

The Good News from Your Parish

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CO-CATHEDRAL - HARRIS PARK

Sunday 27 September 2015

Issue 49

www.olol.org.au

THE GOSPEL

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

THE EPISTLE

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

"Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Mt 24: 1-14



Next Sunday's Readings

3rd Sunday after
Holy Cross

Phil 3:17 - 4:1
Mt 24: 23-31

The **C**ross
is **G**od taking

on **f**lesh

and

blood

and

saying

"**M**e too"

~ Rob Bell ~

Brothers and sisters, If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

1Cor 15: 19-34

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord,
help us to **carry**
our **cross** of suffering
so that we may offer them up to You.
May we say **YES** whole-heartedly
to drinking from Your Cup
of **Love** and **Sacrifice**
Amen!

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)

OLOL Co -Cathedral, Harris Park 8am (Arabic), 9:30am (English Family), 11am (Ar/Eng), 5pm (Ar/Eng), 7pm (English Youth)
Mass Centre - St Patrick's, Guildford 6pm (Ar/Eng)

WEEKDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 7am, 8.45am & 6pm. Wed 7am, 8.45am & 5:30pm; 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 & Tues 8pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thurs 7:30pm Sun 6:30pm Divine Mercy followed by Rosary Fri 7:30pm
Adoration Hour: Thursdays 8pm – 9pm 24 Hour Adoration: Every First Friday of the month from 9:30am - Sat 7:30am

Parish Contact Numbers: Office: 9689 2899 Fax: 9689 2068. (Email: info@olol.org.au) Msgr Shora Maree 0418 969 844 (Parish Priest) . Fr Tony (Acting Dean) 0433 211 248
A.P.s Fr Pierre 0411 735 258. Fr Raphael 0401 627 777. Fr Antoun 9689 2899. Fr Paul 0414 900 016. Fr Bernard 0411 811 807. Fr Azize 0435 764 824. Fr Khalife 0403 715 105.

Light from the word ENDURING CALAMITIES



Today's Gospel passage depicts the sorry state of the world and we are left to wonder why there is such misery and strife, and what are we to do about it.

The passage tells of wars, famine, earthquakes, torture, hatred and death, false prophets and betrayal, lawlessness and

loss of love. It is a picture of woe. Sadly these issues have constantly plagued the world. Today we have concerns regarding terrorism, poverty, high unemployment, child abuse, environmental degradation etc. We can sit and bemoan the terrible fate of this world, but is that the response God wants?

If Christ came into this world, then there is a saving purpose to our lives. There is meaning and inherent value in a world that God deemed 'very good' Gen 1:31. We see misery around us but we also witness the beauty of the human spirit and the wonder of Creation. Therefore holding onto these realities, we can make an informed choice about the life we want to defend in this world.

The Sunday Gospel passage ends on a hopeful note, 'But the one who endures to the end will be saved' v13. We are never called to a defeated resignation in the face of evil. Instead the Christian is urged to continue to defend goodness, combat hate, and trust that God's Word will have the final say.

We were created to love God and neighbour and in that calling lies our true purpose in life and no calamity, whether big or small, should deter us from our loyalty to God's love. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn MSHF

Saint Vincent De Paul SEPTEMBER 27TH



St. Vincent was born of poor parents in the village of Pouy in Gascony, France, about 1580. He enjoyed his first schooling under the Franciscan Fathers at Acqs. Such had been his progress in four years that a gentleman chose him as sub preceptor to his children, and he was thus enabled to continue his studies without being a burden to his parents. In 1596, he went to the University of Toulouse for theological studies, and there he was

ordained priest in 1600.

In 1605, on a voyage by sea from Marseilles to Narbonne, he fell into the hands of African pirates and was carried as a slave to Tunis. His captivity lasted about two years, until Divine Providence enabled him to effect his escape. After a brief visit to Rome he returned to France, where he became preceptor in the family of Emmanuel de Gondy, Count of Goigny, and General of the galleys of France. In 1617, he began to preach missions, and in 1625, he laid the foundations of a congregation which afterward became the Congregation of the Mission or Lazarists, so named on account of the Priory of St. Lazarus, which the Fathers began to occupy in 1633.

It would be impossible to enumerate all the works of this servant of God. Charity was his predominant virtue. It extended to all classes of persons, from forsaken childhood to old age. The Sisters of Charity also owe the foundation of their congregation to St. Vincent. In the midst of the most distracting occupations his soul was always intimately united with God. Though honored by the great ones of the world, he remained deeply rooted in humility. The Apostle of Charity, the immortal Vincent de Paul, breathed his last in Paris at the age of eighty. His feast day is September 27th. He is the patron of charitable societies.

Charbel Dib

Shepherd's Corner Burnouts in the Kingdom?

During the Season of the Glorious Cross, the Epistle and Gospel passages that are read and reflected upon are eschatological in nature; that is they examine the final days and judgement. They focus greatly on the coming of Jesus and the Kingdom of God and give us a glimpse of what it would be like. Every time we come to celebrate the Eucharist (Mass) or one of the other Sacraments (Weddings, Baptisms etc) we also get a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God is like, in fact we are actually partaking in it. This leads us to ask ourselves one big question: How should we behave and/or act as we approach this presence of God and His Kingdom?



