

OUR PARISH

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-cathedral - Harris Park

Issue 45 | Sunday 10 September 2023 | Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Lk 18: 9-14



THE GOSPEL

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." Lk 18: 9-14

Message from the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



On this final Sunday of the Season of Pentecost, we are reminded of the essential role that prayer plays in our Christian journey. Just as oxygen sustains our physical life, prayer sustains our spiritual life. It is through prayer that we connect with our Creator, and it is through prayer that we open our hearts to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

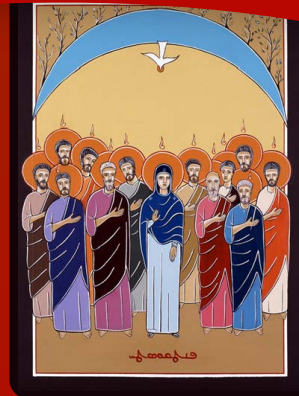
This Sunday's Gospel tells the story of two individuals who approached God in prayer: a Pharisee and a tax collector. Their contrasting attitudes in prayer serve as a reminder of how we should approach our conversations with God.

Though the Pharisee stood to pray, his posture did not reflect the true essence of prayer. He did not raise his heart and mind to the Lord; instead, he lowered God to his level. He was, in a sense, praising himself while looking down upon others. This attitude reveals the mindset of those who believe they do not need God in their lives or underestimate the power of prayer.

On the other hand, we see the tax collector, who approached prayer with a completely different spirit. He humbled himself before God, acknowledging his unworthiness. He dared not even lift his eyes to the heavens, for he was acutely aware of his sins and shortcomings. His prayer was a plea for forgiveness and mercy. Here lies the heart of authentic prayer—a humble spirit that recognises our need for God's grace.

In this parable, Jesus teaches us that the Lord is not interested in our self-righteousness or the comparisons we make with others. Instead, He desires our hearts to be contrite, our spirits to be humble, and our prayers to be genuine. The tax collector's humility and sincere repentance touched the heart of God, and he left justified.

As we reflect on this passage, let us ask ourselves: How do we approach God in our prayers? Do we come before Him with humility, recognising our need for His mercy, or do we, like the Pharisee, pride ourselves on our righteousness and look down upon others?



Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Am 5: 21-24

Rom 8: 18-27

Lk 18: 9-14

Safeguarding Sunday

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday. The Maronite Catholic Diocese in Australia, with all its organisations and parishes, emphasises our commitment to ensuring the safety and protection of all individuals, particularly children, young people, and the vulnerable within our community.

The theme for this year is "Supporting Safe Communities," and it serves as an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage vigilance within our parishes. We join in prayer for those who have experienced abuse, reaffirming our shared responsibility for safeguarding and upholding the dignity of every person. We prioritise the well-being of all individuals and maintain a zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse, neglect, or marginalisation.

Patriarchal Visitation to Australia

As you are aware, our Eparchy will be hosting His Beatitude and Eminence Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai from 15 to 24 September 2023 in Melbourne and Sydney. I invite you to join me in prayer, seeking God's blessings for this significant visit.

Everyone is invited to attend the Holy Mass on Sunday 17 September 2023, at 10.30am at Our Lady of Lebanon in Thornbury, Victoria. For those in Sydney, the Golden Jubilee Mass will take place at Ken Rosewall Arena in Homebush on Sunday 24 September 2023, at 11am. If you have spare tickets or need tickets, please reach out to our office at 02 8831 0000 or tickets@maronite.org.au.

Your participation and prayers are appreciated as we come together to make this Patriarchal Visitation a spiritually enriching event for our Eparchy.

