

# The Good News from Your Parish

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CO CATHEDRAL - HARRIS PARK

Sunday 23 November 2014

Issue 4

www.olol.org.au

## Announcement to Mary

### THE GOSPEL

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

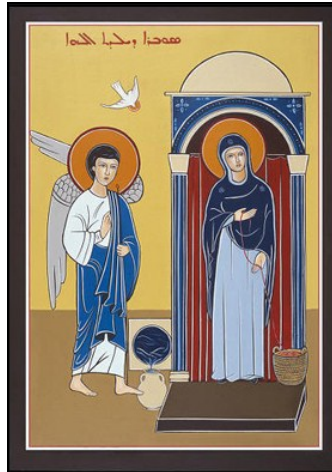
The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Lk 1 : 26-38



### Next Sunday's Readings

Eph 1 : 1 - 14  
Lk 1 : 39 - 45

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."*

*Desmond Tutu*

### Carols by Candlelight

**"Light in the Darkness"**

Fri 19 Dec 7.30pm  
Church Grounds  
with Live Nativity & our Church Choirs

Families & all age groups welcome

### THE EPISTLE

Brothers and sisters, I give an example from daily life: once a person's will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, "And to offsprings," as of many; but it says, "And to your offspring," that is, to one person, who is Christ. My point is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one. Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Gal 3:15-22

### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Heavenly Father,  
Help us to build a state of being in our self so that we see and feel your presence in our life when you speak to us and not be startled.  
We also ask that after listening to you that you grant us the grace to accept what you say with all our heart, mind and soul, so to act on your will without doubt and hesitation. Amen.

*Sid Isaac*

### 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)

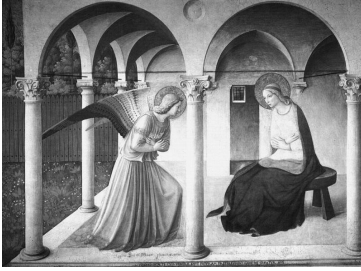
### CONFESSIONS

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

## Light from the Word - Announcement to Mary



This Sunday we celebrate the announcement to Mary. Focus is on the promise that Mary would bear a son, 'therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'<sup>v35</sup>. Yet this story holds something more important.

Listening to this Gospel passage there is a great deal of warmth, deep joy and silent anticipation. Mary's awareness that she was to be a mother, one responsible for

bringing a child into the world, and aware that this child 'will be holy' is something mothers can relate strongly too.

In life the two most powerful experiences that transform people are experiencing the birth of a child and the death of a loved one. Both send us into deep mystery and silence.

Jesus' birth reminds us of all births. Bringing life into the world is a sacred passage and raising a child in the world is great responsibility. Life is the most important thing and needs to be cherished. As Jesus says in Mt 18:6, 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.'

In a world where people choose career and personal comfort over children; where abortions are common expedient practice; where children are used as slave labour; where abuse and neglect of children occurs; this Gospel passage is a strong reminder that God dwelt in a womb, waiting to be born vulnerable among us. The sacredness of all life should never be forgotten. So we pray for all mothers to be, and for all parents, that they may recognise their children to be daughters and sons of God. May parents fulfil their vocation to nurture their children in deep faith and love. Amen

**Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf**

## Shepherd's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday in the Homilies I spoke of how the Patriarch said he was surprised at times during his visit to Australia and one time when he was especially surprised when given a stone hand-made bust of himself as a Gift. His Beatitude spoke of how he was scanned by someone using a computer days before without knowing what the purpose. Then there was the surprise.

In his last homily of the visit, His Beatitude spoke of God always wanting to surprise us and that we are called to be open to His surprises by not letting our hearts and faith be like stone, closed and unwilling to be open and grow. I also spoke, in my homilies last Sunday on how Zechariah's heart and faith were not ready for God's Surprise to him that he would have a son with his elderly and so-called "barren" wife. Zechariah's heart and faith seemed to have become closed like a stone without faith and hope and even while in the Temple hearing God's Word through the Angel.

Preparing for Christmas is preparing to celebrate the greatest surprise of all human history that God became like us in Jesus.

Over the next weeks of the Season of Announcement of the Birth of the Lord leading to Christmas, I will carry through the theme of surprise and share on how we can be ready to experience God's great divine surprises in our lives.

This Sunday we will hear of God's surprise for Mary and how she was ready to receive the Gift and mission of being Mother of the Son of God.

God's surprises are the most needed gifts, they are saving and bring joy for the receiver and others and they are given in God's time. To be ready for God's surprise this Christmas lets be ready to commit more to God in time of personal silence and prayer, Mass, and to hold onto hope for God's surprise answer in His Time.

Also it's amazing that what we need to receive God's surprise is also what we need when we experience disappointments from our own unworthiness and sin and what we need to handle disappointments caused by people's selfishness and events caused by the imperfections of the world in which we live.

At this time God is scanning you for the time to give you the gift of His Son.

