

# The Good News from Your Parish

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CO CATHEDRAL - HARRIS PARK

Sunday 16 November 2014

Issue 3

www.olol.org.au

## Announcement to Zechariah

### THE GOSPEL

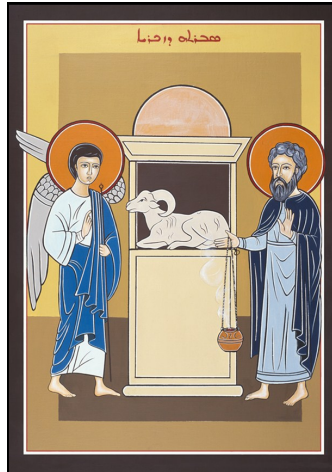
Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realised that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Luke 1: 1-25



Next Sunday's Readings  
Gal 3:15-22  
Lk 1 : 26-38

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"He who labours as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands"*

St Benedict of Nursia



Carols by Candlelight

"Light in the Dark"

Fri 19 Dec  
8pm

Church Grounds  
Keep this date Free

### THE EPISTLE

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Rom 4: 13-25

### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Heavenly Father,

Through the Angel Gabriel, you say to Zechariah: "Do not be afraid...your prayer has been heard." In a time when we are afraid of everything that revolves around us and within us, help to find security and peace in the knowledge that you will always hear and answer our prayers and petitions through your Son and your living Holy Spirit.

Amen

Want to receive the Newsletter by email, subscribe online at [www.olol.org.au/newsletter](http://www.olol.org.au/newsletter)

### 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 Centres 11am St. Joseph the Worker, Auburn (Ar/Eng) / 6pm St Patrick's, Guildford (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](mailto:info@olol.org.au) Msgr Shora Maree P.P. 0418 969 844. A.P.s Fr Pierre 0411 735 258. Fr Tony 0433 211 248. Fr Raphael 0401 627 777. Fr Sam, Fr Antoun 9689 2899. Fr Paul 0414 900 016. Fr Bernard 0411 811 807. Fr Yuhanna 0435 764 824.

## Light from the Word - Announcement to Zechariah



This Sunday we commence our preparation for Christmas, according to our Maronite Lectionary. The stories of the Gospels will unfold over the Sunday's ahead, depicting the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Today we enter the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Zechariah is told his aging and barren wife, Elizabeth, would bear him a son, John the Baptist. Such an unexpected turn of events leaves Zechariah dumbfounded, literally! As the angel declared, 'You will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur'v20. So Zechariah was left to ponder in silence what

glories God was preparing.

Interestingly when Elizabeth discovers she is with child, she too goes into silence, 'After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion'v24. It is worth adding here, that Mary, as we see in later chapters, was also known to enter into silence, 'But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart' (2:19).

We tend to celebrate Christmas with toys and tinsel, grand meals and chatter, blinking lights and Christmas carols. Yet the events leading up to the bursting forth of God Incarnate, were quiet, hidden events.

Silence carries with it mystery. It breathes the dreams of people and pulsates with God's presence. This time leading up to Christmas, is about birthing new life. Just like God spent nine months in a dark, silent womb, we too must learn that times of silence are times of new birthing, new insights and new possibilities.

God is best known in our very depths. So let us stop and wait and allow the wonder of God's Spirit to surprise us with hope. Amen

**Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf**

## Saint of the Week

**ST CECILIA, MARTYR  
22 NOVEMBER**

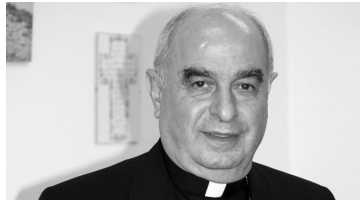


- Cecilia was a Roman girl of patrician family, who had been brought up as a Christian in a time of rough persecution of Christians;
- Although she wished to remain a virgin, her father betrothed her to a young pagan named Valerian;
- She aided in the conversion of Valerian and his brothers and they became devout Christians who were martyred for their faith;
- When Cecilia was found to be a Christian, orders were given for her to be suffocated in her own bathroom. Surviving this attempt on her life, a soldier was sent to behead her. He struck at her neck three times, then left her lying, still alive, for it was against the law to strike a fourth time;
- She remained alive for three days, during which the Christians who remained in Rome flocked to her house. In dying she bequeathed all her goods to the poor, and her house to the bishop for a Christian place of worship. She was buried in the crypt of the Caecillii at the catacomb of St. Callistus.