I wish you a Blessed Sunday!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES

QLOL 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 Joubert

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

"Hope does not disappoint"

What I'm about to say will only resonate with my generation who grew up listening to this song by an English rock band: "When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom – let it be." These may only be words to a secular song, but they are actually sending out a message of truth, that our Blessed Mother watched over her children with a wisdom that we have yet to attain. Even amidst a secular world that doesn't know God, HE will turn all things unto good for those who love Him, as long as we continue to trust and hope in our loving and merciful Father. So, it's not impossible to "let it be" and let God continue to take control of situations that overwhelm us. Hope will never disappoint us. Hope was the source of courage that led people to Christ when they heard of his teachings and miracles. Hope is the reason for endurance in difficult moments, especially in the times when we cry out "Lord, have mercy on me, a poor sinner."

In our Church today, many people look for excuses to justify abandoning their Catholic Faith. I can understand how easy it is to wander from our commitments and daily devotions, when we allow 'life' to get in the way. I've learned that when I don't receive the Sacraments on a regular basis, my interior strength is depleted and it becomes a vicious cycle of less prayer followed by more indifference. Hoping in God's infinite mercy is my alarm bell that wakes me up each time I fall into that cycle of complacency, which we all tend to do at times.

The Sacrament of Confession leads me back on the path of holiness...a path that is scattered with thorns and roses combined...a path upon which Jesus and Mary will lead me as long as I'm willing to follow. This is the source of my Hope.

When I go to Confession, I am literally 'reborn in spirit' and the joy in my heart is impossible to hide, thanks be to God. The graces abound when we've been embraced by the mercy of God's forgiveness. The consummation of this great love between our human nature and the Divine is fulfilled in Holy Communion, and I cannot contain my joyful spirit after receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Nothing compares.

God is so good to us poor sinners – uniting His Divinity with our humanity. We cannot hide from His loving embrace, chasing us like any good father would chase after his wayward child. How great is our God, who forgives AND forgets our transgressions, as soon as we humble ourselves in seeking the Sacraments of healing, asking for His Mercy that awaits us.

Salwa Elias

QUESTION

What is freedom?

ANSWER

Freedom is the power given by God to act or not to act, to do this or to do that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. Freedom characterizes properly human acts. The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. Freedom attains its proper perfection when it is directed toward God, the highest good and our beatitude. Freedom implies also the possibility of choosing between good and evil. The choice of evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to the slavery of sin.



UPCOMING EVENTS



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



This weekend, as a Maronite Catholic Diocese in Australia, we mark Safeguarding Sunday along with the Australian Catholic Church. Let us continue to pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. The Maronite Eparchy of Australia and all our parishes are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable persons at risk in our community. May our message be that safeguarding and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. Let us continue to work together to build and support safe communities for all people.

For any Safeguarding matters,
please contact the Safeguarding Office of the Maronite Chancery
02 8831 0000 or safeguarding@maronite.org.au

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Sunday 10 September 16th Sunday of Pentecost

9:30am The late Mary Toufic Issa from Kfarsghab (died in Lebanon)

11:00am 40 Day Mass for the late Antonios Said Ayoub from Kahef Al Malloul

5:00pm One Year Mass for the late Doumit Francis from Mazraat Al Teffah

7:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Suzan Chahid Namnoum from Zgharta wife of Badwi Moussa Bou Francis from Haref Ardeh

Monday 11 September:

10:30am Funeral of the late Elias Mtanios Chalhoub from Daraya

Tuesday 12 September:

10:30am Funeral of the late Jalile Hanna Saba widow of the late Bakhos Ishak from Hadchit

Wednesday 13 September: Eve of the Exaltation of the Cross

11:00am Rosary Prayers followed by Fatima Mass

7:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Arthur Anthony Saad from Kfarsghab

8:00pm Candlelight Procession of the Cross on the church grounds with religious Hymns and bonfire

Thursday 14 September: Exaltation of the Cross

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

Friday 15 September:

6:00pm One Year Mass for the late Najia Dahab widow of the late Salem Hanna from Sir Al Danieh

Saturday 16 September:

Masses 7:30am and 6:00pm

Sunday 17 September:

1st Sunday after the Glorious Cross

11:00am Mass for all Living and Departed of Karem Al Mohr for the Feast of St Moura

2:00pm Mass for all living and Departed of Kfarsghab for the Feast of St Awtel

5:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Nakie Younis from Hadchit widow of the late Joseph Kodssi from Tripoli

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION & LOANS REPAYMENTS

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS For week ending: 03/09/2023

Plates: \$10,422 | **Donations:** \$210 | **Candles:** \$2,111

PARISH LOANS

CYPC: \$3,400,833

UNITS: \$1,116,546

MONTHLY LOAN REPAYMENTS

CYPC: \$37,681 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

UNITS: \$12,503 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

KIDS CORNER

PRAYER PAIR

Luke 18:9-14

The Challenge

A pair of Jews gives us two examples of prayer. One prayer pleases God and one prayer doesn't. Solve the code to discover their prayers.

7 15 4
20 8 1 14 11
25 15 21
20 8 1 20 9 1 15
2 5 20 20 5 18
20 8 1 14
15 20 8 5 18 19.

7 15 4
8 1 22 5
15 5 18 3 25
15 14 15 5
9 1 15 1
19 9 14 14 5 18.



A=1 B=2 C=3
D=4 E=5 F=6
G=7 H=8 I=9
J=10 K=11 L=12
M=13 N=14 O=15
P=16 Q=17 R=18
S=19 T=20 U=21
V=22 W=23
X=24 Y=25 Z=26

First Man's Prayer:

Second Man's Prayer:

The Super Challenge

Unscramble the letters in the pots to make words. Then arrange the words to make a sentence about prayer.



UPCOMING EVENTS





UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Rosehill Gardens

Grand Pavilion, Rosehill

Dress Code: Formal

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

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



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](https://www.instagram.com/maronite_eparchy_australia)

**GOLDEN
JUBILEE
PARTNERS**



DASCO
CREATING WITH CARE SINCE 1993



**NSW
GOVERNMENT**



Bank of Sydney



HIS BEATITUDE AND EMINENCE
MAR BECHARA BOUTROS CARDINAL RAI
AUSTRALIA 15 ~ 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

SATURDAY | 16 SEPTEMBER
7PM: Welcome Dinner in the Maron Hall, Thornbury VIC

SUNDAY | 17 SEPTEMBER
10:30AM: Solemn Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon, Thornbury VIC

SUNDAY | 17 SEPTEMBER
6:30PM: Welcome and Thanksgiving Prayer at St Maroun's Cathedral, Redfern NSW

MONDAY | 18 SEPTEMBER
7PM: Catechesis (televised for Tele Lumiere Noursat), St Charbel's Parish, Punchbowl NSW

THURSDAY | 21 SEPTEMBER
7PM: Formal Reception Dinner at Rosehill Gardens, Rosehill NSW

FRIDAY | 22 SEPTEMBER
8PM: Adoration and Prayers for Lebanon and Australia with the visiting Bishops of Eparchies Outside the Patriarchal Territory and General Superiors of Maronite Religious Orders, at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Harris Park NSW

SUNDAY | 24 SEPTEMBER
11AM: Jubilee Solemn Mass at Ken Rosewall Arena, Homebush NSW





The visit of the Maronite Patriarch, His Beatitude and Eminence Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai **from 15 to 24 September** to Melbourne and Sydney will primarily be for the celebration of the Eparchy's Golden Jubilee.

This includes the **Solemn Mass on Sunday the 24 September at 11am** (Ken Rosewall Arena Sydney Olympic Park). Please make sure to attend if you have booked your tickets and if you have spares you can email tickets@maronite.org.au.

The visit of His Beatitude also provides is an important moment in the history of our community. It is a historic occasion to come together and to pray with our Patriarch and Shepherd as one community, and to give thanks for the 50 Years of the Maronite Eparchy of Australia and for all that we have achieved in this land, together.