For this reason I have been most saddened and disappointed to see what takes place in front of and within the Cathedral grounds as a bride and a groom are escorted to celebrate the Sacrament of their Marriage.

Unfortunately, many people find great amusement and immature pleasure in doing these reckless burnouts and or loud "revving" of motors as they approach and enter the Cathedral grounds. Not only does this take away from the sanctity and reverence of the sacrament, but it is a bad reflection on us who live within a wider community. At a time when the bride and groom are preparing themselves for a new journey with each other and with God, this type of behaviour distracts them from the sacredness of the step that they about to take.

Further, this behaviour is illegal and dangerous behaviour that could lead to a major accident and injury or loss of life. It destroys the environment and our relationship with our neighbours. It is also most seriously a bad example for our children and youth attending Fersan and Teens or who are guests with their family attending the Wedding. Have a look at Alice St and see the ugly damage to the road. For all of the above reasons, this behaviour must stop.

The Wedding preparation sheet that is given to all couples strictly states: "**ABSOLUTELY NO "REVING" AND "BURNOUTS" BY MOTOR BIKES OR ESCORT VEHICLES IN RESPECT FOR CHURCH AND NEIGHBOURS.**" However, especially over the last month this has been totally disregarded and we receive complaints from parishioners and neighbours. This not only gives the wedding party a bad reputation but also our Maronite Church and our Lebanese Culture.

Is this how we should be behaving in the presence of God? Should we be doing burnouts in the Kingdom? Would anyone dare do a burnout at Calvary in the Holy Land in front of the Cross of Jesus our Saviour? Well some show this same disrespect when they do burnouts and revving in front of the holy site of our Church where we celebrate the Death and Resurrection of JESUS.

Sadly due to the above and flagrant disregard and because of safety issues, the parish has had no choice but to consult with the Police regarding measures to be taken including the installation of Video CAMERAS that will be accessible to the Police who will prosecute offenders.

I pray and request on behalf of the Bishop, Priests and all the Parish Community that those involved and with connections to drivers and owners will pass on the word to stop this behaviour.

In this way we can focus on the true meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage rather than on all the disrespectful behaviour in cars or bikes that cloud the most wonderful and grace-filled celebrations of the presence of God and His Kingdom in the Birth of a new Christian Family.

Msg Shora Maree

Article of the Week

“STAY STRONG, KEEP THE FAITH AND PERSEVERE”



During this season of the Holy Cross, our Gospel readings at Mass remind us of the end time and the time of judgment for the nations will occur. Whilst some of these Gospel passages may have themes of destruction and may stir up fear or confusion when we hear them, we must look at the big picture and draw confidence out of the reminders Jesus gives us in these Gospel messages, “that those who endure will be saved”.

In society today, we are continually taught to look for the easy option, and are encouraged to expect instant results, alleviating the need to sustain and push through times of trouble. There are many example of

this behaviour, in the way we approach our studies, our work or even our health and fitness, we continually strive to find an immediate result rather than putting in the hard yards to achieve the desired outcome. We are quick to look for a cheat sheets for our exams, or take an enhancement drug to alter our body image rather than study hard or eat healthy and exercise. You may also be wondering why I am rambling on about these trivial things. The reason is very simple, when we indulge in a way of life which expects instant gratification of our wants and desires even the most trivial wants and desires, we slowly lose our ability to persevere when there is a time of trial or temptation.

For us as Christians today we are called to always try and stand firm in times of struggles and persevere till the end. In all our daily struggles we must aim to offer them up as a sacrifice and learn from the example of Jesus who endured the pain and suffering of the cross, knowing that this was necessary for the overall plan of salvation. This, however does not mean we should actively go out of our way to cause suffering and discomfort in our lives. We are called and destined for love and happiness however the path to this destiny can and will involve a struggle, will you heed the call of our Lord to persevere to the end and find love and happiness in his love and salvation.

We pray today for all the members of Christ’s body the Church, that they may learn from the example of Jesus and persevere in times of suffering and trial, may we be granted strength, endurance, faith and love to live our lives in a manner which honour God and shine bright as an example of his Love for the world to see. Amen.

Charbel Dib

Children’s Corner OUR FATHER

A blessed and holy day to you all my dearest brothers and sisters on this beautiful Sunday. Over the past few weeks, together we have been learning about the different types of prayers we have in the Church and we looked at examples of them. We have even discussed why prayer is important in the lives of the faithful. To conclude our topic on prayer I will talk to you about the greatest prayer of all time that I taught my followers and a prayer that I am certain you are very familiar with: **The Our Father**.

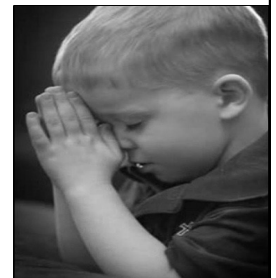
The Our Father is of great importance because as St Thomas Aquinas says “it is the perfect prayer.” It is a summary of the whole Gospel and if you focus closely on the words you will see that it is truly a summary of the message of the Gospel.

The first three lines are centred on God the Father, who is the holiest and greatest of all. In these first three lines, you acknowledge that God’s name is holy, you pray that His kingdom comes on earth and you realise that His will must be done in your lives.