**Charbel Dib**

## Shepherd's Corner

## A BIG Thank you from the Patriarchal Vicar General



Dear Parishioners,

Our Shepherd's Corner this week is a wonderful Thank You Message from the Patriarchal Vicar, Archbishop Paul Sayah, on behalf of His Beatitude and Eminence Patriarch Becharra Boutros Cardinal Rai. Archbishop Sayah accompanied the Patriarch on His Beattitudes recent Visit to Australia and sent the following Thank You message to the Priests, Staff, and Volunteers of Our Lady of Lebanon Parish. Archbishop Sayah writes:

*"Our pastoral visit to Australia has been an all around wonderful experience. It gave us the opportunity to meet some of our Lebanese people, but mostly our dear Maronites of Australia about whom we had heard so much, especially about their commitment to their Church and their attachment to the home country.*

*The various encounters we had with you and your parishioners were distinct highlights of our visit. The very sight of such an impressive building complex shows immediately the huge dimensions of the enterprise. You feel immediately that you are not dealing with an ordinary parish.*

*The warmth of the reception upon our arrival to the co-cathedral, on our first visit, stands very much alive in my mind. This shows how much the various components and all ages of the community members are implicated in the life of the parish. Then the organization of the liturgy, so well and so minutely prepared, shows another vital aspect of the pastor's spiritual work in depth which is ultimately the main objective of the parish ministry.*

*The blessing of the foundation stone for the OLOL Presbytery points to also to the awareness of what is still needed and the willingness to face huge new costs to bring to completion the master plan which provides the parish with all the building facilities. The fact of leaving the building of the presbytery to the end shows also that the pastoral priorities are set in the right order! The lunch hosted by the parish with representatives of various parish committees and organizations present, gives a global view of the huge and comprehensive operation going on at Our Lady of Lebanon, Harris Park.*

*To top it all came the festival and Blessed Sacrament adoration with the youth. There is no doubt that the youth ministry is one of the most important if the parish is to be future oriented as each parish ought to be if it is prosper and last.*

*On behalf of His Beatitude, myself and the delegation, I wish to congratulate you on the great ministry you are engaged in. Please do pass on our deep gratitude and great appreciation to the priests and to each and everyone of the people, organizations and committees involved, for the huge human efforts and material resources invested in the preparation and execution of the visit.*

*We pray that almighty God may continue to grant you wisdom, strength and commitment to pursue your ministry with an ever greater dedication to the work of the Kingdom.*

*With renewed gratitude, warm good wishes and all God's blessings upon your great pastoral ministry.*

*Arch. Paul Sayah  
Patriarchal Vicar General"*

This is a wonderful recognition to all who have served and worked in the parish not only for the visit of the Patriarch, but over many years and with faith, hope, and love expressed in sacrifices, great generosity in time, energy and resources for the Mission of Christ and His Kingdom in our Parish. And it is encouragement to move forward in the same spirit.

**Mons Shora Maree**

## Profiles of the Christmas Characters Zechariah



The announcement of the birth of the forerunner, John the Baptist, to Zechariah who was a high priest, signals God's renewed activity on behalf of his people in light of promises made long ago. As a starting point Zechariah and Elizabeth set a perfect example of how we should be living our life. They were **righteous, pious, devout law-abiding, religious, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of God.**

That is not to say that Zechariah and Elizabeth had no problems. While many of our problems stem from our own sins, God does allow some to invade our lives for no other purpose but to help us grow. He wants them there, and no amount of obedience can possibly bring immunity from them until God is prepared to reveal his salvation to us. Zechariah could have at the time submitted to the cultural

accepted tradition of divorcing Elizabeth because of their disappointment and disgrace of barrenness especially with his status as a priest, but that did not stop them, they were **counter cultural** and submitted to the will of God and obeyed the Word of God with all humility, **simplicity** and praising **service** to Him with a **smile**. God wants husbands out in front, taking the spiritual lead and ministering to their wives and children in the things of Christ. Calling them to be counter cultural and to look at our hardships as an opportunity for blessing and to devoutly continue in service to God and others.

The quality of our walk with God determines our ability to walk happily and harmoniously with each other. And that walk with God can only grow as we seek to please Him rather than impress men highlighted by the fact that Zechariah chose God and the name John in a family feud.

In this way as people of the faith we can see that our faith should not weaken like Zachariah's who questioned the angel of God no matter how hopeless the situation is we should not bail out on God. It is so much easier to quit and run away from difficult circumstances, but that usually compounds the problem. Maybe you think that God has forgotten you in your hopeless situation. God can solve all our problems however some will invariably protest and say: "But you don't understand. My situation is impossible." "My husband will never change." "My wife will never learn." "We'll never get out of debt." "I'll never be well again." "My unsaved loved one will never come to know Christ." "This job will never improve." Listen to God's Word again: "**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**" Believe that. Obey him. Then keep on keeping on.

God hasn't forgotten us. Our God is the God of the impossible as much today as he was over 2000 years ago. He delights in doing impossible things for us when He knows we shall give Him the glory. God wants us to take our difficulties to Him in prayer together, search the Word together for encouragement and direction, and then wait patiently in reflective **Silence** for Him to work rather than gossip and talk about others. So don't chafe and agonize under the burden. Believe him. Keep on faithfully living for Him and patiently waiting for Him to work, just as Zechariah and Elizabeth did knowing that God's answers to prayer come in surprising ways and sometimes after a long time. Also remember that God does not always give according to our asking, and certainly not according to our deserving. He gives according to the riches of His grace. He does "exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think.