We encourage and welcome you to attend these events where and when you are able to and be a part of this historic visit to Australia.

*The Welcome Dinner in Victoria (14-Sept), the Golden Jubilee Dinner in NSW (21-Sept) and the Golden Jubilee Mass at Ken Rosewall Arena are all ticketed events.
Please contact the Maronite Eparchy on 02 8831 0000 for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

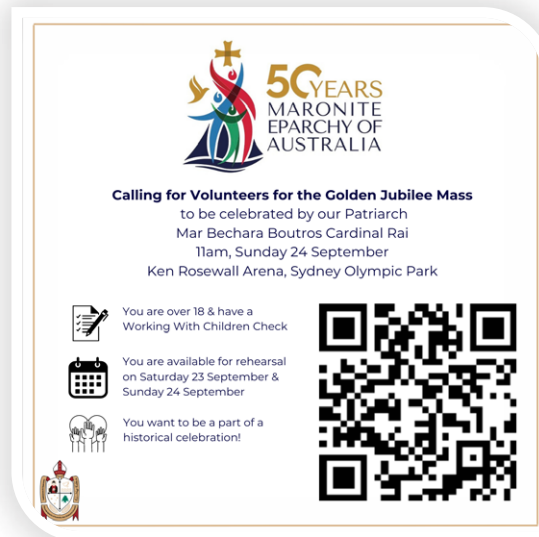
We invite you to put an expression of interest to volunteer for roles including ushering, crowd marshalling, directing the congregation during communion and plate collection.

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 ولعائلاتهم ولأصدقائهم 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 ٠٢ ٨٨٣١ ٠٠٠٠ .

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



There's just 14 days to go until our Golden Jubilee Mass at Ken Rosewall Arena.

We wanted to give you some brief information to help you plan your trip to Sydney Olympic Park.

And remember – there will be loads of volunteers helping direct you to Ken Rosewall so look out for them!

Please make sure you do attend if you have booked your tickets.

If you have spares please go to the Eparchy Facebook or Instagram to learn how to transfer your tickets to others or call their office on **02 8831 0000**.



Ignite Your Teen's Faith Journey with Maronite Flames!



Dear Parents,

We invite you to give your teenagers the opportunity to strengthen their faith, build lasting friendships, and grow as individuals by joining our Maronite Flames group at the church. Our welcoming community is dedicated to nurturing their spiritual growth and personal development in a fun and supportive environment.

Don't miss out on this chance to empower your teens with faith, friendship, and purpose. Contact us today to learn more and enroll them in the Maronite Flames group!

Together, let's ignite their faith journey!

Contact Rachel on 0477 27 60 77

لوحة إعلانات الرعية

الأحد ١٠ أيلول:

الأحد السادس عشر من زمن العنصرة

٩:٣٠ المرحومة ماري توفيق عيسى من كفرصغاب (متوفاة في لبنان)
١١:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم الشاعر أنطونيوس سعيد أيوب من كهف الملول

٥:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم ضوميط فرنسيس من مزرعة التفاح
٧:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة سوزان شهيد نموم من زغرنا زوجة بدوي موسى بو فرنسيس من حرف أرد

الاثنين ١١ أيلول:

١٠:٣٠ دفن المرحوم الياس مطانيوس شلهوب من داريا

الثلاثاء ١٢ أيلول:

١٠:٣٠ دفن المرحومة جليلا حنا سابا أرملة المرحوم باخوس إسحق من حدشيت

الأربعاء ١٣ أيلول:

١١:٠٠ صلاة المسبحة مع الذبيحة الإلهية لمناسبة ظهور العذراء في فاطيما وعلى نية كل من يحمل صليب
٧:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم Arthur أنطوني سعد من كفرصغاب
٨:٠٠ مساءً زياح الصليب خارج الكنيسة يليه إحتفال مهيب بالشموع، ترانيم دينية وإشعال النار في الساحة

