

# OUR PARISH

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-cathedral - Harris Park

Issue 5 | Sunday 3 December 2023

Visitation to Elizabeth

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" Lk 1: 39-45



## THE GOSPEL

During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Lk 1: 39 - 45

## Message from the Bishop

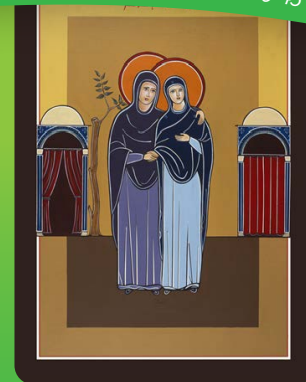
Dear Brothers and Sisters,



"Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country..." (Luke 1:39). Today, the Maronite Church reflects on the Visitation of the Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. In the passage from the Gospel according to Saint Luke, we see a meeting between two mothers who are the recipients of divine blessings. Elizabeth, old and childless, but through God's intervention, she becomes pregnant! Meanwhile, Mary, an unknown young girl from the distant village of Nazareth, becomes the mother of the Saviour.

The visit that Mary made to her cousin goes beyond a mere family connection or an act of charity to lend a helping hand to Elizabeth; it is primarily a missionary visit. Having said yes to God's request through the Archangel Gabriel, allowing the Word of God to become incarnate in her womb, Mary takes the initiative to bring God to her cousin Elizabeth's family. It is evident in today's Gospel passage that joy abounds: the joy of the child leaping in Elizabeth's womb, the joy of the Virgin Mary herself—not merely because she becomes the Mother of God, but because God has chosen her for the Saviour to come and save His people.

The Gospel introduces the figure of a disciple of God, with Mary serving as an exemplary model, who makes herself wholly available to receive the Word of God in her heart and subsequently shares God with humanity. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, reflecting on this Gospel passage, remarked, "Mary, through the mystery of the Annunciation and Visitation, represents the very model of the life we should lead. First, she welcomed Jesus into her existence; then, she shared what she had received." In reality, proclaiming the Gospel is not reserved for missionaries alone; it is a duty for all the baptised. Each person possesses the talent and ability to bring Christ into daily life: the



Visitation  
to Elizabeth  
2Sam 6:9-15, 17-18b  
Eph 1: 1-14  
Lk 1: 39-45

environment in which they live, the profession they practice in society, and the vocation they pursue.

As we reflect on this divine encounter, we also mark this Sunday, 3 December, the **International Day of People with Disability**. This day serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to serve and reflect the face of Christ in all aspects of life, including our interactions with those who may be differently-abled. Just as Mary embraced her role in bringing the joy of Christ to others, so too are we called to create inclusive spaces, showing love and compassion to all, irrespective of their abilities. In an initiative from MaroniteCare, our Eparchy offers an accessible Mass every Sunday at 10.30am held at St Elias Chapel at the Maronite College of the Holy Family in Harris Park for people with autism and special needs. All are welcome.

This Friday, we will celebrate the **Closing Mass of the Golden Jubilee Year** on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and reflect on the blessings of our Jubilee Year. All are welcome on Friday, 8 December 2023 at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, 40 Alice Street, Harris Park.

This week, let us pray to the Lord to assist us in following the example of the Virgin Mary: to be open and available to welcome the Word of God and to share it with joy and enthusiasm with those who do not yet know the Lord. Amen.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

### SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES

LOL 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

### Safeguarding Officers:

Younan Friefer: 0400 080 000

Joanne Elias: 0427 503 008

### Parish Office:

9689 2899

### Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday

9am - 4:30pm

Saturday

9am - 1pm

Fax: 9689 2068

Email: info@lol.org.au

Website: www.lol.org.au

## "Walking in Love"

Mary went "with haste" to be with her cousin Elizabeth...not in a motor vehicle, or any other comfortable form of transportation. She either walked there or used a donkey for transport, despite being herself pregnant and fatigued. This act alone describes the humility and charity of heart that Mary possessed. After all, she was carrying "Charity" himself within her womb. To walk in love means to do everything with love as our only reason and purpose. Mary went with haste, with love, with compassion, filled with grace from God above and God within. So much to reflect upon, if we truly understand the deeper meaning of this Visitation – the first encounter with 'Eucharistic adoration' shown to us by an unborn baby, John the Baptist, who couldn't help but "leap with joy" within his mother's womb at the mere presence of the unborn Messiah. Can we be honest when asking ourselves: "Do our hearts leap for joy when in the presence of the Holy Eucharist? Are we walking in love, as Mary did, when helping others or fulfilling our daily duties in life?" These are very personal questions, especially for us who have dedicated our lives to the service of God and to His Church.