By Sid Isaac

## Our mission and Vocation in the Kingdom of God

Each baptised Christian has a particular task or mission in contributing to the bringing about and further developing the Kingdom of God. This is our vocation, a vocation of love and service of God and his people. In discerning our vocation we remember that God speaks to the person in many ways (scripture, liturgy, church teachings etc.). What we must always remember however is that our vocation and mission is never forced upon us, rather God calls us to cooperate with his graciousness to be able to fulfil our mission and vocation. In the case of Zechariah, God spoke to him through the angel Gabriel but Zechariah's response was influenced by fear and the "science" of his situation. His time in silence allowed him to see that whilst the "science" of his situation was clearly correct, God is all loving and all powerful and he need not fear but trust in God's providence and love. Zechariah's cooperation with God (which we will hear about in 3 weeks on Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist), leads him to finally accept the message of God via Gabriel, thus he is able to speak again. However Zechariah doesn't just speak in normal terms again, his first words are that of praising God and his glory in his canticle of praise known as the Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79). In our own response to God's call, we must always aim to reply with joy, faithfulness and above all, love. In our lives of prayer, may we be attentive to the invitations God places before us and respond with joy, faith and love. May we remain humble servants of the gracious God who calls us and allows us to play our small part in salvation history through our mission in bringing about and developing the Kingdom of God, this kingdom which is here and now, the kingdom of God's holy Church.

By Charbel Dib

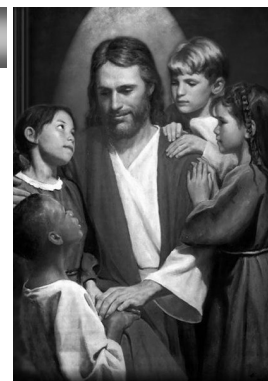
## Children's Corner

Welcome to our beautiful Church on this glorious Sunday.

Today, we begin our journey to celebrate my birthday on Christmas Day. Like every big event in our lives, we need to prepare ourselves for this. There are many ways that we can prepare ourselves and this year I would like you to focus on two things. As we heard in this week's Gospel, the angel Gabriel made my uncle Zechariah mute because he did not believe the message that my Father had sent him about my cousin John. He was not able to speak anymore because he did not believe. Silence is not such a bad thing. Silence helps us to listen and to comprehend everything that goes on around us so that we can learn and



increase our knowledge. I would like you to practice this in your day to day lives. Try to listen more to your mum and dad, your teachers, brothers and sisters, friends and to the priest during Mass. The more you listen, the more you will increase in faith. The second thing that I would like you to do that complements silence is prayer. I would like to ask you to pray a little more during this Season. Did you know that when you pray, you are actually speaking to me? When you pray, this gives me the opportunity to listen to you. I am always happy to listen to you speaking to me. Be assured, I will listen to everything that you tell me. So, my dear brothers and sisters, try these two things and let me know through your prayers how you are going.



Love always your brother Jesus!



# Parish Camera



### Parish Theatre:

Last Saturday the Fersen attended a live performance of the Hunchback of Notre Dame in the parish car park.



### Fersen Consecration

Last Sunday a new group of children were consecrated to Our Lady in the Fersen at the 9.30am Family Mass. Bishop Antoine-Charbel told the congregation in his homily that the children were Jesus' VIP's.



### Teens Car Wash

Last Sunday, the Teens spent the day washing cars in the bottom car park. They washed over 120 cars and raised over \$3000 which will go towards the Community Centre. Well Done!



### Seniors Day on Thursday



## MaroniteCare COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE Planned Giving Target

**Target 2000 Parishioners**  
**\$5 a week**

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

For Enquiries: contact Lisa 96892899.

**Pledge Envelopes available for in the Gift shop**

365 Parishioners committed



### Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Loans

**CYPC \$5,269,118 Units \$1,628,150 Property \$68,208**

## Community Business Network Page

**PUNCHINELLO'S PARTY HIRE FOR KIDS**

Everything for your kids party needs visit our website or call

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# PARISH NOTICE BOARD



## FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS & FUNERALS

### Sunday 16 November 2014 - Announcement to Zechariah

9.30am 40 Day for Najem Nassif Aoun from Saghbine

11.00am 40 Day Fares Salim Makhoul from Hawch Rachaia

5.00pm 1 Year Toufic Said Abboud from Damour

### St Joseph the Worker—Auburn

11.00am 1 Year Nawal Boufarraa from Bazoun wife of George Moussa from Daher El Ain

### St Patrick's—Guildford

6.00pm 40 Days Zakia Habib Khoury Younis widow of Hanna Jreij from Hadchit

### Tuesday 18 November 2014

6.00pm Damia Lahoud widow of Assya Dagher from Toula

### Sunday 23 November 2014 - Announcement to Mary

5.00pm 40 Day Hedwan Tansa Cham from Sebhel

## قَدَّاسَاتِ الْأَسْبُوعِ

### الأحد 16 تشرين الثاني: أحد بشارة زكريا

9:30 أربعون المرحوم نجم ناصيف عون من صغيين

11:00 أربعون المرحوم فارس سليم مخول من حوش راشيا

5:00 السنة للمرحوم توفيق سعيد عبود من الدامور

### Mar يوسف العامل Auburn

11:00 السنة للمرحومة نوال بو فراعة من بزعون زوجة جورج موسى من

ضهر العين

سان باتريك غيلدفورد

6:00 أربعون المرحومة زكية حبيب الخوري يونس أرملة المرحوم حنا

الياس جريج من حدشيت

### الثلاثاء 18 تشرين الثاني:

6:00 المرحومة دميّا لحد أرملة المرحوم أسيا داغر من تولا الجبة

(متوفاة في لبنان)