The last four lines ask God to forgive us, to help us to forgive, to give us strength during temptations, to free you from the evil one and to give us our daily bread. These last four lines are recognition that you need God and that you are not perfect.

Look closely at the prayer again and think about what I have just written to you:

*“Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.”*



Love your brother Jesus

Activity

This week, focus on the “Our Father” prayer. Learn to pray it rather than just say it. Yes, this is a difficult thing to do because in order to pray it, we must mean what we say and we must live out the words we pray in our lives. It is a very difficult thing to forgive others and to fight temptation, but remember with God everything is possible.



Thursday Bible Studies - Meeting the Holy Trinity focussing on God the Son



Silent Retreat on Wisdom 18th - 20th September 2015 Led by Fr Yuhanna Azizi & Mons Shora Maree



When the Cross gets Heavy by Jade El-Choueifati

MARONITECARE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE PLANNED GIVING TARGET

Target 2000 Parishioners \$5 ONLY a week

370 Parishioners committed

Pledge Forms for your monthly Tax Deductible donation are available at the Church Doors. Fill in and return to a Priests, Committee Members or Parish Office.

For Enquiries: Contact Salwa Elias on 96892899 Pledge Envelopes are also available in the Gift shop.

Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Loans CYPC \$4,969,174 Units \$1,602,592



COMMUNITY BUSINESS NETWORK PAGE

Interested in becoming part of our Newsletter Community Business Network Page?

The Newsletter reaches over 1100 individuals a week through print and over 2000 individuals through online media.

For \$500 you can promote your business on our Business Network page for the whole month.

For details email media@olol.org.au Or Contact us on (02) 8898 1510



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LIGHTING UP OUR COMMUNITY Contact us for all your Lighting and Electrical requirements

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS & FUNERALS

قَدَاسَاتِ الْأَسْبُوعِ

Sunday 27 September: 2nd Sunday after the Glorious Cross

9:30am 40 Day Yesmine Amine Bechara wife of Merched Wassaf from Blouza
11:00am 1 Year Fares Makhoul from EL Hawch- Rachaya
5:00pm 40 Day Habka Sfeir widow of Antoine Saleme from Hadath El Jebbe

Saturday 28 September:

6:00pm Asma Gerges Saadie widow of Miled Gittany from Zgharta (died in Lebanon)

Wednesday 30 September:

5:30pm Majid Youssef Dib from Deir Alahmar (died in Lebanon)

Saturday 3 October:

6:00pm 1 Year Frouzine Antonious Khoury from Majdlaya

Sunday 4 October: 3rd Sunday after the Glorious Cross - Feast of the Holy Rosary

9:30am 40 Day Evelyn Antonious Milan from Basloukit widow of Tansa Wassaf Wehbe from Blouza
5:00pm 40 Day Bakhous Bakhous from Wadi Qanoubine

الأحد 27 أيلول: الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب

9:30 أربعون المرحومة ياسمين أمين بشارة زوجة مرشد وصاف من بلوزا
11:00 السنة للمرحوم فارس مخول من الحوش راشيا
5:00 أربعون المرحومة حبة صفير أرملة المرحوم أنطوان سلامة من حدث الجبة

الاثنين 28 أيلول:

6:00 المرحومة أسما جرجس سعاده أرملة المرحوم ميلاد الجعيتاني من زغرتا (متوفاة في لبنان)

الأربعاء 30 أيلول:

5:30 المرحوم مجيد يوسف ديب من دير الأحمر (متوفا في لبنان)

السبت 3 تشرين الأول:

6:00 السنة للمرحومة فروسين أنطونيوس الخوري زوجة الياس أبي خطار من مجدليا

الأحد 4 تشرين الأول: الأحد الثالث بعد عيد الصليب - عيد الوردية المقدسة

9:30 أربعون المرحومة ايفلين مطانيوس ميلان من بسلوقيت أرملة المرحوم طنسا وصاف وهبه من بلوزا
5:00 أربعون المرحوم باخوس باخوس من وادي قنوبين

FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE

Family & Adult Events

Catholic Basics - a Twenty One Week Course Mon 28 September at 7:30pm held in the CYPC.

For a good overview of our Catholic Faith and for those wishing to convert. To register or for info call Fr Azize 0435 764 824 or Salwa 0426 156 758

Youth Events

Teens Faith Discussion & Activities: Saturdays 4-6pm

Blood Donation contact Myrna 0421677998

Nursing Home Visit contact Therese 0431792205

Youth Meeting First Tue of the month 8-9pm contact Connie 0411 830 349

Prayer with the Youth First Fri of the month 9-10pm contact Connie 0411 830 349

OLOL Youth Prom Dinner Dance

Friday 2 October 2015 at 7:30pm at La Luna Lounge, Condell Park
Cost: \$70 **To book** call Joey 0414 422 964 or Jamal 0451 486 166
 Anyone wishing to sponsor contact Mons Shora 0418 969 844

Children's Events

Arabic Classes: Sat 9:30am-12:30pm

For info. or to book your child call Margo on 0400 001 758

Fersan Al-Adra: Sat 1pm -3pm

Seniors Events

Activities for Seniors

Activities for Seniors will take place every fortnight and will include board games, knitting, painting, cooking, watching movies, etc. If you wish to bring a parent or grandparent, please call Elias Doro on 0414 495 955 or the parish office 9689-2899.