In whatever ministry we are involved, when we are faced with doubts and rejection, where does our encouragement and consolation come from, to endure those trials we face today? Our consolation and our model is Jesus, the Christ. We have no other choice but to walk in love, if we are truly to imitate His very own sweet-smelling sacrifice, as a holocaust for the world. Without an intimate relationship with God, through prayer and the Sacraments, this would be an impossible task. But, we do not fear if we place ourselves at the foot of His Cross, with Mary our Mother. This is how John the Beloved was able to endure the sight of the crucified Christ, even after all

the other disciples had deserted Jesus on Calvary. This is how we endure our own crosses every day, standing by the side of Mary, the Mother of God. Our Blessed Mother paid no heed to the praises or to the condemnations of men. She imitated the Son whom she herself taught and nurtured and directed. In her humility, we are made strong. In her obedience, we follow the Will of the Father.

Jesus has called each one of us to holiness, in any vocation. Let us surrender to His Will, and call upon the graces outpoured through the Blessed Mother. Let us speak with words of love, think with thoughts of love, and act with hearts of love. Let us walk in love, giving glory and thanks to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Salwa Elias

### QUESTION

In the Old Testament, what relationship do the king and the temple have to prayer?

### ANSWER

The prayer of the People of God developed in the shadow of the dwelling place of God - the Ark of the Covenant, then the Temple - under the guidance of their shepherds. Among them there was David, the King "after God's own heart," the shepherd who prayed for his people. His prayer was a model for the prayer of the people because it involved clinging to the divine promise and a trust filled with love for the One who is the only King and Lord.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



# OLOL CHRISTMAS

CAROLS & FESTIVAL

8PM

## December 16.2023

"This is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us" (Isa 25:9)

**FREE OUTDOOR EVENT**

OLOL CHOIRS | LIVE NATIVITY | LIVE ANIMALS  
FOOD STALLS & DRINKS | CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & TOYS  
LIVE SHOW "TROUBLES IN SANTA'S WORKSHOP"

40 ALICE STREET, HARRIS PARK NSW 2150

 pirtachio



# PARISH NOTICE BOARD

## Sunday 3 December:

Visitation to Elizabeth

**8:00am** Sodality Mass

**9:30am** Mass for all Living and Departed of Blouza for the Feast of St Saba and St Barbara

**11:00am** 40 Day Mass for the late Marcus Fred El-Khoury from Mazraat Al Toufah

## Thursday 7 December:

**10:30am** Seniors Christmas Mass followed by lunch

## Friday 8 December:

Immaculate Conception

**7:00pm** Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the End of Jubilee Mass, celebrated by Bishop Antoine - Charbel Tarabay

## Saturday 9 December:

**6:00pm** One Year Mass for the late Saide Tadros Sarkis from Bkerkacha wife of Antoine Youssef Tannous from Tartej

## Sunday 10 December:

Birth of John the Baptist

**11:00am** One Year Mass for the late Raymond Boutros Azizi from Zgharta

**5:00pm** 40 Day Mass for the late Yvonne Estephan from Bsebel widow of the late Eghnatio Hbeich from Kfarhawra

## PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION & LOANS REPAYMENTS

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS** For week ending: 26/11/2023

**Plates:** \$12,719 | **Donations:** \$100 | **Candles:** \$362

**PARISH LOANS**

**CYPC:** \$3,372,551

**UNITS:** \$1,105,683

**MONTHLY LOAN REPAYMENTS**

**CYPC:** \$37,681 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

**UNITS:** \$12,503 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

## KIDS CORNER

## 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!

### Last Saturday

The Fersen held a children's concert singing Marian Hymns, what a spectacular and blessed event at OLOL Church Hall

### Last Sunday

The Family Spiritual Retreat Day, organised by the Family Committee of OLOL, centered around the theme 'Salt of the Earth & Light of the World.' The day unfolded with enriching spiritual talks for parents, engaging activities for teens, Fersen, and infants, culminating in a meaningful mass and heartfelt gift presentations. We extend our gratitude to all attending families and offer prayers for you to radiate the savory essence of Salt and the illuminating Light of Christ in your homes and communities.

