

OUR PARISH

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-cathedral - Harris Park

Issue 6 | Sunday 10 December 2023 | Birth of John the Baptist



THE GOSPEL

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Lk 1: 57-66

Message from the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



This Sunday our Maronite Church guides us to reflect on the Birth of St John the Baptist. With the birth of John, the forerunner for Christ, we are reminded that God is undeniably present throughout human history. His divine will unfolds through unexpected individuals and unforeseen circumstances. As we reflect on the unexpected ways in which God works in our lives, may we humbly acknowledge that His plans often surpass our understanding.

In this same spirit of divine orchestration, we celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception also marking the close of our Jubilee Year Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon – Harris Park. We opened the year on the Feast of St Maroun, our spiritual father, and it was only suitable that we close it with our Mother on this feast.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a perfect preparation for the Birth of Our Lord. Mary, in her Immaculate Conception, became the radiant Star illuminating the proclamation of Christ the Saviour to the nations. In Mary, we find the perfect model of faith and obedience to God's will. Mary's "yes" to the Angel Gabriel initiated the divine plan of redemption, and through her, God's love and mercy were made manifest in the person of Jesus Christ.

This year has been filled with blessings, lessons and new beginnings. We have journeyed together, reflecting on our Maronite heritage, renewing our commitment to holiness and openness, and witnessing the blessings of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Events ranging from the

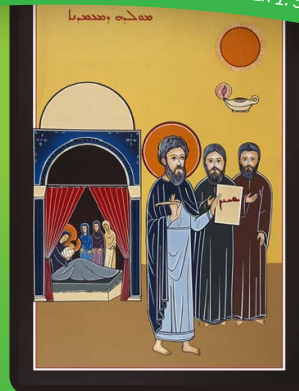
national tour of the relics of our saints to the visit of the Bishops of Australia to Our Lady of Lebanon parish on the 7th of May, to numerous parish events, the blessing of three new churches in our Eparchy, and the pinnacle week—the visit of our Patriarch to Melbourne and Sydney—have marked this Jubilee year.

To our clergy and religious, and the countless eparchy and parish staff, volunteers, community members, choir and sponsors who have generously given their time, talents, and resources, I am profoundly grateful. Your selfless dedication in organising events, supporting our ministries, and assisting where needed has truly made our Jubilee Year a celebration of unity, love, and shared mission.

As we close the Year and look ahead to the future, let us carry the lessons learnt and the graces received into our daily lives. I am ever hopeful that the future of our Church in Australia is bright, by the grace of God and the collaborative efforts of our community.

May the spirit of renewal, ignited during this Jubilee, continue to inspire us to truly live our Maronite faith in this generous land, serving God and one another with joy and love. As we entrust the future of our Church into the hands of the Almighty, we ask the intercession of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, who is full of grace, to guide us and intercede for us before her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



Birth of John the Baptist
1Sam 1: 9-11, 19b-22
Gal 4: 21-5:1
Lk 1: 57-66

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES

OLQL 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

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@olol.org.au

Website: www.olol.org.au

"Family ties"

Apart from the concept of family, there are relationships that go beyond blood ties. We know that John was the cousin of Jesus, or better known in scripture as "the forerunner" of Christ. But, is this the only type of relationship between them? John "the Baptist" was the first adorer of the Eucharist while he was still in his mother's womb, welcoming the visitation of the Virgin Mother Mary. Because of his great faith in the Messiah, John was killed for preaching Christ's coming - not solely for this reason, but he was imprisoned because of it, which led to his senseless beheading. Their relationship went far beyond that of cousins and family gatherings or friendly outings as we know them. Each of them had a mission to fulfil, and although acknowledging the presence and service of the other, they followed parallel paths yet not the same one.

We may have a special friend like this, whom we don't see often, but never forget. Such a friend remains in the silence of our hearts and in the back of our minds. There are certain relationships that words cannot describe, but only love can explain and preserve. Such was the relationship between the holy baptiser John, and Jesus. John knew before he was even born, that Jesus Christ is Lord and God. The unborn child in the womb was the first to recognise HIM, leaping for joy in his presence.