### الأحد 23 تشرين الثاني: أحد بشارة العذراء

5:00 أربعون المرحوم هديوان طنسا شام من سبعل



## FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE



### Parish Groups and Committees

**Pastoral Council Meeting** Wed 19 Nov at 8.30pm with Bishop

### Family & Adult Events

#### **"The Love of God for His People"**

Arabic Faith Talk Presented by Fr Sam Wehbe by FDW  
Tues 18 Nov 7.30pm in the Seniors Room—CYPC

#### **"God's Word: The Story of Conversion"** presented by Alan Ames

Fri 28 Nov Starting with Mass at 6.00pm  
Talk and healing after Mass — ALL WELCOME

### Children's Events

**Arabic Classes:** Sat 9:30am-12:30pm call Antoinette: 0414819663

**Fersan Al-Adra:** Saturdays 1pm -3pm

**Children's Playgroup** Tues & Wed 9:30am - 11:30am in CPYC

### Teens Events

**Teens Faith Discussion & Activities:** Saturdays 4pm-6pm

#### **A Night on the Red Carpet**

Teens Christmas Dinner

Friday 12 Dec - 7.30 to 11.30pm

In the Cathedral Hall

Cost: \$30p/p for group of 10 or \$35p/p individually

Dress: Formal. Includes Dinner, Entertainment & lots of prizes

Contact Tony Mattar 0401 364 335 for enquiries

### Youth Events

**Blood Donation** contact Myrna 0421677998

**Nursing Home Visit 30 Nov 2014** contact Josette 0447777703

**Monthly Youth Meeting:** TBA contact Maroun 0410656099

### 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.

### General Parish Notices

#### **2015 OLOL Parish Pilgrimage** 20th April to 8th May 2015

Cathedrals and Churches of Europe including Rome, Cascia, Padua, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Turin, Nice, Cannes, Lordes, Paris and more with option to Beirut (extra). Cost \$7,250 pp. Lebanon option \$7,750. If interested, send an e-mail to Fr Pierre or Tina at [frpierre@hotmail.com](mailto:frpierre@hotmail.com) or [tinasalame@hotmail.com](mailto:tinasalame@hotmail.com)

## 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 0417 426 103

### Counselling Services (English/ Arabic)

Nada Coorey-Psychologist provides confidential counselling to the Community at her Private Practice. Areas of Specialisation include Depression and Anxiety/Panic Attacks, Relationships and Family/Parenting. Mobile: 0434642509 or PH: 88981526

### MaroniteCare Counselling Service

For young people 12-18 years and their families.

Call Amanda Nassif: 0433 217 063

Email: [counselling@maronitecare.org.au](mailto:counselling@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 0410122999

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

Marriage Preparation Sessions book 8 months before wedding: 9642 0211

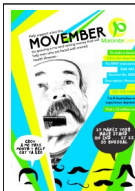
LOL St Vincent De Paul Conference call Kim Moussa 0424658190

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

### November

Help Support a bro this November by growing a mo and raising money that will help men who are faced with mental health issues.

To make a donation use the BPay details below:  
BSB: 942 207 ACCT: 1008754 Description: November  
contact Joe on 0406 111 401 or Mick on 0405 323 360



## Diocesan Notices

### Maronites on a Mission - Annual Fundraising Dinner

12 Dec 2014 at The Bellevue Bankstown

Tickets are \$90 per person and \$85 for a table of 10.

Funds raised will go towards funding Maronites on Mission food runs and home visit initiatives for the whole year and the upcoming trip to the Philippines in January 2015.

For more details visit the Maronites on Mission Facebook page or contact Hannan Hanna on 0415 596 441.

### Daily Bible verses to your mobile

To receive send your name on an SMS to 0404057777.

## "هل الله موجود وهل يتخلى عنا في أوقات الشدة؟"



هذا ما نشره موقع everystudent وجود الله وقربه من كل واحد منا فإليكم أبرز الأفكار... هل تساءلتم يوماً من هو الله؟

الله هو خالق الكون وهو يتوق لأن نتعرف إليه، ولذلك نحن نتواجد هنا، نحن نتكل على رغبته ونختبر قوته، ومحبتة، وعدله، وقوته ورحمته. لذلك هو يتوجه لكل واحد منا نحن الذين نريد أن نتعرف إليه قائلا: "تعالوا إلي". الله عالم بما هو خفي، وهو وحده الذي يعلم أحداث مستقبلنا وما سيحدث في غدنا، هو الله ولا يشابهه أحد، هو يعلم ما الذي سيحصل في حياتك وسيقف الى جانبك إذا أنت اخترت إدخاله في حياتك. هو يعلمنا أنه يستطيع أن يكون ملجأنا وقوتنا ولكن علينا أن نقوم بجهد حقيقي لنبحث عنه، فهو قال لنا ستبحثون عني وتجدونني إن بحثتم من كل قلبكم.