Parish Notice

"The Bible Project" Weekly English Bible Studies

Unlocking the Power of God's Word for Everyday

Led by Mons Shora Maree EV, Mr Anthony Assaf and Team.

Thursdays: 6.30pm - 8pm in Seniors Room

"Why Fathers Need to be Nurturers" - English Faith Talk

Wed 7 October at 8pm in CYPC - Presented by Joseph Wakim

A reflection on parenting and raising his three daughters after the death of his wife from breast cancer

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2015 Photos & DVD

Collection from Parish office between **9:30am - 4pm Mon - Fri ONLY**



A DAY FOR MARRIED COUPLES TO ASSIST IN KEEPING THE FLAME ALIGHT!

Sunday October 18th 2015 at St Joseph's Baulkham Hills Retreat Centre from 9am-5pm

Registrations close October 4th so contact Josephine on 9689 2899 or 0433826661 or email familycommittee@olol.org.au

MaroniteCare Services

Youth Services & Facilities
Youth Drop in Recreation Room & Library & Study Centre open 10am - 10pm for Youth 18 & over. Under 18s only with adult supervision
Homework Help for Students K-10 Tues 3:30pm - 6pm
Bookings essential call Anthony Chidiac 0411 217 103

Counselling Services (English/ Arabic)

Nada Coorey-Psychologist provides confidential counselling in her private consulting rooms for relationship, family/parenting, Anxiety, Depression

Mobile: 0434 642 509 Phone: 8840-9475.

MaroniteCare Counselling Service

For Teens 12-18 years and their families.

Call Lina Ishac 0433 217 063 or Anthony Chidiac 0411 217 103

For Youth 18 & over & Adults & Couples

Lisa Makhoulf 0413 061 102

Email: counseling@maronitecare.org.au

Women's Well-being Office - Nelly 9689 2899

Natural Fertility Services We offer evening appointments.

For further info., please contact Nelly Azize 0430 332 888

Ladies Fitness & Wellbeing contact Abir 0410 122 999

Children's Playgroup Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 9:30am -11:30am

Marriage Preparation Sessions book 8 months before wedding: 9642 0211

OLOL St Vincent De Paul Conference call Kim Moussa 0424 658 190

Respite for Carers of People with Mental Health Issues
Afife Sfeir 0449 902 314 Customer Service 1800 225 474.

White Stone Family Support Services

Is your family impacted by addictions?

Psychologists and Social Workers who can assist you to understand the nature of addictions

and support for the person with the addiction.

For information, contact: **9633 2900**

Or visit us at: 128a Alfred St, Harris Park

Opening hours: **Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9am-5pm.**

Diocesan Notices

Under the Patronage of His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Maronites on Mission Australia invite you to their

Annual Fundraising Dinner "a Spring Soiree"

Friday 23 October at The Imperial Paradiso, Fairfield.

Tickets \$110 pp or \$1000 for table of 10. Includes Mezza, Dinner & Entertainment.

Funds raised to local and overseas missions

Raffle tickets at Church doors. **For more details and tickets**

visit the Maronites on Mission Facebook page or see a volunteer.

World Youth Day 2016



Krakow WYD 2016

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL; FOR THEY SHALL RECEIVE MERCY. (Mt 5:7)

Is the theme for World Youth Day 23 July-1 August 2016 in Kraków, Poland.

Join Mons Shora and Fr Maroun for this Great Youth and Church Event and on a pilgrimage to Rome, Lourdes and the Holy Land and option to Lebanon.

Information Night Sunday, 27 September 8.15pm (after 7pm Mass) at OLOL Harris Park in the CYPC.

اللقاء المنتظر

لقد جعل الله الكنيسة في كلِّ أبنائها، عروسةً لإبنة يسوع، وذات يومٍ سيأتي ليأخذها إليه. ليس كطفلٍ ضعيفٍ في مذودٍ فقيرٍ سيأتيها، بل بالمجد، فتتحني له كلُّ ركبَةٍ في السماء وعلى الأرض.

لقد ترك لها كلَّ الوقت كي تنتهيًا على مدى السنين ومع كلِّ الأجيال، لدخول ردهة العرس بالتسبيح والترنيم.

فهل ستفرح لهذا الحدث فرح العروس في إقتراب يوم زفافها؟

في منطقنا البشري، كلُّ إنتظارٍ أيًّا كان نوعه: إنتظار ولادة طفلٍ، لحظة الزفاف، عودة حبيبٍ مغترب...، تسبقه تحضيرات جمّة يرافقها فرحٌ كبير يشويه قلقٌ جميل حتى يأتي الموعد ويتمّ المُنتظر:

– هل نحن إنتهيًا منتظرين مجيئه الثاني؟

– هل لنا هذا الفرح، فرح لقاء العريس يسوع وجهًا لوجه في هذا المجيء، أم أنّه يُدخِلُ الخوف إلى نفوسنا؟ أو ربّما كُنّا من اللامبالين؟!