Some of our closest friends whom we trust and love in a very special way, are sometimes far from us. Truth be told, there is no distance between hearts, and therefore such relationships thrive. John was prepared to die for Jesus; all he ever did in his life was to proclaim the greatness of Jesus. His relationship with Jesus was not based on family ties or common interests. Both had one goal, one focus, one heart, one mind....to do the Will of the Father.

Each of us has a unique vocation, but our ultimate goal is to reach that Divine and intimate union with God. What is my relationship with Jesus? That should be the question to ask, having considered the fidelity of John's relationship to Christ. John was not afraid to speak up for the Truth, even when his life was threatened. Does this sound like a familiar scenario from our own day? How many of us are ready and willing to stand with the Universal Church in defence of life, and against extreme laws of euthanasia and abortion?

Perhaps the relationship between John and Jesus is a reminder for us to ponder on the consequences of not being that "voice crying out in the wilderness." Let us always pray for the courage to act as we preach, but always with a voice of charity, empowered by the Sacraments.

Salwa Elias

QUESTION

What is the role of prayer in the mission of the prophets?

ANSWER

The prophets drew from prayer the light and strength to exhort the people to faith and to conversion of heart. They entered into great intimacy with God and interceded for their brothers and sisters to whom they proclaimed what they had seen and heard from the Lord. Elijah was the father of the prophets, of those who sought the face of God. On Mount Carmel he achieved the return of the people to the faith, thanks to the intervention of God to whom he prayed: "Answer me, O Lord, answer me!" (1 Kings 18:37)



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

plrbachio

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

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 Egnatios Hbeich from Kfarhawra

Tuesday 12 December:

6:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Jaques Adib Joumaa from Qnat

Wednesday 13 December:

11:00am Rosary Prayers followed by Fatima Mass

7:00pm One Year Mass for the late Boutros Aoun from Saghbine

Thursday 14 December:

Feast of St Nehmtallah Hardini

6:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Antonios Youssef Makhoul from Bekaakafra

Friday 15 December:

Beginning of Christmas Novena

6:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Hanneh Dib Saba from Hadchit widow of the late Jamil Sahyoun from Kfarfou

Saturday 16 December:

6:00pm Mass

8:00pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 17 December:

Revelation to Joseph

9:30am 40 Day Mass for the late Tannous Youssef Estephan from Karem El Mohr

11:00am One Year Mass for the late Maurice Elias Tannous Gerges from Karem El Mohr

5:00pm 40 Day Mass for the late Salem Semaan Mourad from Tannourine

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION & LOANS REPAYMENTS

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS For week ending: 03/12/2023

Plates: \$14,001 | **Donations:** \$450 | **Candles:** \$1,391

PARISH LOANS

CYPC: \$3,358,806

UNITS: \$1,100,315

MONTHLY LOAN REPAYMENTS

CYPC: \$37,681 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

UNITS: \$12,503 INTEREST + PRINCIPAL

KIDS CORNER

BibleWise

Word Search

The Birth of John the Baptist
Luke 1:5

B	S	G	E	H	P	A	N	G	E	L	Z	G	S	W
P	O	A	B	E	I	L	M	R	L	J	A	A	N	F
I	N	M	J	T	Q	Y	S	C	I	F	U	B	V	I
N	E	H	O	L	Y	G	H	O	S	T	M	R	F	O
C	R	A	H	L	S	A	B	E	A	Y	O	I	E	B
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S	E	H	R	P	I	L	E	Z	I	P	O	T	K	H
M	A	F	R	A	I	D	B	E	Z	L	R	N	I	A
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H	E	F	R	O	I	V	P	R	T	N	E	I	L	A
C	G	I	A	P	R	I	E	S	T	D	B	I	R	S

ANGEL
SON
INCENSE
JOHN
HOLY GHOST

RIGHTEOUS
PRIEST
ZACHARIAS
GABRIEL
ELISABETH

AFRAID
BLESSED
PRAYER
AGE



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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

Fersen held their annual Saint Barbara Feast and End of the Year Party Celebration. The day consisted of an opening act after prayer, the St Barbara Dark Room, kahoot question colour coded balls and the four-corner blind folded game. Saint Barbara costumes were dressed by Fersen Al Adra children of OLOL. Winners for best dressed were announced on the day!