### أين يكون الله في وقت الشدة؟

الله بجانبنا على الدوام ولكن ذلك لا يعني أن من يعرف الله لا يمر بأوقات صعبة... فعلى سبيل المثال حيث يسبب أي هجوم إرهابي بالمعاناة والموت يشعر من يعرف الله بالمرارة كسائر الناس ولكنه يتمتع بسلام وبقوة يقدمهما له حضور الله. قال أحد أتباع يسوع المسيح: "نحن نعاني الصعاب ولكننا لا نسحق، نضطهد ولكننا لسنا متروكين... وهذه حقيقة تظهر لنا أننا سنعاني خلال حياتنا.

إن مررنا في الصعاب وكنا نعرف الله سنمر بروية وبقوة داخلية وستتفاعل مع المشكلة بطريقة مغايرة للآخرين، فلا شيء عصي على الله، هو أكبر من كل المشكلات الصغيرة التي تواجهنا ولا يتركنا وحدنا نصارعها. كلام الرب يؤكد لنا أن الرب ملجأ لنا في أوقات الشدة وهو يهتم بالذين يضعون ثقتهم به وهو قريب ممن يدعوونه ويسمع نداءهم ويخلصهم.

يقول لنا يسوع: أَلَيْسَ عُصْفُورَانِ يَبَاعَانِ بِقَلْسٍ؟ وَوَاحِدٌ مِنْهُمَا لَا يَسْقُطُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ بِدُونِ أَبِيكُمْ. وَأَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَحَتَّى شُعُورَ رُؤُوسِكُمْ جَمِيعُهَا مُحْصَاةٌ فَلَا تَخَافُوا! أَنْتُمْ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ عَصَافِيرَ كَثِيرَةٍ...!

إذاً إن اقتربتكم حقاً من الله سيعتني بكم أكثر من أي شخص آخر ...

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## مسيرة نجمة بيت لحم ...



في حدث البشارة إشارة إلى خلاص الإنسان من الخطيئة وبداية للمسيرة مع الآتي إلينا حتى يفندي بشريتنا بدمه على الصليب. ولأن الميلاد فرح كامل، كان يوحنا دليلاً إلى هذا الفرحة الآتي من عند الرب، سبقه للتبشير به والإعلان عنه أمام الشعب الذي يترقب الخلاص. نحن أيضاً اليوم مدعوون على مثال يوحنا السابق، أن ننتظر الرب يسوع بالبهجة والفرحة لأن الزمان قريب وهو آتٍ. وأن نقف في وسط العالم علامةً للبشارة، وأن نتذكر أن بشارة الملاك لذكريا الكاهن لا تزال على مدى تاريخ البشرية تتعكس في حياتنا اليومية.

### حياتنا الليتورجية

## هل أنا جاهز؟



هل أنا جاهز ومتخلى عن ذاتي؟  
هل أنا جاهز عندما أرى أخي  
الإنسان أمامي أن أرى وجه  
يسوع المسيح؟  
هل أنا جاهز لأقول ليسوع  
المسيح أنك أنت قلبي الذي أحب  
فيه؟

هل أنا جاهز لأقول ليسوع المسيح أنك أنت عيوني الذي أرى  
بهما؟

إذا كنت جاهز يجب أن تتسى أنك مجروح، تعبان، مقهور ...  
مع يسوع المسيح يجب أن تتسى الألم وأن تقول " لنكون  
مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض."  
مع يسوع المسيح يجب أن تعلن إيمانك بحرية وشجاعة.

ربي يسوع،

شفاء قلوبنا يأتي منك وحدك.

شفاء أجسادنا يا رب يأتي من الآمك.

ساعدنا يا رب أن نؤمن وننتصر على ضعف قلوبنا.

أنت عيوني الذي أرى بهما ، أنت قلبي الذي أحب فيه.

أنت نورتي وخلصي وحياتي ورجائي وإيماني وسلامي وقوتي.

علمني أن أحبك كما أنت أحببتني ، محبتك اللامحدودة

واللامشروطة واللامتناهية والمتقانية حتى موت الصليب.

روني شيحا

### 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) Fr Elias Ayoub, Antoun Azar, Raymond

Anjou (B) Raymond, Hanne & Charbel Bazouni, Wahibe, Hanane, Mounir El-Bazouni, Sobhi & Saadie El-Bazouni & their children (C) (D) (F) Salim & Jamal Fahed (G) Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George, Youssef & Leila Gittany & their departed (H) Madeline & Paul Haddad and son Joseph, Anis Haddad, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, George & Sara Hawi, Tansa & Chafika Hawi, Tanous & Shmouni El-Hesn, Youssef & Hani El-Hesn & their children & grandchildren (I) Khalil & Marina Issa, Tansa & Rita Ishac & their children, Tony & Julia Ishac (K) Naim Khattar & George Khattar, Yaacoub & Salwa Khoury (J) Elias & Mariam Jahjah, Kamel & Ghoura Jbartini (L) Peter Lichaa and his wife Marie, Youssef Lichaa, (M) Anthony Mamah Moses and Moses Family, Arthur (Otre) Moses, Elias Barbar Moussa, Boutros & Johra Moussa, John Toufic Merhi, Youssef & Ghousoub Maroun, Ghantous Jabbour Mikhael and his wife Jamile, Alichaa & Youssef Malkoun (N) Jamil, Badwi, Hasna & Yasmine Ndaira, (R) Milia Bou Raidan, Jamil & Labibi Roumanus, Raymond & Etour Romanos & son Joseph, (S) Youssef & Nazha Sarkis & their departed, Nadim, Katrin, Emile, Nabih Saad & their departed, Boutros Kozhaya Sassine, Joseph John Saad & his wife Mazie, Souls in Purgatory (T) (W) Jamil Wehbe & Barbara Wehbe, (Y) Nakhle Yammine & his wife & daughter (Z)