الخميس ١٤ أيلول:

عيد إرتفاع الصليب

القداصات ٧:٠٠ ، ٩:٠٠ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً

الجمعة ١٥ أيلول:

٦:٠٠ السنة للمرحومة ناجية الذهب أرملة المرحوم سالم حنا من سير الضنية

السبت ١٦ أيلول:

القداصات ٧:٣٠ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً

الأحد ١٧ أيلول:

الأحد الأول بعد عيد الصليب

١١:٠٠ قداس على نية أحياء وأموات كرم المهر بمناسبة عيد القديسة مورا

٢:٠٠ قداس على نية أحياء وأموات كفرصغاب بمناسبة عيد مار أوتل
٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة نقيه يونس من حدشيت أرملة المرحوم جوزيف قُدسي من طرابلس



علّمنا أيتها المسيح
ألا نخجل أبداً من صليبتك!

إن احتفالنا بعيد ارتفاع الصليب المقدّس في ١٤ أيلول هو استمرارية لتقليد كنسيّ طويل جداً. في ١٤ أيلول من سنة ٣٣٥ اجتمع حشد غفير من المؤمنين والحجاج والرهبان والأساقفة في اورشليم، وقد جاؤوا من جميع أنحاء الإمبراطورية الرومانية، ليحتفلوا بتكريس كنيسة عظيمة أمر الإمبراطور قسطنطين ببنائها حيث صلب السيّد المسيح ودُفن. وقد استمرّ الإحتفال بهذه الذكرى حتى يومنا هذا ليس كتكرار لتقليد تاريخيّ كنسيّ عريق وراسخ في القدم فحسب، بل كمشاركة بالإيمان الواحد الذي يجمعنا بالإخوة الذين سبقونا وأوصلوا إلينا معنى إكرام الصليب الأقدس. وهو من ناحية أخرى عيش لمعنى الصليب في حياتنا، إذ ليس الصليب علامة الألم والعذاب والموت، إنّما علامة الانتصار الذي أعطانا إياه المسيح بانتصاره هو على الموت، وبانتصار الرجاء على اليأس.

ولا بدّ لنا من أن نتأمّل بالصليب الذي حمله المسيح طوال جلجلته الضعيفة، صليب غُرست فيه المسامير متبّنة يديّ المسيح المباركة، صليب استقى من دم المسيح المنهمر ومن جراحه المؤلمة، صليب شكّل فراشاً متيناً لجسد المسيح، صليب خشبه شخّ قداسة وعطرًا طيّبًا، فكيف لنا أن نخجل منه؟

الصليب يعني الفداء، الرّجاء، القيامة، العطاء، التّضحية، الموت والقيامة، القداسة، الحياة الجديدة، فكيف لنا أن نخجل منه؟ بالصليب نتجدّد، به نتّحد والصّعبات تتخطّى، به تتفتح أزهار الأمل، به تتسلّح ضدّ الخطيئة، به ترتفع صوب السّماء، فكيف لنا أن نخجل منه؟

صليب يرمز عمودياً إلى الرّابط بين السّماء بالأرض وأفقيّاً إلى الرّابط بين البشر، فكيف لنا، نحن البشر المؤمنين، ألا نفتخر ونتقدّس بهذه الصّلة المتينة بين البيت السّماويّ والحياة الأرضيّة التي فيها نسعى جاهدين نحو الكمال؟

علّمنا يا ربّ إذاً أن نجاهر بالإيمان دائماً، أن نلتزم بالتّعاليم المسيحيّة، أن نصرخ بالإيمان على الدّوام، أن نرفع صليبنا أمام الجميع، أن نقاتل العنف بمحبّته، أن نواجه الحقّ بعطائه، أن نراه سلّم خلاص نرتقيه بثبات صوب الفردوس الأبديّ.