On Tuesday

Family of Divine Word had their weekly talk given by Fr Elie Moukazel. The topic was "God became man"... what has changed. There never was, never is, never will be a person that Christ did not suffer for. He also spoke about God has created everything not to increase His Glory but rather to show His Glory

On Wednesday

The relics of the Saints arrived at OLOL, they were welcomed with a beautiful guard of honour by our parish committees. This was the second last opportunity to venerate the relics of St Maroun, St Charbel, St Rafqa, St Nehmetallah, and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in the Golden Jubilee Reliquary

On Thursday

The Seniors Committee at OLOL celebrated Mass presided over by Fr. Saliba, followed by a festive Christmas Gathering in the church hall. Our seniors enjoyed a day filled with spiritual enrichment, entertainment, and delicious handmade dishes crafted by the dedicated members of the Seniors Committee

On Friday

We celebrated the feast of the immaculate conception and the closing of our golden jubilee year of our Maronite Eparchy. Mass was celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay in the presence of the relics of our saints. We give thanks to the Lord for the abundance of His blessings during our jubilee year

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mysteries.

Presented by Fr Charbel.

Holy Orders

The Priest's Mission
Wednesday 13th Dec | 8pm

Location: St Maroun Room – Ground Floor CYPC
(first room to the left)



WE'RE HIRING

FULL TIME OR PART TIME
STAFF NEEDED

CONTACT SAM ON
0404 177 360

Accessible Church
An initiative of

Every Sunday
10.30am

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

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

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

**LEBANESE
SCHOOL** *appeal*

IN COLLABORATION WITH MARONITES ON MISSION

*The future of Lebanon passes first
through the school.*

In the face of crises in Lebanon, children are being forced out of school.
This represents the biggest threat to the education of an entire generation.
Please donate to the Lebanese School Appeal

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON WWW.MARONITE.ORG.AU/APPEALS
CONTACT THE MARONITE CHANCERY ON 02 8831 0000
SHOULD YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION



Christmas Et 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 DAY4 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
TUESDAY 19/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY5 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
WEDNESDAY 20/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY6 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
THURSDAY 21/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY7 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH 8.00PM SOLEMN ADORATION & PROCESSION
FRIDAY 22/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY8 CHRISTMAS NOVENA - ARABIC & ENGLISH
SATURDAY 23/12/23	6.00PM MASS, 7.00PM DAY9 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 ١٠ كانون الأول

أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان

١١:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم رايمون بطرس عزيزي من زغرنا
٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة إيفون إسطفان من بسبعل أرملة المرحوم
إغناطيوس حبش من كفرحورا

الثلاثاء ١٢ كانون الأول

٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم جاك أديب جمعة من قنات

الأربعاء ١٣ كانون الأول

١١:٠٠ صلاة المسبحة مع الذبيحة الإلهية لمناسبة ظهور العذراء في
فاطيمة

٧:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم بطرس عون من صغبين

الخميس ١٤ كانون الأول

عيد مار نعمة الله الحرديني

٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم أنطونيوس يوسف مخلوف من بقاعكفرا

الجمعة ١٥ كانون الأول

بدء تساعية الميلاد

٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة حنة ديب سابا من حدشيت أرملة المرحوم
جميل صهيون من كفرفو

السبت ١٦ كانون الأول

٦:٠٠ قداس

٨:٠٠ ريسيتال ميلادي

الأحد ١٧ كانون الأول

أحد البيان ليوسف

٩:٣٠ أربعون المرحوم طنوس يوسف إسطفان من كرم المهر
١١:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم موريس الياس طنوس جرجس من كرم المهر
٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم سالم سمعان مراد من تنورين



ماذا نقدم ليسوع بعيد ميلاده؟

عندما يقترب عيد ميلاد أحد أحبائي، أبدأ أفكر في الهدية المناسبة
التي سأعطيه أياها لأنني أحبه وأريد أن أسعده وأشاركه فرحته.

