. أَمَّا مَرَّتَا فَكَانَتْ مُنْهَمِكَةً بِكَثْرَةِ الْخِدْمَةِ، فَجَاءَتْ وَقَالَتْ: "يَا رَبِّ، أَمَّا ثِيَابِي بِأَنَّ أُخْتِي تَرَكْنِي أَخْدُمُ وَخَدِي؟ فَقُلْ لَهَا أَنْ تُسَاعِدَنِي!". فَأَجَابَ الرَّبُّ وَقَالَ لَهَا: "مَرَّتَا، مَرَّتَا، إِنَّكَ تَهْتَمِّينَ بِأُمُورٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَتَضْطَرِّبِينَ! إِنَّمَا الْمَطْلُوبُ وَاحِدًا! فَمَرْيَمَ اخْتَارَتْ النِّصِيبَ الْأَفْضَلَ، وَلَنْ يُنْزَعَ مِنْهَا". لو ١٠: ٣٨-٤٢

المطلوب الأودع



الرب يسوع في زيارة إلى بيت أصدقائه في بيت عنيا إله في زيارة دائمة لنا ولكل واحد منا. فلا بد من استقباله مثل مرثا ومريم، والتلمذ له مثل مرثا، ثم الانطلاق بقوة كلمته وهدايتها إلى العمل بتوحيده مثل مرثا.

المطلوب الأودع الذي قاله يسوع لمرثا، إنما هو سماع كلمة الله، بل هو سماع يسوع المسيح نفسه، والجلوس إليه، والجلوس بقربه قبل البدء بأي نشاط أو عمل. هذا ما فعلته مريم. فامتدحها يسوع من دون أن يلوم خدمة مرثا، لأنها تنصرف إلى واجبات الخدمة والضيافة وهي ضرورية. بل أظهر أهمية سماع كلام الله، كما فعلت مريم، من أجل تقديس العمل، وتقديس الذات فيه. ذلك أن تغذية الجسد ضرورية للحياة الزائلة، أما تغذية الروح بالاستماع إلى الكلمة الدلالية فضرورية للحياة الأبدية. إن عملنا يأتي صالغًا ومثمراً فينا وفي غيرنا عندما يستنير بقاء المسيح من خلال سماع كلامه، وينال قوة ودينامية منه، وجبًا في الخدمة والعطاء.

إن الحياة الروحية لم تنشأ إلا على حياة العمل وحياة الصلاة اللذين يكوّنان ركيزة الحياة المسيحية. وهما بمثابة جناحين لا يفصل أحدهما عن الآخر. لقد ردّد يسوع في هذا المجال قائلاً: "أدوا لقيصر ما لقيصر ولله ما لله" (مر ١٢/١٧).

المطلوب واحد وهو الحياة مع الله، بفرح وقناعة واكتشاف لحضوره في كل مفاصل وجودنا. المطلوب هو ملكوت الله وبرّه، والباقي يزاد لنا. المطلوب هو أكونا وشريك حياتنا، الذين هما أهم من الانجازات والمكاسب. المطلوب هو الحياة كما رسمها الله لنا.

مريم اختارت النصيب الأفضل، وهو حالة التلمذة. اختارت يسوع. تكتز من كلامه وتتلقى بنعمته، ثم تنطلق إلى الخدمة والرسالة.



الأحد الرابع عشر
من عيد العنصرة

سفر تثنية الاشتراع ٦: ٩-١٣
اتس ١: ١٠-١٣
لو ١٠: ٣٨-٤٢

بهذا الجواب دعا يسوع مرثا إلى مواصلة خدمتها المتفانية شرط أن تستمدّ قوتها ومعناها وسعادتها من شخصه ومن كلامه ومن نعمته.

فلنسجّ كل يوم إلى هذا "المطلوب الأودع" جاعلين من كلام الله نورًا لتفكيرنا، وهداية لمساعيها، وجمالاً لأعمالنا.



صلاة

نسجد أمامك أيها الرب يسوع ونصلي إليك برغبة مريم وغيره مرثا ونحن لم نزل في السطور الأولى من صفحات إنجيلك. ألهيم ضمايرنا لكي نبحت دومًا عنك في الكتب المقدسة التي تقود قلوبنا إليك. إجعلنا لا نختر سواك عندما ننهمك بكثرة العمل حيث العالم ينهشنا وينزع سلامك من نفوسنا. نحن نريد أن نكتشفك في داخلنا لتكون الركيزة الأولى والأخيرة في مجرى تاريخنا. دعنا نكون في وحدة تامة بين صلاتنا وعملنا، فنعمل هذه ولا نهمل تلك. نريد أن ندرك بسرّ حضورك عندما تتدخل في أحداث يومنا لتنتشلنا من اضطرابنا وخوفنا. أعطنا شجاعة تغيير الأشياء التي لا نستطيع تغييرها، والهدوء لنقبل ما لا نستطيع تغييره والحكمة لنميّز بينهما.

لك المجد إلى الأبد، آمين

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) Tanious Elias Kazzi & the deceased of his family, Matthew Essey, Helal Wadih Elmanhour (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, Wahide Touma Khome, Keryakous Touma Khome, Touma Khome, Anise Morcos Khome, Genevieve Khoury & the departed souls of the Khoury & El-Zahout families (L) (M) Youssef Maroon & his wife Ghosoun, Therese Melhem (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) Jamil & Labibi Roumanus and all the deceased from their family, Rizk Family (S) Youssef Mikhael Shaheen, Boutros & Therese Sassine and their son Kenny, Nabih Nassim Saad & Children Kevin & Emile Saad, Saba Family (T) Therese Tanna, Bernadette Tanna, Tanna Family, Nick Thrum & family (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)