ما من أحدٍ يخاف مواجهة شخصٍ ما إلّا إن كان قد آذاه في حياته: شوّه صورته أمام الآخرين أو إفتري عليه أو سلبه حقّه أو إستغلّ طبيئته أو....،

فهل نحن من أولئك الأشخاص كي نخاف المجيء الثاني ومواجهة ذاتنا أمام يسوع بما فعلنا؟ أم نحن على علاقة طيبة معه، فحتّى ولو أخطأنا،

نحرص على حبنا له بتوبتنا الصادقة، بقلبٍ يحبّ بحقٍ ويلبس التواضع دون خوفٍ من دينونة؟

أمّا إن كُنّا لامبالين، فهذا أكثر المواقف خطرًا على حياتنا، فبطريقة مبطنّة نكون ناكرين لحضور الله في حياتنا، وننكر اللقاء معه وجهًا لوجه.

بإختصار نكون كأَيِّ مخلوقٍ في العالم يعيش ليأكل ويشرب ويستمتع باللذات المبتغاة وينام، ثم يموت وينتهي في حفنةٍ من ترابٍ لا قيمة لها ولا

معنى.

من هنا ينبع الضلال والبغض والأناية...

من هنا تتبع الآلهة المتعدّدة: عبادة السلطة والسيطرة، عبادة المال، عبادة الجسد بالملذات فإستباحة القتل والإغتصاب والفجور...

من هنا تتبع القلوب المتحرّرة وتجفّ فيها كل كلمةٍ نابعة من الإنجيل، وتتحجّر فيها النفوس فتصبح عقيمة لا حياة فيها ولا جمال.

إذاً الخيار في الفرح أم الخوف من هذا اللقاء هو بين أيدينا، وإن كان فرحنا يشويه بعض الخوف المسيحي بسبب حبنا للآخر ورغبتنا في خلاصه،

فهو جميل. مثلاً أن أرى الآخر يتجه نحو الهاوية أحاول رده عن ذلك وللأسف دون جدوى، فأخاف عليه وأحزن. لكن مهما كان من أمرٍ فليس

على عزيمتي أن تُحبط، بل على العكس، عليّ أن أزداد تصميمًا وسعيًا إلى إظهار حتميّة الحقيقة التي أوّمن بها ولو كانت مؤلمة.

أمّا عن الحروب والويلات فهي قائمة وتتكاثر كالجراد بسبب "الأنا" في الفرد وفي الجماعة. فهل الإنسان هو من يستبِق المجيء بالمجد، بهمجيتّه،

فِيرعب، عن قصدٍ أو عن غير قصد، البشرية ويُنسيها الربُّ الإله المحبوب، فقط لأنّه لا يؤمن إلّا بمجد الذات.

لربّما سقط سهوًا منّا أن المُلْك الجديد قد حلّ مع تجسّد يسوع وقد تركه بين أيدينا إلى أن يعود، مسلحًا إيانا ب"الروح القدس"، والرجاء والإيمان

بالخلاص. لذلك، كلُّنا مدعوّين اليوم إلى الثبات أمام ضلال العالم وحروبه المرعبة بوقاحتها وشراستها من كلِّ نوع (عبر التلفزيون، والسينما

والإنترنت والمجلات والدعايات التي لا تترك لعينك مجالاً كي ترى أكثر من أنفك لفرط كثرتها....)، مدعوّين للإلتفات نحو العمق، عمق الحياة

الحاضرة حيث ينبض القلب (الكيان كلّهُ) بالحياة لئلا تُخرجها من قوقعة المتطلّبات الأنبيّة، كي نفهم ما نسمع ونرى ما ننظر إليه، فنُدرك ما هو الصواب

فنعمل به.

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 departed souls, Fr Elias Ayoub, Antoun Azar, All the lost souls (B) Raymond, Hanne & Charbel Bazouni, Milia Bou Raida (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George, Youssef Salim El Khoury Gebrael, Touma Gerages (H) Madeline & Paul Haddad and son Joseph Haddad, Anis Jamil Haddad, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad (I) (K) Naim & George Khattar (J) (L) Peter Lichaa and his wife Marie, Youssef Lichaa, Simon & Hannah Licha (M) Anthony Mamah Moses and Moses Family, Arthur (Otre) Moses, Elias Barbar Moussa, Boutros & Johra Moussa, John Toufic Merhi, Ghantous Jabbour Mikhael and his wife Jamile, Therese Melhem, Semaan & Karimeh Masri, Youssef Leechaa Malkoun, Youssef Maroun and his wife Ghssoun (N) Jamil, Badwi, Hasna & Yasmine Ndaira, Abdel Massih Naoum (O) (P) (Q) (R) Milia Bou Raidan, Jamil & Labibi Roumanou, Raymond & Etour Romanos and their son Joseph, Rouhana & Elaine Rahme, Raphael & Wajjha Rahme (S) Boutros Kozhaya Sassine, Joseph John Saad & his wife Marie, Souls in Purgatory, Rema neh Sadek (T) Leila Touma (U) (V) (W) Jamil & Barbara Wehbe (Y) Saadallah Younan & his wife Rafka Maskineh (Z)

وإذا سمعتم بالحروب والفتن فلا تفزعوا

كلّما اقترب الملك، كلّما استوجب الاستعداد. وكلّما اقترب الوقت الذي تُمنح فيه الجائزة للمحارب، كلّما أصبح من الواجب المحاربة بطريقة أفضل. هكذا نفعنا أثناء السباق: عندما يشرف السباق على نهايته ونقترب من الهدف، نحثّ الخيول على المزيد من الاندفاع. لذا، قال بولس: "... فإنّ الخلاص أقرب إلينا الآن منه يوم أمّا. وقد تنهى الليل واقترب اليوم..." (رو 13: 11-12).