فماذا أقدم للذي أكن له كل الحب "يسوع الطفل"؟

ما الهدية المناسبة له؟ ما الهدية التي يريدني أن أقدمها له؟
به كان كل شيء وبدونه ما كان شيء مما كَوْن... في الخليقة
والكون والسموات؟ فماذا ينقصه؟

تأملت أمام المغارة وسمعته يهمس لي ...

يَا ابْنِي أَعْطِنِي قَلْبَكَ

نعم... نعم... لما لا... لما لا أقدم قلبي له كهدية؟

فهو لا يدخل عليه رغماً عني، بل ينتظر أن أفتح له باب قلبي فيملك
عليه...

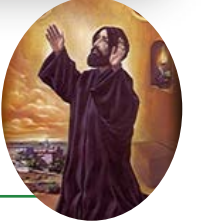
فصليت وقلت له...

ربي يسوع أقدم لك قلبي هدية لك... إقبله رغم قذارته و نجاسته،
طهره يا ربي وإقبل أن تسكن فيه وتملك عليه وأفعل به ما تريد
فهو لك أدفاً مغارة...

وَأَنْتَ أَيُّهَا الصَّبِيُّ نَبِيَّ الْعَالَمِ
تُدْعُو، لِأَنْتَ تَقْدِمُ أَمَامَ وَجْهِ
الرَّبِّ لَتُعِدَّ طُرُقَهُ

لو ١: ٧٦

مار نعمة الله الحرديني... ١٤ كانون الأول



ولد يوسف كساب في حردين سنة ١٨٠٨ والده جرجس
كساب، أمه مريم رعد.

دخل إلى مدرسة دير مار انطونيوس - حوب، التابعة
للرهبانية اللبنانية المارونية، من سنة ١٨١٦ حتى ١٨٢٢

ثم دخل إلى دير مار انطونيوس - قزحيا سنة ١٨٢٨ متخذاً
اسم نعمة الله، وهناك تعلم صناعة تجليد الكتب.

أبرز نذوره الاحتفالية في ١٤ ت ٢ سنة ١٨٣٠ بقي ملازماً فنّ
تجليد الكتب حتى وهو في وظيفة المدبّرة، مارس
التدريس في مدارس الرهبانية، خاصة في دير كفيفان، من
تلاميذه القديس شربل.

توفي عن عمر ٤٨ سنة في دير كفيفان في ١٤ ك ١٨٥٨،
نقل جثمانه السليم، سنة ١٨٦٢، إلى حجرة شرقي دير
كفيفان، أعلن قديساً في ١٦ ايار ٢٠٠٤

هو الذي قال "الشّاظر يَلِيّ بيخلّص نفسه"، يعلمنا أنّ
طريق الخلاص من صنع أياديها، والتّنعّم بالفرح الأبديّ هو
نتاج أفعالنا وأقوالنا وأفكارنا على هذه الأرض الفانية.
فالمسيح حيّ وحاضر بيننا، يدعونا باستمرار إلى اختبار
التّوبة والعيش بصلاح، دعوة يبقى قرار تلبيتها رهن أهوائنا
وأطماعنا وإيماننا.