### On Monday night

the Men's Faith Formation Group, part of the Family Committee, had a talk about eternal life, presented by Fr John Flader. This was the last meeting of the 11th year of meetings. Afterwards, the men had nibbles and drinks to celebrate the end of the year. Looking forward to start again in January next year.

### On Thursday & Friday

The Sodality committee held their regular saj bread baking. The scent of fresh bread could be smelt as you walked down the stairs to the bottom level carpark. It was so beautiful to see our amazing church Mothers come together, spend time with one another and bake for our parishioners. Thank you to all who came and purchased from the saj.



### Mary Visited Elizabeth Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

ELGARIB



BLUMEH



EJOPHS



VOFAR



BAZELTHIE



SLEBDES



What did the angel tell Mary?  
That she would be the





## UPCOMING EVENTS

OLOL YOUTH PRESENTS

# SPORTS NIGHT: TENNIS EDITION



**DECEMBER 5TH**  
COURTS OPEN FROM  
7 PM TO 10 PM

**COST OF  
EVENT**  
\$10 PER PERSON

**PARRAMATTA  
CITY TENNIS**  
PH JEFFREY RESERVE

**CONTACT  
GEORGE TO BOOK**  
0423 451 722



### Accessible Church

An initiative of

  
MaroniteCare

**Every Sunday**  
**10.30am**

**The Divine  
Sacrifice of the  
Mass  
celebrated for  
people with  
autism, special  
needs, and their  
families.**

**Day/time:** Sundays  
10.30am

**Location:** St Elias Chapel,  
Maronite College of the  
Holy Family (MCHF)

**Access:** Gate 6, Weston  
St Harris Park, MCHF.  
Parking on Weston St

**Info:** Fr Yuhanna Azize  
0435 764 824

# FIVE LOAVES



## WE'RE HIRING

**FULL TIME OR PART TIME  
STAFF NEEDED**

**CONTACT SAM ON  
0404 177 360**

# MYO CHRISTMAS

*New Year's Party*

## SAVE THE DATE

**WEDNESDAY 27TH OF DECEMBER 2023**  
OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL, HARRIS PARK



  
OUR LADY OF LEBANON  
FAMILY COMMITTEE



INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL

# Christmas FAMILY BRUNCH



**Sunday DECEMBER 10, 2023**  
**Level 1 CYPC**  
**After 9:30am Family Mass**



 **50 YEARS** 



*Conclusion of the Jubilee Year  
Et The Final visit  
to the Relics of the Saints*

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
5:00 pm Arrival & procession of the Relics  
5:15 pm Prayers of veneration of the Relics  
5:30 pm Mass with the intention for peace  
in the Middle East especially in Lebanon

**THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
Masses: 7:00 am, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm  
8:00 pm Adoration in the presence of the Relics

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
7:00 pm, Solemn Mass celebrated by  
HIS EXCELLENCY ANTOINE-CHARBEL TARABAY  
for the Feast of The Immaculate Conception  
& the conclusion of the Jubilee Year.

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral 40 Alice St Harris Park NSW 2150





## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Feast of the Immaculate Conception & closing Mass of our Golden Jubilee Year

On the occasion of the Conclusion of the Golden Jubilee Year of our Maronite Eparchy, we invite everyone to participate in a Thanksgiving Mass on **Friday 8 December at 7pm** at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Harris Park. All are welcome as we raise a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for the abundance of His blessings upon us during this blessed year.

لمناسبة اختتام سنة اليوبيل الذهبي لأبرشيتنا المارونية، ندعو الجميع للمشاركة بقداس شكر يُقام يوم **الجمعة ٨ كانون الأول، الساعة ٧ مساءً** في كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان، هاريس بارك. نرجو حضوركم لنرفع معاً صلاة شكر للرب على فيض نعمه وبركاته علينا خلال هذه السنة المباركة.