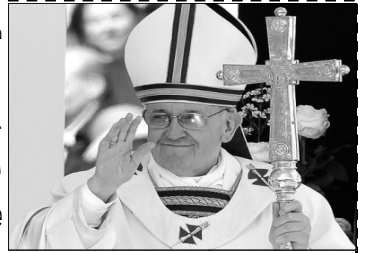
بما أنّ الليل قد تلاشى والنهار أشرق، فلنقم بأعمال النهار؛ لنخلع أعمال الظلام. هكذا نفعنا في هذه الحياة: عندما نعرف أنّ الليل يتراجع أمام الفجر ونسمع غناء السنونو، نوقظ بعضنا بعضاً، رغم أنّ الليل لم ينته بعد... نسارع للقيام بمهمّات النهار؛ نرتدي ملابسنا بعد أن نخلع عبّاءة النعاس، لكي ترانا الشمس مستعدين. ما كنّا نفعه عندئذ، فلنفعه الآن: لننزع عبّاءة كلّ أحلامنا، لنترك أحلام الحياة الحاضرة، ونخرج من سباتنا العميق، ولنرتدي ملابس الفضيلة. هذا ما قاله لنا بوضوح الرسول: "... فلنخلع أعمال الظلام ولنلبس سلاح النور" (رو 13: 12). لأنّ النهار يدعونا إلى المعركة والمحاربة.



لا تخف عندما تسمع كلمات المحاربة والكفاح! إذا كان ارتداء درعٍ ماديّ ثقيلٍ أمراً شاقاً، فمن المطلوب في المقابل ارتداء الدرع الروحيّ، إذ هو درع من نور. هكذا، ستستطيع بنور أكثر إشعاعاً من الشمس، وعندما تتألّق بنور ساطع ستكون في أمان، لأنّ أسلحتك هذه من نور. إذا؟ هل نحن مَعفون من المحاربة؟ كلا! يجب أن نحارب، لكن بدون أن ينهكنا التعب والعناء. إذ نحن مدعوون لا إلى حربٍ بل إلى عيد وابتهاج.

البابا فرنسيس: نظرة يسوع تطبع في كل واحد منا رسالة لننطلق نحوها

نحن نحتفل بقصة الإرتداد بحيث متى بنفسه في الإنجيل قال لنا أن هذا اللقاء غير حياته... كان متى جالساً على المائدة يتناول طعامه فإذا بيسوع يمر به ويقول له اتبعني... ونظر يسوع الى متى وكم قوي كان ذلك الحب الذي حملته نظرتة لتحمل متى على القيام بما قام به. نحن جميعاً نعلم أن متى كان يجمع الضرائب من الناس ليمنحها للرومان. كان العشارون بمثابة خطأ بنظر الناس، فكانوا يعيشون بالعزلة والجميع كان يكرههم لأنهم كانوا يعتبرونهم خونة.



أما من جهة يسوع فلم يمر بمتى مرور الكرام بل توقف ونظر اليه نظرة ملؤها سلام وهدوء، نظر اليه نظرة رحمة كما لم ينظر اليه أحد البتة وهذا ما فتح قلب متى وحرره وشفاه وأعطاه الرجاء والحياة الجديدة كما حدث مع مريم المجدلية وبطرس وزكا وكل واحد منا. إننا ولو لم نجرؤ على النظر الى الرب هو ينظر إلينا وكل واحد منا هذه هي قصته يمكننا القول أننا خطأ ولكن يسوع ينظر إلينا. أكنّا في منازلنا أم في الكنيسة يجب أن نتأمّل دقيقة ونسترجع هذه اللحظات بامتنان تلك اللحظات التي لمسنا بها رحمة الله في حياتنا. إن محبة يسوع تسبق حاجتنا لأنه يرى خلف ما يظهر منا وخلف خطيئتنا وخلف فشلنا، هو يرى ما يتواجد أبعد من مكانتنا الاجتماعية، يرى كرامتنا، وهو أتى ليجلب كل الذين يشعرون بأنهم لا يستحقون الله والآخرين. فلنسمح ليسوع بالنظر إلينا، فلنسمح لهذه النظرة أن تكون فرحنا ورجاءنا. بعد أن نظر الرب الى متى قال له اتبعني فقام وتبعه فبعد النظرة إذا قال كلمة وبعد المحبة رسالة، وهنا متى لم يعد نفسه بل تغير من الداخل. إن اللقاء مع يسوع ومحبه ورحمته غيروا متى، فترك وراء الطاولة المال فبعد أن كان يأخذ من الآخرين المال اليوم مع يسوع نهض وأعطى من نفسه للآخرين.