لتكن مسيرة القديس نعمة الله الحرديني مثلاً نحتذي به
في أيّامنا المُرّة، فلنرفع الصّلوات الدّائمة، ولنتحلّ بالصّبر
والتّواضع، ولنتحلّ المسؤوليّات بفرح، ولنواظب على
العلم، بهذا نكسر كلّ أوجه الضّعف ونقترب من نور وجه
المسيح وبهائه.

صلاته معنا!

عَيْنَا

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك

عدد ٦ | الأحد ١٠ كانون الأول ٢٠٢٣ | أحد مولد يوحنا وانفتح فجأة قم زكريا، وانطلق لسانه، وجعل يتكلم ويبارك الله " لو ١: ٥٧-٦٦

الإنجيل



تَمَّ زَمَانُ الْيَصَابَاتِ لِتِلْدٍ، قَوْلَتْ ابْنًا. وَسَمِعَ جِيرَانُهَا وَأَقَارِبُهَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَهَا، فَمَرَّخُوا مَعَهَا. وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاؤُوا لِيَخْتِنُوا الصَّبِيَّ، وَسَمَوْهُ بِاسْمِ أَبِيهِ زَكْرِيَا. فَأَجَابَتْ أُمُّهُ وَقَالَتْ: "لَا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوْحَنَّا!". فَقَالُوا لَهَا: "لَا أَحَدٌ فِي قَرَابَتِكَ يُدْعَى بِهَذَا الْاسْمِ". وَأَشَارُوا إِلَى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. فَطَلَبَ لَوْحًا وَكَتَبَ: "إِسْمُهُ يُوْحَنَّا!". فَتَعَجَّبُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ. وَانْفَتَحَ فَجْأَةً قَمُّ زَكْرِيَا، وَانْطَلَقَ لِسَانُهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلَّمُ وَيُبَارِكُ اللَّهَ، فَاسْتَوَلَى الْخَوْفُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ جِيرَانِهِمْ، وَتَحَدَّثَ النَّاسُ بِكُلِّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي كُلِّ جَبَلٍ يَهُودِيَّةٍ. وَكَانَ كُلُّ مَنْ سَمِعَ بِذَلِكَ يَحْفَظُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ قَائِلًا: "مَا عَسَى هَذَا الصَّبِيُّ أَنْ يَكُونَ؟". وَكَانَتْ يَدُ الرَّبِّ حَقًّا مَعَهُ. لو ١: ٥٧-٦٦

ما منهُ أمرٍ عسيرٍ عند الله

... ولَمَّا تَمَّ زَمَانُ أَلْيَصَابَاتِ، وَلَدَتْ ابْنًا، وَغَمَرَتْ الْفَرِحَةُ أَهْلَ الدَّارِ وَالْأَقَارِبِ. فَرِحَةُ أَزَالَتْ عَارَ الْعَقْمِ عَنِ الْوَالِدَيْنِ بُولَادَةِ ذِكْرِ خْتَمٍ مِنَ الرَّبِّ مِنْذُ كَانَ فِي حَشَا أُمِّهِ.

تَهافَتَ الْجَمِيعُ مُهَنِّئًا بِالْمَوْلُودِ، مُتَسَائِلًا عَنْ سَبَبِ تَسْمِيَّتِهِ يُوْحَنَّا بَدَلَ زَكْرِيَا، خِلَافًا لِلْعَادَاتِ وَالتَّقَالِيدِ، دُونَ أَنْ يَتَنَبَّهُوا إِلَى إِرَادَةِ اللَّهِ فِي ذَلِكَ. وَخَدَّه زَكْرِيَا كَانَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَغْبِرَ بِنَا مِنْ عَهْدِ التَّذَكُّرِ (زَكْرِيَا) = "اللَّهُ تَذَكَّرَ"، إِلَى عَهْدِ التَّحْنُنِ وَالْإِنْعَامِ (يُوْحَنَّا) = "اللَّهُ تَحَنَّنَ".

من عهد الهيكل القديم والحرف القاتل والتقليد المتحجر، إلى عهد الحب وفيض الرحمة.