## أحد بشارة زكريا: "لا تخف، يا زكريا، فقد استجبت طلبتك"



البشارة تعني الخبر المفرح. والبشارات هي مدخل الى سر التجسد: بشارة زكريا اليوم، وبشارة مريم، وبشارة يوسف وبشارة الرعاة، وكلها مدخل الى البشارة الكبرى: وُلد لكم مخلص. في احد بشارة زكريا نسمع الملاك يقول: لا تخف يا زكريا الله سمع دعائك. ونقرأ في الرسالة الى روما: آمن ابراهيم راجيا على غير رجاء. وفي كلامه عن الإيمان، يستشهد الرسول باختبار ابراهيم، أب المؤمنين. فتحقق وعد الله لابراهيم، لأن الله صادق وأمين، وفي بوعوده. هو الذي بحبه دعانا قبل أن يصورنا في رحم أمهاتنا، وأسلم ابنه الى الموت من أجل زلاتنا، وأقامه من أجل برنا. وبحبه اللامتناهي، دعا الخالق، ولا يزال يدعو الأجنّة في الأحشاء، كما دعا إسحق ابن ابراهيم ويوحنا ابن زكريا كي يولدوا، وينموا، ويسبحوا اسم الرب، حاملين بشارته في العالم كله، لنكون جميعاً مع الإبن كنيسة واحدة، لأب خالق واحد، بقوة الروح المحيي.

أما في إنجيل لوقا فنأمل في كلمة الله التي بدأت تشق دربها نحو الإنسان رغم الشك والعقم الرزوي و صعوبات الحياة. فاجأة البشارة زكريا وهو يقدم البخور في الهيكل، فتحول كله الى علامة استفهام كبرى: "كيف اعرف هذا؟". دهشة زكريا اليوم امام المفاجأة، تذكرنا بدهشة ابراهيم الموعود باسحق، وبحنة الموعودة بصموئيل. وهي تذكرنا اليوم بدهشتنا امام الله وتدخّله المفاجيء في حياتنا. هل أمنا بان احكام الرب قادرة على تحويل العقم الى خصب، والكآبة الى فرح، والموت الى حياة، والانتظار الى خلاص؟

من هنا نرفع آيات الشكر والحمد ونردد صلاة الشكر ونقول: نشكرك أيها الثالوث القدوس، على حضورك الدائم في حياتنا والمتجلي عبر اللقاءات والأشخاص وخاصة في أوقات الصلاة، وعلى كلمة الحياة التي تفعل في حياتنا ثمار سر الخلاص الذي أتيت به من أجل خلاصنا، وعلى حلمك العذب علينا ولا سيما في أوقات الشك واليأس والتعب.

هنا، في هذا الأحد، نعمة الاصغاء إلى إلهاماتك في حياتنا فنساهم مع كل الأبرار، على مثال زكريا وأليصابات ويوحنا، في تمهيد الطريق أمام وصول كلمة الحياة إلى قلوب كل من نلتقي بهم أو نعيش معهم، فيتمجد بنا وبهم، اسمك القدوس إلى الأبد، آمين. (بتصرف) الخوري طوني سركيس

### الكنيسة تدعونا اليوم ...

في هذا الأحد، أحد بشارة زكريا، تدعونا الكنيسة، لندخل إذاً في منطق الإيمان المستند إلى الرجاء، في كل الأحوال، لأن الرب حاضر معنا ومن أجلنا، كلما رفعنا إليه قلوبنا بخوراً مرضياً أمام مذبح قلب حنانه، (معنى يوحنا = الله تحتن!)

## "لا تكونوا سبباً للعثرات، واطبوا على الغفران وآمنوا"



"على كل مسيحي مهما كانت دعوته أن يقدم على الغفران من دون أن يكون سبباً للعثرات لأن العثرات تدمر الإيمان" هذا ما طلبه البابا فرنسيس. "لا محالة من وجود أسباب العثرات ولكن الويل لمن تأتي عن يده فلائن تُعلّق الرحي في عنقه ويُلقى في البحر أولى به من أن يكون حجر عثرة لأحد هؤلاء الصغار". انطلق البابا فرنسيس من ثلاث كلمات وردت في إنجيل لوقا (17: 1-6) وهي العثرة والغفران والإيمان مبتدئاً بالقول "ويل لمن تقع على يده العثرات" مشيراً إلى التوجيهات التي يقدمها القديس بولس في رسالته طيطس (1: 1-9) حول الأسقف بالأب يكون غضوباً أو شرساً أو ... بمعنى آخر ألا يكون غير محبوب من الناس.