“لا فخراً إلاّ
بالصليب ينبوع
نعمتنا العجيب.
الطوباوي أبونا يعقوب

عَيْنَا

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

عدد ٤٥ | الأحد ١٠ أيلول ٢٠٢٣ | الأحد السادس عشر من العنصرة "اللَّهُمَّ، إِضْفَعْ عَنِّي أَنَا الْخَاطِيءُ!" لو ٩: ١٨-١٤

الإنجيل



قال الرب يسوع هذا المثل لأتاس يثْقُون في أنفسهم أَنَّهُمْ أَبْرَارٌ، وَيَحْتَقِرُونَ الْآخَرِينَ: "بُخْلَانِ صَعْدَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَل لِصَلَاةٍ، أَخَذَهُمَا فَرِيسِيٌّ وَالْآخَرُ عَشَارٌ. فَوَقَفَ الْفَرِيسِيُّ يَصَلِّي فِي نَفْسِهِ وَيَقُول: اللَّهُمَّ، أَشْكُرُكَ لِأَنِّي لَسْتُ كَبَاثِي النَّاسِ الظَّالِمِينَ الزُّنَاةَ، وَلَا كَهَذَا الْعَشَارِ. إِنِّي أَصُومُ مِائَتَيْنِ فِي الْأُسْبُوعِ، وَأُؤْذِي الْعَشَرَ عَنْ كُلِّ مَا أَقْتَنِي. أَمَّا الْعَشَارُ فَوَقَفَ بَعِيدًا وَهُوَ لَا يُرِيدُ حَتَّى أَنْ يَرْفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، بَلْ كَانَ يَقْرَعُ صَدْرَهُ قَائِلًا: اللَّهُمَّ، إِضْفَعْ عَنِّي أَنَا الْخَاطِيءُ! أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّ هَذَا نَزَلَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ مُبْتَزًّا، أَمَّا ذَاكَ فَلَا: لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ يَرْفَعُ نَفْسَهُ يُوَضَّعُ، وَمَنْ يُوَضَّعُ نَفْسُهُ يُرْفَعُ" لو ٩: ١٨-١٤

الأحد السادس عشر
من عيد العنصرة
سفر عاموس ٥: ٢١-٢٤
رو ٨: ١٨-٢٧
لو ٩: ١٨-١٤

زمن العنصرة

زمن العنصرة هو زمن الكنيسة، وينتهي مع هذا الأحد الذي يكشف آخر عنصر من حياة الكنيسة ورسالتها، وهو الصلاة. في مثل إنجيل الفريسي والعشار يؤكد الرب يسوع أن أساس الصلاة التواضع، وأن مصدرها القلب، وأنها وقفة توبة واستغفار أمام الله.

المثل الذي أعطاه يسوع عن الرجلين اللذين دخلا الهيكل للصلاة، يكشف حقيقة الفريسي، رجل الشريعة، المتدين، العارف المتعقّق في الكتب المقدّسة، الذي لم تكن صلواته وقفة وجدانية أمام قداسة الله، بل كانت وقفة أمام ذاته، وطلب بصلاته المتباهية شهادة الله له ومديحه علي ما هو وعلى أصوامه وإداء العشر، وأدان الناس الباقين ووصفهم بأنهم طغاعون، ظالمون وزناة، ومن بينهم العشار الذي كان يصلي في مؤخرة الهيكل.

أما العشار، فكان معتبراً في محيطه أنه خاطي، بسبب وظيفته كجاء للمال التي كانت توقعه في تجربة سلب بعض الأموال، وبسبب جباية للمال للسلطة الرومانية الوثنية. هذا العشار أقرّ بخطيئته فوقف بتواضع كلي، "بعيداً في الهيكل من دون أن يجرد حتى أن يرفع عينيه إلى السماء بل كان يقرع صدره ويقول: "اللهم، اغفر لي أنا الخاطي".