كان الجميع قد تعلقت أنظاره على حمل الأم العجوز مدة تسعة أشهر، مُرَدِّدِينَ عبارة التعجب المُكَمَّلَةَ لِمُتَطَلِّبَاتِ الْحَدَثِ الْفَرِيدِ: "حقًا ما من أمرٍ عسيرٍ عند الله!"

ما مِنْ أَحَدٍ تَنَبَّهَ إِلَى وِلَادَةِ زَكْرِيَا الْجَدِيدَةِ عِنْدَمَا نَطَقَ "بِحَنَانِ اللَّهِ". أَلَمْ يُمَضِّ هُوَ أَيْضًا، تِسْعَةَ أَشْهُرٍ صَامِتًا فِي رَجَمِ التَّأَمُّلِ الْحَقِيقِيِّ، فِي سِرِّ اللَّهِ وَأَمَانَتِهِ لَوَعُودِهِ؟ أَلَمْ يُعِدِ النَّظَرَ فِي بَدْءِ تَكْوِينِ عِلَاقَةٍ جَدِيَّةٍ مَعَ اللَّهِ، نَابِعَةٍ مِنْ أَعْمَاقِ الْإِيمَانِ بَعْدَ أَنْ شَكَّ فِي قُدْسِ الْأَقْدَاسِ.

واليوم، حَوْلَ أَيِّ شَيْءٍ تَتَمَحَوَّرُ اهْتِمَامَاتُنَا؟ هَلْ نَنْظُرُ إِلَى الدَّخْلِ وَنَسْبُرُ عَمَقَ الْأَحْدَاثِ الَّتِي تَحْصُلُ لَنَا؟ كَيْفَ نَتَلَقَّاهَا؟ هَلْ نُؤْمِنُ أَنَّ



أحد مولد يوحنا

سفر صموئيل الأول

١: ٩-١١، ١٩-٢٢

غل ٤: ٢١-١: ٥

لو ١: ٥٧-٦٦

شعب الله وأتينا ننتمي إلى مشروعه الخلاصي؟ هل نحن من أتباع "المؤلهين" التقاليد الحديثة والموضة والواجبات البشرية على حساب فيض نعمة الآب ومحبتة، وزيارات الود والصدقة، والقيام بالمناسب لا بالمفروض؟

فَهَلَّا وَقَفْنَا مَعَ ذَوَاتِنَا لِلْحَلَّةِ... وَإِنْ كَانَ الرَّبُّ قَدْ "أَتَانَا الْعِظَامَن" فِي ضَعْفِنَا، وَوَضَعَ الْحَيَاةَ فِي عُقْمِ حَبْنَا لَهُ وَلِبَعْضِنَا، أَفَلَا نَتَّقُ بِهِ بَعْدَ الْآنِ، وَنَكُونُ شُهَدَاءَ لِحَنَانِهِ، أَمْنَاءَ عَلَى مُحَبَّةٍ وَتَرْبِيَةٍ أَوْلَادِنَا، أَمَانَتِهِ الْغَالِيَةِ؟



صلاة

يَا خَالِقَ الْبَرَايَا وَبَاسِطَ الْأَرْضِ وَمُرْصِعَ السَّمَاءِ بِالنَّيِّرَاتِ، وَقَدْ شَاءَتْ مُدَرِّتُكَ أَنْ يُولَدَ سَابِئُكَ مِنْ عَاقِرٍ.

ضَوَاتُ أَرْسَلَتْهُ، فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ أَمَامَكَ، تَذِيرًا يُبَشِّرُ بِكَ وَيَدْعُو إِلَيْكَ.

هَبْ لَنَا أَنْ نَكُونَ أَصَوَاتًا تُسَبِّحُكَ وَتُعَرِّفُ بِكَ، وَالسَّيِّئَةُ تَلْهَجُ بِحَمْدِكَ

وَتُقَبِّلُكَ الْآنَ وَالْأَبَدَ، آمِينَ

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)