وركّز على فكرة العثرات التي يقوم بها المسيحيون إذ يقولون بأنهم مسيحيون ويعيشون عيشة الوثنية وقال: "عندما يذهب مسيحي أو مسيحية إلى الكنيسة ولا يعيش وفق تعاليمها فإنه يكون حجر عثرة وكم من المرات نسمع أشخاصاً يقولون بأنهم لا يذهبون إلى الكنيسة مفضلين أن يكونوا صريحين مع أنفسهم فلا يكونون مثل أولئك الذين يذهبون ويتصرفون عكس ما يسمعون". وأضاف: "إن العثرات تدمر! إنها تدمر الإيمان ولهذا يسوع تحدّث عنها بنبرة حادة: "خذوا الحذر لأنفسكم! خذوا الحذر لأنفسكم! ومن المفيد اليوم أن ننظر نحن إلى أنفسنا وننتبه لئلا نصدم الآخرين بتصرفاتنا". وتابع البابا: "وبالطريقة نفسها وليس العكس، نحن مدعوون لأن نتعلّم أن نغفر. وأن نغفر "دائماً" مشدداً على ما قاله يسوع الذي يدعو أن نغفر سبع مرات في اليوم إذا ما خطيء إلبنا أخونا.

وقال البابا: "إن يسوع يبالي بغية إفهامنا أهمية الغفران لأن المسيحي الذي لا يقدر أن يغفر يكون حجر عثرة أمام أخيه وبالتالي ليس مسيحياً". وأضاف: "علينا أن نغفر لأن الغفران يرد في الصلاة التي علّمنا إياها يسوع في صلاة الأبنان. إن المنطق البشري لا يستطيع أن يفهم ذلك فيدفعنا إلى عدم الغفران وإلى الانتقام ويقودنا إلى الكراهية والانتقام. كم من العائلات هي منقسمة بسبب عدم الغفران: كم من العائلات! وكم من الأبناء يعيشون بعيداً عن أهلهم أو ينفصل الزوج عن الزوجة... من المهم جداً أن نفكر في هذا الأمر. يبدو أنه حين لا أجيد الغفران لا أفهم ما معنى أن الرب غفر لي. وهذه الكلمة الثانية: الغفران". وختم البابا: "من هنا نفهم إذا لم سأل الرسل يسوع "زدنا إيماناً" لأنه من دون الإيمان لا يمكننا أن نعيش من دون العثرات والغفران الدائم. وحده من خلال نور الإيمان، الإيمان الذي تلقيناه من الأب الرحيم، من ابن بذل نفسه من أجلنا، من روح ساكن فينا ويساعدنا على النمو، من إيمان الكنيسة ومن إيمان شعب الله المعمدين والقديسين. إنها نعمة، إن الإيمان هو عطية مُنحت لنا ."

# الخبر السار من رعيّتك

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

١٦ تشرين الثاني ٢٠١٤

عدد ٣

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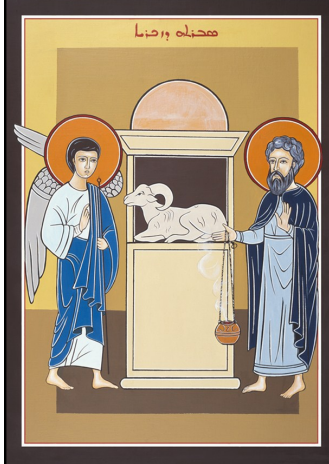
الإنجيل