في ختام هذا المثل، قيّم الرب يسوع صلاة الرجلين فقال: "إنّ العشار نزل إلى بيته مُبْتَزًّا، أما الفريسي فلا". وأعطى الأمثلة لنا جميعاً: كلّ من يرفع نفسه يُواضع، ومن يواضع نفسه يُرفع" (لو ١٨: ١٤)

لقد شجب الرب يسوع موقف الذين يعتقدون أنهم أبرار، ويحتقرون الآخرين. ويقول إنهم غير مقبولين لدى الله، الذي يعرف مكنونات قلب الإنسان. إنّ الذين واللواتي رفعنهم الكنيسة قديسين وطوباويين، كانوا يعدّون

أنفسهم أكبر الخطاة، ويلتمسون رحمة الله بالصلاة والتقشّف والإماتة، وباللجوء المتواتر إلى سرّ التوبة. ولهذا السبب نهج بعضهم نهج النسك، كالحبيس القديس شربل. وكانوا يعتبرون الآخرين أفضل منهم، ويروى أنّ القديس نعمة الله الحرديني كان يعترف كلّ يوم، ذلك أنّ الأبرار مهما سموا بالفضيلة أمام الناس، كانوا بسبب وقوفهم الوجداني أمام قداسة الله، يجدون ذواتهم خطاة، قياساً بقداسة الله.

صلاتنا هي، إصغاء إلى الربّ الحاضر في حياتنا، هي قبولنا لإرادته في حياتنا، التأمل بها كلّ يوم، تجسيدها في أعمالنا وفي حياتنا، والشهادة بها أمام مجتمعنا. الصلاة تعبّر عن كوننا أبناء الله، نرتبط به بعلاقة حبّ وصداقة وثقة. فهل نعطي صديقنا القليل من وقتنا للكلام معه، لشكره وحمده على وجوده في حياتنا، لنحيا حقيقتنا كأبناء له وكأصدقاء؟



صلاة

مبارك أنت يا أيها الصليب المقدّس، يا من حملت مخلص العالم فحوّل الحزن إلى فرح والموت إلى قيامة.

نسأل الآب السماوي اليوم في عيدك أن يمنّ علينا بفضيلة الاحتمال لنذكر أنّ من يعرف أن يحمل الصليب يحوّل ألمه إلى سعادة وعجزه إلى قوّة ويأسه إلى رجاء، بنعمة وحضور الروح القدس نبع ومصدر كلّ قوّة، إلى الأبد، أمين

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, Antoine Azar (B) Milia Bou Raidan (C) (D) (E) Tanious Elias Kazzi & the deceased of his family, Matthew Essey (F) (G) Helen George, Majid George (H) Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, Paul & Madeline Haddad & Son Joseph & daughter Colleen George, Jabbour Assad Haddad, Hanne Jabbour Haddad, Joe Jabbour Haddad, Assad Jabbour Haddad, Amin Haddad, Samiya Amin Haddad (I) (J) Jamil Kamel Mtanios Jabbour (K) Baraban Georges Karam, Genevieve Khoury & the departed souls of the Khoury & El-Zahoul families, Sarkis Chucri Khoudair (L) (M) Youssef Maroon & his wife Ghsoun, Therese Melhem, Betty Merhi, Bechara Boutrous Moussa, Robert Bechara Moussa, Moussa Nasr Moussa, Rabiha Badwe Moussa (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) Jamil & Labibi Roumanou and all the deceased from their family, Youssef Badwe Raffoul, Rizk Family (S) Youssef Mikhael Shaheen, Boutros & Therese Sassine and their son Kenny, Nabih Nassim Saad & Children Kevin & Emile Saad, Emile Nabih Saad, Nabih Saad, Kevin Saad, Saba Family (T) Therese Tanna, Bernadette Tanna, Gwen Tanas, Tanna Family (U) (V) (W) Jamil Wehbe (X) (Y) (Z)