# Christmas & New Year

## PROGRAM - 2023

*"This is our God; we have waited for Him. He has come and will save us"*  
Isa 26:9

FRIDAY 8/12/23	7.00PM MASS IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - END OF JUBILEE MASS
FRIDAY 15/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM STARTING OF CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
SATURDAY 16/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY 2 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH 8.00PM CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT & CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 17/12/23	REVELATION TO JOSEPH 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 5.00PM & 7.00PM MASS 6:00PM DAY 3 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
MONDAY 18/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY 4 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
TUESDAY 19/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY 5 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
WEDNESDAY 20/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY 6 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
THURSDAY 21/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY 7 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH 8.00PM SOLEMN ADORATION & PROCESSION
FRIDAY 22/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY 8 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
SATURDAY 23/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY 9 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
SUNDAY 24/12/23	8:00AM, 9:30AM AND 11:00AM MASS CHRISTMAS EVE. - 6.00PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL FAMILY MASS, 11.00PM THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD - MIDNIGHT MASS WITH RITE OF ADORATION OF CHRISTMAS, CELEBRATED BY HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP ANTOINE-CHARBEL TARABAY
MONDAY 25/12/23	THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS DAY, MASSES: 8.00AM, 9.30AM, 11.00AM, 6.00PM
TUESDAY 26/12/23	PRAISES OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, MASSES: 8.00AM, 11.00AM & 6.00PM
SUNDAY 31/12/23	NEW YEAR'S EVE, MASSES: 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 5.00PM & 7:00PM
MONDAY 1/1/24	NEW YEAR'S DAY, THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD JESUS MASSES: 8.00AM, 10.00AM & 6.00PM

# لوحة إعلانات الرعية

## الأحد ٣ كانون الأول:

أحد زيارة العذراء لأليصابات

٨:٠٠ قداس على نية أبناء الأخوة أحياء ومرضى وأموات

٩:٣٠ قداس على نية أحياء وأموات بلوزا بمناسبة عيد القديس سابا

والقديسة بربارة

١١:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم ماركس فرد الخوري من مزرعة التفاح

## السبت ٩ كانون الأول:

٦:٠٠ السنة للمرحومة سيدة تادروس سركيس من بقرقاشا زوجة أنطوان يوسف طنوس من ترتيج

## الأحد ١٠ كانون الأول:

أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان

١١:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم رايون بطرس عزيزي من زغرتا

٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة إيفون إسطفان من بسبعل أرملة المرحوم

إغناطيوس حبش من كفرحورا

## الخميس ٧ كانون الأول:

١٠:٣٠ قداس المسنين بمناسبة عيد الميلاد يليه غداء

## الجمعة ٨ كانون الأول:

عيد الحبل بلا دنس

٧:٠٠ قداس بمناسبة عيد الحبل بلا دنس وختام اليوميل الخمسين

للأبرشية يحتفل به صاحب السيادة المطران أنطوان - شربل طريه

السامي الإحترام



## "فيه كرسى الاعتراف"

عندما تثقل الخطيئة كاهل مقترفها وتقف له بالمرصاد وتعرقل مسيرة نموّه الروحي وتطوّره الاجتماعي، عندما لا يعود شيء قادرًا على التخفيف عنه، يبقى كرسي الاعتراف ملجأ الوحيد.

في كرسي الاعتراف، يلتقي المعترف يسوع طبيب النفس والجسد من خلال الكاهن المعرّف. ويتعرّف الكاهن إلى إنسان قرّر عدم التخلّي عن يسوع. فجّل ما يريده المرء أن يغيّر مساره وان يتحوّل إلى مشروع قديس ويتخلّص من قذارة الحياة. في تلك اللحظة، تخسر الخطيئة سلطتها!

إن تصحيح المسار عملٌ ضروري في حياة المسيحي لكي لا يبقى في الخطيئة ويضلّ الطريق إلى الملكوت. ولعلّ المكان الأفضل لهذا التصحيح هو كرسي الاعتراف. هناك أراجع ذاتي، أتحدث مع الكاهن، أصغي إلى إرشاداته لكي يساعدني على اكتشاف الحب في قلبي فأضعه في خدمة الآخر. عندها أكون قد صححت مساري.