## أحد بشارة زكريا

الرسالة

كَانَ فِي أَيَّامِ هِيرُودُسَ، مَلِكِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ كَاهِنٌ اسْمُهُ زَكْرِيَّا، لَهُ امْرَأَةٌ اسْمُهَا أَلِيصَابَاتُ. وَكَانَا كِلَاهُمَا بَارَيْنِ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ، سَالِكِينَ فِي جَمِيعِ وَصَايَا الرَّبِّ. وَمَا كَانَ لهُمَا وَلَدٌ، لِأَنَّ أَلِيصَابَاتَ كَانَتْ عَاقِرًا وَكَانَا كِلَاهُمَا قَدْ طَعْنَا فِي أَيَّامِهِمَا. وَفِيمَا كَانَ زَكْرِيَّا يُقُومُ بِالْخِدْمَةِ الْكَهْنُوتِيَّةِ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ، فِي أَثْنَاءِ نُوبَةٍ فَرَّقَتْهُ، أَصَابَتْهُ الْقُرْعَةُ، بِحَسَبِ عَادَةِ الْكَهْنُوتِ لِيَدْخُلَ مَقْدَسَ الرَّبِّ وَيُحْرِقَ الْبُخُورَ. فَتَرَأَى مَلَأَكُ الرَّبِّ لَزَكْرِيَّا وَاقِفًا عَنْ يَمِينِ مَذْبَحِ الْبُخُورِ. فَاضْطَرَبَ زَكْرِيَّا وَاسْتَوْلَى عَلَيْهِ الْخَوْفُ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْمَلَأَكُ: "لَا تَخَفْ يَا زَكْرِيَّا، فَقَدْ اسْتَجِيبَتْ طَلِبَتُكَ، وَامْرَأَتُكَ أَلِيصَابَاتُ سَتَلِدُ لَكَ ابْنًا، فَاسْمُهُ يُوحَنَّا. وَيَكُونُ لَكَ فَرْحٌ وَابْتِهَاجٌ، وَيَفْرَحُ بِمَوْلَاهُ كَثِيرُونَ، لِأَنَّهُ سَيَكُونُ عَظِيمًا فِي نَظَرِ الرَّبِّ، وَيَمْتَلِئُ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ وَهُوَ بَعْدُ فِي حِشَا أُمِّهِ، وَيَرُدُّ كَثِيرِينَ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِلَى الرَّبِّ إِلَهُهِمْ فِيهِئَةً لِلرَّبِّ شَعْبًا مُعَدًّا خَيْرَ أَعْدَادٍ!" سَأَلَ زَكْرِيَّا الْمَلَأَكُ: "بِمَاذَا أَعْرِفُ هَذَا؟ فَإِنِّي أَنَا شَيْخٌ كَبِيرٌ وَامْرَأَتِي قَدْ طَعَنْتُ فِي أَيَّامِهَا؟" فَأَجَابَ الْمَلَأَكُ: "أَنَا هُوَ جِبْرَائِيلُ، الْوَاقِفُ فِي حَضْرَةِ اللَّهِ، وَقَدْ أُرْسِلْتُ لِأَكَلِمِكَ وَأُبَشِّرَكَ بِهَذَا. وَهِيَ أَنْتَ تَكُونُ صَامِتًا، لِأَنَّكَ لَمْ تَوَظَّنْ بِكَلَامِي، الَّذِي سَيَتِمُّ فِي أَوَانِهِ... بَعْدَ تِلْكَ الْإَيَّامِ، حَمَلَتْ امْرَأَتُهُ أَلِيصَابَاتُ، وَكَتَمَتْ أَمْرَهَا خَمْسَةَ أَشْهُرٍ، وَهِيَ تَقُولُ: "هَكَذَا صَنَعَ الرَّبُّ إِلَيَّ..."

لو ١: ٥-٢٥



قراءات الأحد القادم  
أحد بشارة العذراء

غل ٣: ١٥-٢٢

لو ١: ٢٦-٣٨

يا اخوتي، فَإِنَّ الْمَوْعِدَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَنَسْلِهِ بَأَنَّ يَكُونَ وَاثِرًا لِلْعَالَمِ، لَمْ يَقُمْ عَلَى الدَّامُوسِ بِلِ عَلَى بَرِّ الْإِيمَانِ. فَلَقَدْ آمَنَ عَلَى خِلَافِ كُلِّ رَجَاءٍ فَصَارَ أَبَا لَأُمَمٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، عَلَى نَحْوِ مَا قِيلَ لَهُ: "هَكَذَا يَكُونُ نَسْلُكَ". لَقَدْ اعْتَبَّرَ، عَلَى غَيْرِ ضَعْفٍ مِنْهُ فِي الْإِيمَانِ، أَنَّ جِسْمَهُ قَدْ مَاتَ وَمَعَ ذَلِكَ لَمْ يَشْكُ قَطُّ فِي وَعْدِ اللَّهِ، بَعْدَ بَعْدِ الْإِيمَانِ، بَلْ تَقَوَّى فِي الْإِيمَانِ، مُمَجِّدًا اللَّهَ وَمُتَيْقِنًا أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يُنْجِزَ مَا وَعَدَ بِهِ. فَلِذَلِكَ حَسِبَ لَهُ ذَلِكَ بَرًّا. فَإِنَّهُ سَيُحْسَبُ لَنَا، نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِالَّذِي أَقَامَ، مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، يَسُوعَ رَبَّنَا الَّذِي أُسْلِمَ لِأَجْلِ زَلَاتِنَا، وَأَقِيمَ لِأَجْلِ تَبْرِيرِنَا.

روما ٤: ١٣-٢٥

## صلاة الأسبوع

ببشارتك لزكريا، تمنح الأمل لكل عاقر بأته يوماً ما سيكون لديه أو لديها ولد، ببشارتك لزكريا، تُظهر لنا بأنه ليس هناك صدفة في الحياة معك، بل هناك عناية إلهية، ببشارتك لزكريا، تظهر لنا أهمية البرارة كي نتحول إلى أداة طيعة في يدك، تستعملها من أجل الخير العام، نشكرك ونحمدك على ما أنتمتته من خلال هذه البشارة، وعلى تهيئتنا لاستقبال البشارة العظمى، بشارة الخلاص؛ لك الشكر والمجد أيها الأب والابن والروح القدس، من الآن وإلى الأبد، آمين.

## من أقوالهم...

"إن من يريد الحقيقة بصدق، هو دومًا قوي بشكل مهيب"

فيدور دوستويفسكي

## قدّاسات يوم الأحد

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك 8:00 (عربي)، 9:30 (إنكليزي)، 11:00 (عربي، إنكليزي)، 5:00 (عربي، إنكليزي)، 7:00 (إنكليزي)  
مراكز قداس 11:00 ق.ظ. في كنيسة مار يوسف العامل، أوبرن (عربي، إنكليزي) / 6:00 ب.ظ. في كنيسة سانت باتريك، غيلدفورد (عربي، إنكليزي)

## قدّاسات الأسبوع

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

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

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