بعدما نظر يسوع الى متى قبل متى فرح الخدمة، فنظرة يسوع ترفع النشاط التبشيري وبذل الذات للآخرين ومحبة يسوع تشفي ضيق بصرنا وتدفعنا للنظر الى البعيد وألا نكتفي بالمظاهر أو بالسياسة الصحيحة فيسوع ييسر أمامنا ويفتح لنا الطريق لنلحق به هو يدعونا ببطاء لنتغلب على ما يشغلنا ونفهم أننا يمكننا أن نتغير. إن يسوع يتحدانا يومياً ويسألنا: "هل تؤمن؟" هل تؤمن أن جامع الضرائب يمكن أن يصبح خادماً، هل تؤمن بأن الخائن يمكن أن يصبح صديقاً؟ هل تؤمن بأن ابن النجار هو ابن الإنسان؟ هذه الأشياء تغير نظرتنا الى الأمور وتغير قلوبنا، الرب هو أب يبحث عن خلاص أولاده.

يجب أن نجتمع حول الله بالصلاة في الإفخارستيا والاعتراف وأن نكون الى جانب كل المنبذين ولنتعلم أن ننظر اليهم كما ينظر يسوع إلينا برحمة مثلاً للمرضى والمساجين، ونحن مدعوون لأن نتعلم من يسوع الذي يرى الحقيقة في كل شخص الذي هو على صورة الأب.

الخبر السار من رعيّتك

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

٢٧ ايلول ٢٠١٥

عدد ٤٩

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الانجيل

الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب

الرسالة

خَرَجَ يَسُوعُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ وَمَضَى. فَدَنَا مِنْهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ يُقْفَتُونَ نَظْرَهُ إِلَى ابْنِيَةِ الْهَيْكَلِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "أَلَا تَنْظُرُونَ هَذَا كُلَّهُ؟ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ يُرِكَ هُنَا حَجَرٌ عَلَى حَجَرٍ إِلَّا وَيُنْقَضُ". وَفِيمَا هُوَ جَالِسٌ عَلَى جَبَلِ الزَّيْتُونِ، دَنَا مِنْهُ التَّلَامِيذُ عَلَى انْفِرَادٍ قَائِلِينَ: "قُلْ لَنَا مَتَى يَكُونُ هَذَا، وَمَا هِيَ عَلَامَةُ مَجِيئِكَ وَنَهَايَةِ الْعَالَمِ؟". فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِحْذَرُوا أَنْ يُضِلَّكُمْ أَحَدًا! فَكَثِيرُونَ سَيَأْتُونَ بِاسْمِي قَائِلِينَ: "أَنَا هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ! وَيُضِلُّونَ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَسَوْفَ تَسْمَعُونَ بِحُرُوبٍ وَبِأَحْبَارٍ حُرُوبٍ، أَنْظُرُوا، لَا تَرْتَعِبُوا! فَلَإِنَّ بَدْءَ أَنْ يَحْدُثَ هَذَا. وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَتْ النَّهَائِيَةُ بَعْدَ! سَتَقُومُ أُمَّةٌ عَلَى أُمَّةٍ، وَمَمْلَكَةٌ عَلَى مَمْلَكَةٍ، وَتَكُونُ مَجَاعَاتٌ وَزَلَزَلٌ فِي أَمَاكِنَ شَتَى، وَهَذَا كُلُّهُ أَوَّلُ الْمَخَاضِ.



قراءات الأحد القادم
أحد الثالث بعد عيد الصليب

فل ٣ : ١٧ - ٤ : ١
متى ٢٣ : ٢٤ - ٣١

الصليب

هو عمل حب الله
غير المنطوق به

نحو الانسان

وعلامه

اهتمامه العظيم بنا

~ القديس يوحنا ذهبي الفم ~

بَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ كُنَّا نَرْجُو الْمَسِيحَ فِي هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ وَحَسَبُ، فَتَحْنُ أَشْقَى النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ! وَالْحَالُ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَهُوَ بَاكُورَةُ الزَّاقِدِينَ. فِيمَا أَنَّ الْمَوْتَ كَانَ بِوِاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ، فَبِوِاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ أَيْضًا تَكُونُ قِيَامَةُ الْأَمْوَاتِ. فَكَمَا أَنَّهُ فِي آدَمَ يَمُوتُ الْجَمِيعُ، كَذَلِكَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ سَيَحْيَا الْجَمِيعُ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ فِي رُبُوبِيَّتِهِ: الْمَسِيحُ أَوَّلًا، لِأَنَّهُ الْبَاكُورَةُ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، عِنْدَ مَجِيئِهِ.

وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ تَكُونُ النَّهَائِيَةُ، حِينَ يُسَلِّمُ الْمَسِيحُ الْمُلْكَ إِلَى اللَّهِ الْآبِ، بَعْدَ أَنْ يَكُونَ قَدْ أَبْطَلَ كُلَّ رِئَاسَةٍ وَكُلَّ سُلْطَانٍ وَقُوَّةٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا بَدْءَ لِلْمَسِيحِ أَنْ يَمْلِكَ، إِلَى أَنْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ جَمِيعَ أَعْدَائِهِ تَحْتَ قَدَمَيْهِ. وَأَخِرَ عَدُوٌّ يُبْطَلُ هُوَ الْمَوْتُ. لَقَدْ أَخْضَعَ اللَّهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ تَحْتَ قَدَمَيْهِ. وَحِينَ يَقُولُ الْكِتَابُ: "أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ"، فَمِنَ الْوَاضِحِ أَنَّهُ يَسْتَنْبِي اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ. وَمَتَى أَخْضَعَ لِلْآبِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، فَحِينَئِذٍ يَخْضَعُ الْإِنْسَانُ نَفْسَهُ لِلَّذِي أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَتَّى يَكُونَ اللَّهُ الْكُلُّ فِي الْكُلِّ. وَالْأَمَّا مَاذَا يَفْعَلُ الَّذِينَ يَتَعَمَّدُونَ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْأَمْوَاتِ؟ إِنْ كَانَ الْأَمْوَاتُ لَا يَقُومُونَ أَبَدًا، فَلِمَاذَا يَتَعَمَّدُونَ مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ؟ وَنَحْنُ، فَلِمَاذَا نَعْرِضُ أَنْفُسَنَا كُلَّ سَاعَةٍ لِلْخَطَرِ؟ أَفَسِمُّ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، بِمَا لِي مِنْ فَخْرٍ بِكُمْ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبَّنَا، أَيُّهُ أَوَّاجُهُ الْمَوْتُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ. إِنْ كُنْتُ صَارَعْتُ الْوُحُوشَ فِي أَفْسُسَ، لِغَايَةِ بَشْرِيَّةٍ، فَأَيُّ نَفْعٍ لِي؟

وَإِنْ كَانَ الْأَمْوَاتُ لَا يَقُومُونَ، فَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَشْرَبْ، لِأَنَّنَا عَدَا سَنَمُوتُ! لَا تَضَلُّوا! إِنَّ الْمَعَاشِرَاتِ السَّيِّئَةَ تُفْسِدُ الْأَخْلَاقَ السَّالِمَةَ! أَيْقِظُوا قُلُوبَكُمْ بِالنُّقُوتِ، وَلَا تَخْطَأُوا، فَإِنَّ بَعْضًا مِنْكُمْ يَجْهَلُونَ اللَّهَ! أَقُولُ هَذَا لِإِحْجَالِكُمْ!

١ قور ١٥ : ١٩ - ٣٤

حِينَئِذٍ يُسَلِّمُونَكُمْ إِلَى الضِّيقِ، وَيَقْتُلُونَكُمْ، وَيُبَغِّضُكُمْ جَمِيعَ الْأُمَّمِ مِنْ أَجْلِ اسْمِي. وَحِينَئِذٍ يَزِيدُ الْكَثِيرُونَ عَنِ الْإِيمَانِ، وَيُسَلِّمُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا، وَيُبَغِّضُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا. وَيَقُومُ أَنْبِيَاءُ كَذِبَةٌ كَثِيرُونَ وَيُضِلُّونَ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَلَكِنَّةَ الْإِيمَانِ تَقْتَرُ مَحَبَّةُ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَمَنْ يَصْبِرُ إِلَى النَّهَائِيَةِ يَخْلُصُ. وَيُكْرَزُ بِإِنْجِيلِ الْمَلَكُوتِ هَذَا فِي الْمَسْكُونَةِ كُلِّهَا شَهَادَةً لِجَمِيعِ الْأُمَّمِ، وَحِينَئِذٍ تَأْتِي النَّهَائِيَةُ."

متى ٢٤ : ١ - ١٤

صلاة الأسبوع

أيها الأب السماوي،

يا من جددت العالم بموت ابنك وقيامته،

وتحييه بروحك القدس،

أعطنا في هذا اليوم وفي كل يوم

أن نغلب اليأس والقنوط والحزن بالرجاء

فلا نقع فريسة الشكوك

بل نمجد أسمك في كل ما نقوم به

واسم ابنك وروحك القدس، إلى الأبد

آمين!



قداسات يوم الأحد

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك 8:00 (عربي)، 9:30 (إنكليزي)، 11:00 (عربي، إنكليزي)، 5:00 (عربي، إنكليزي)، 7:00 (إنكليزي)

مركز قداس 6:00 ب. ب. ظ. في كنيسة سانت باتريك، غيلدفورد (عربي، إنكليزي)

قداسات الأسبوع

الإثنين - الجمعة 7:00، 8.45 صباحاً و 6:00 مساءً، الأربعاء 7:00، 8.45 صباحاً و 5:30؛ 7:00 مساءً (إنكليزي) السبت 7:30 صباحاً و 6:00 مساءً

الإعترافات

مؤمّنة قبل وخلال قداس السبت الساعة 6:00 مساءً و قداسات الأحد أو بتحديد موعد خلال أيام الأسبوع

ساعات السجود

ساعات السجود: كل يوم خميس 8:00 - 9:00 مساءً 24 ساعة سجود أمام القديس: كل أول نهار جمعة من الشهر من الساعة 9:30 صباحاً لغاية السبت 7:30 صباحاً