تصحيح هو أن أتقدّس فأحمل سلام الرب يسوع أينما حللت، لترتكض الكلمة في أحشاء من التقى به كما ارتكض الجنين في بطن أليصابات عندما ألتقتها مريم. من يعلم ما سيكون فعل هذا اللقاء؟ قد أكون الإنجيل الوحيد الذي يقرأه الآخر في حياته! إذا لم أكن على المسار الصحيح ماذا أقدم له؟ ألا أضله بدلًا من أن أعطيّه الرجاء؟ ولا ننسى أبدًا أنّ الله يؤمن بنا، فهو كما يقول بادري بيو ملك كرسي الاعتراف "لا يترك أحدًا، فقد كلّفه أمر خلاصك الكثير فكيف يتركك؟"

"أنا هي التي حبلت بها بلا دنس"



تحتفل الكنيسة المقدّسة بعيد الحبل بسيدتنا مريم العذراء، في أحشاء والدتها القديسة حنة، بريئة من وصمة الخطيئة الأصلية. وهذا كان اعتقاد الكنيسة الشرقية منذ العصور الأولى، يوم كانت تعيد "لحبل حنة" بوالدة الاله.

إنّ مريم هي بريئة من وصمة الخطيئة الأصلية وهي في أحشاء والدتها القديسة حنة. وقد أصبحت هذه الحقيقة عقيدة إيماناً يوم قام البابا بيوس التاسع في الثامن من شهر كانون الأول سنة ١٨٥٤، يعلن بسلطانه الأعلى المعصوم عن الغلط: "إنّ مريم البتول قد تنزّهت عن الخطيئة الأصلية. وأنّ الله وقى نفسها من تلك الخطيئة الجديّة منذ الدقيقة الأولى، وذلك منّة خاصّة منه، بفضل استحقاقات ابنه الوحيد سيدنا يسوع المسيح مخلص البشر."

وفي سنة ١٥٨٥، كان ظهور العذراء لابنة برناديت في قرية لورد، إثباتاً وتأكيداً لهذه العقيدة، إذ قالت لبرناديت - لما سألتها من أنت؟ فأجابت مريم: "أنا هي الحبل بلا دنس". يذكّرنا هذا العيد بأنّ لمريم مكانة خاصة في حياة يسوع، كما لأيّ أم بالنسبة لابنها. ولكنّ القرابة الأساسيّة بين يسوع ومريم هي انتماؤها إلى خطّ النعمة، وتحقيقها بالتالي مشروع الله من دون تردّد أو نقصان. لقد أصلحت مريم بطاعتها ما كانت أفسدته حواء، ويسوع استعاد للبشريّة المجد الذي فقده آدم الأوّل.

طوبى لِمَن لَبَسَ التَّوْبَةَ آمَنَتْهُ أَنْتَ  
مَسِيحٌ مَا قِيلَ لَهَا مِنْهُ الرَّبُّ  
لو ١: ٤٥



# عَيْنَا

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

عدد ٥ | الأحد ٣ كانون الأول ٢٠٢٣ | أحد زيارة العذراء للإصابات "مباركة أنت في النساء، ومباركة ثمرة بطنك!" لو ٣٩: ٤٥

الإنجيل



في تلك الأيام، قامت مريم وذهبت مُسرعة إلى الجبل، إلى مدينة في يهوذا. ودخلت بنت زكريا، وسلمت على الإصابات. ولما سمعت الإصابات سلام مريم، ارتكض الجنين في بطنها، وامتلات من الروح القدس. فهتفت بأعلى صوتها وقالت: «مباركة أنت في النساء، ومباركة ثمرة بطنك! ومن أين لي هذا، أن تأتي إلي أم ربي؟ فما منذ وقع صوت سلامك في أذني، ارتكض الجنين ابتهاجاً في بطني! فطوبى للتي آمنّت أنه سيتم ما قيل لها من قبل الرب!.. لو ٣٩: ٤٥

## "مباركة أنت بين النساء"

خلقت الإصابات العاقراً بالخمل بسنين طوال، ويوم حملت لم تُصدّق بسرّها. فأخفت حملها مدة خمسة أشهر. إن فرحها الكثير ليس لأن الله أزال عنها العار المتأني من حكم الناس، بل لأنها عرّفت قوّة الفرح والسلام والخبّ ما إن فتحت بابها لتستضيف العذراء مريم في دار قلبها. لأن العذراء وبعد أن عرفت من خلال الملاك أن نسيبتها الإصابات حبلت أسرع إلى عين كارم لخدمتها ومكثت عندها ثلاثة أشهر حتى مولد يوحنا.

في لقاء الأُمّين مريم وأليصابات، كان لقاء الجنين يسوع ويوحنا، ولقاء العهدين الجديد والقديم، بالروح القدس الذي يجمع ويعلم. لذا، عندما دخلت مريم الحامل بيسوع بيت الإصابات، امتلات الإصابات من الروح القدس هي والجنين الذي في بطنها. فتتبات الإصابات في الحال أن مريم هي مباركة بين النساء وهي أم الرب، والجنين الذي في أحشائها هو قدوس الله. وما ارتكض الجنين يوحنا في أحشاء أمه بعد سماعها سلام مريم سوى علامة على امتلائه من الروح القدس وكأنّ المسيح عقد يوحنا في الحشا استيقاً لليوم الذي سيأتي فيه يوحنا ويعمّد المسيح. فتتت نبوءة الملاك لزكريا أبيه: "ويمتلئ من الروح القدس وهو بعد في حشا أم" (لوا: ١٥).

ما سر تلك البهجة التي حرّكت جنينا في بطن أمه؟ انه يسوع الذي حملته... مريم مسرعة الى بيت زكريا، كاهن الرب ومن خلاله الى بيوت العالم أجمع انه أمير السلام.

كم نحن بحاجة اليوم الى مثل تلك الزيارة؟ كم نحن بحاجة اليك يا مريم؟ كم نحن بحاجة الى السلام؟ الى الروح القدس، الى الابتهاج والفرح. إن مريم العذراء هي أوّل رسولٍ تركّض مُسرعةً إليك، تحمِلُ لكُ الحبّ الإلهي في



أحد زيارة العذراء  
لإصابات  
سفر صموئيل الثاني  
٩: ١-١٧، ١٨ أب  
أف ١: ١-١٤  
لو ٣٩: ٤٥

أحشائها، تفرّغ على باب قلبك بسلامها، لتقدّم لك ابنتها وابن الله هديّة خلاص. طوبى لك ان فتحت لها باب قلبك.

في زيارتنا ومشاريعنا وأعمالنا، وأن تخلق فينا روح الخدمة للآخرين، بعيداً عن كلّ المصالح الشخصية والأنانية والغايات الدنيئة، آمين



## صلاة

يا رب، في أحد زيارة العذراء إلى أليصابات، أرفع إليك قلبي وروحي شاكراً نعملك في حياتي وفي طليعتها نعمة الإيمان المزروع في قلبي. ولكنك إسمح لي أن أسألك نعمة أخرى هي نعمة الحماسة للرسالة المسيحية. على مثال مريم العذراء القديسة، فأندفع حاملاً إسم ابنك يسوع وإنجيله غير عابئ بصعوبات الطريق والحياة. فيتحول كلّ لقاء في حياتي فرصة لتمجيدك وشكرك وتسبيحك، يا من منحتنا أغلى من لديك، ابنك الوحيد الذي بذل ذاته لخلاصنا وروح القدس الذي ينيرنا ويرشدنا، 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, Youssef Said Ayoub & his sister Adele & his brother Mtanios Said Ayoub, Said Ayoub, Said & Jamileh Ayoub (B) Milia Bou Raidan (C) Saideh Chebat & Akel Chebat (D) (E) Tanious Elias Kazzi & the deceased of his family, Matthew Essey (F) Mounir Fakhr (G) Helen George, Majid George (H) Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, Paul & Madeline Haddad & Son Joseph & daughter Colleen George (I) (J) Jamil Kamel Mtanios Jabbour (K) Baraban Georges Karam, Sarkis Chucir Khoudair, Genvieve Khoury and the Departed Souls of the Khoury & Elzahoul families (L) (M) Youssef Maroon & his wife Ghosun, Therese Melhem, Betty Merhi, Bechara Boutrous Moussa, Robert Bechara Moussa (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) Jamil & Labibi Roumanus and all their deceased family & friends (S) Youssef Mikhael Shaheen, Boutros & Therese Sassine and their son Kenny, Nabih Nassim Saad & Children Kevin & Emile Saad, Elias and Azizeh Saba, Youssef Saleh (T) Therese Tanna, Bernadette Tanna (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)