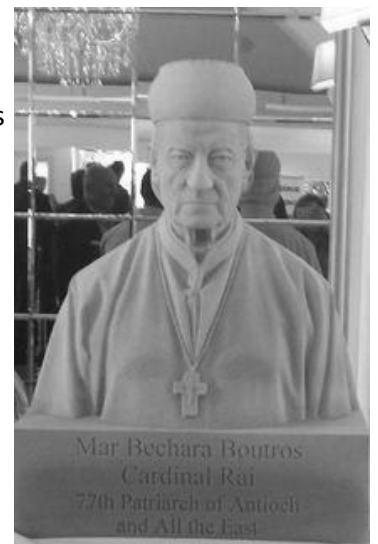


## Saint of the Week ST CATHERINE LABOURE 25 NOVEMBER

- St. Catherine Laboure, virgin, was born on May 2, 1806. At an early age she entered the community of the Daughters of Charity, in Paris, France. Three times in 1830 the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure, who then was a twenty-four year old novice.
- On July 18, the first apparition occurred in the community's motherhouse. St. Catherine beheld a lady seated on the right side of the sanctuary. When St. Catherine approached her, the heavenly visitor told her how to act in time of trial and pointed to the altar as the source of all consolation. Promising to entrust St. Catherine with a mission which would cause her great suffering.
- On November 27, the lady showed St. Catherine the medal of the Immaculate Conception, now universally known as the "Miraculous Medal." She commissioned St. Catherine to have one made, and to spread devotion to this medal. At that time, only her spiritual director, Father Aladel, knew of the apparitions. Forty-five years later, St. Catherine spoke fully of the apparitions to one of her superiors. She died on December 31, 1876, and was canonized on July 27, 1947. Her feast day is November 28.

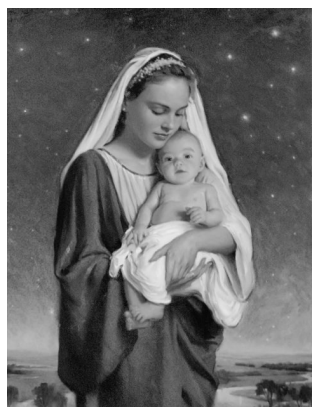
**Charbel Dib**

## GOD - FULL OF SURPRISE



**Mons Shora Maree**

## Profiles of the Christmas Characters The Mother of Jesus



Here lies the mystery. Our devotion to Mary has been forever questioned! We have been called idolaters, worshippers of a Goddess, blasphemers and accused of making Mary more important than Jesus. I mean some tell us that it's time to forget about Mary!

I must caution that I don't intend to offer a theological investigation on Mary nor defend the truth that sometimes individual believers may have over emphasised the role of Mary in a non-Christocentric sphere. What I intend to reflect on is why the 'mother of Jesus' continues to be loved and honoured among Catholics.

My starting point is the title given to Mary by the author of the Gospel according to John. Some may know this; but unlike Luke's story today, the Fourth Gospel never calls Mary by name. The author never uses the name

Mary or Mariam, but only refers to her as 'the mother of Jesus'. As Middle Eastern born Catholics this is normal. A mother is always called by her eldest son's name. We call the mother of Tony, exactly that "Emm Tony".

Here, I believe is the heart of Catholic theology on Mary. Why in the midst of criticism, reformation, persecution, incorrect individual believer practises, we have insisted on Mary's role in our faith. St Marcellin Champagnat who dreamt of a society that belongs to Mary, the founder of the Marist Brothers, says: "Mary has always Jesus her son, in her arms or in her heart."

Every prayer, confession, hymn, kneeling, procession, litany, doctrine and every intercession that we offer to and through Mary is because she is the Mother of Jesus. It is because we love Jesus and worship him, we honour Mary. It is because Jesus is God that Mary is "Theotokos", the Mother of God.

Once we realised who Jesus was, the God-Man, we began to look at those who were in relationships with him, especially His Mother. We began to ask about her role in the Annunciation, Visitation and Cana. We began to reflect on her presence "standing" at the Cross and at Pentecost.

We asked: Who is this woman who is "full of grace", chosen to be the mother of Jesus and never left His side? Who is this model disciple, who Jesus asked us to take into our homes? These are questions that cannot be ignored. The Church Fathers asked them and pushed the answers to the end. And the Church continues to do so.

Mary is the first disciple, the first of "the new creation" because she is "in" Christ and Christ is and was "in" her (2 Cor 5:17). She is our role model because "The Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life to the world" and is "united to Jesus by a close and indissoluble tie" (Lumen Gentium).

Indeed, her obedience to God in the face of the "How Can this be?" question, is what also makes Mary so worthy of honour. And even more, her simplicity is breathtaking. She is as St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us "Mother full of grace" who lived "in poverty, wanting nothing more. No rapture, miracle, or ecstasy." This is why I love Mary, the Mother of the Church. She is gentle but strong. She is the Mother of Jesus!!!

By Nehme Khattar

## Children's Corner

Welcome to our beautiful Church on this glorious Sunday. Welcome to the Sunday in which Mary said "Yes" to the angel to hold me in her womb and be my mother.

This "yes" is the most important decision that has ever occurred in the history of humanity. It is this "yes" that brought salvation to humanity. It is this "yes" that revealed to the world the endless love of God for His people.

Taking Mary as an example, it is important to understand that when you place your trust in God, anything and everything is possible. However, you must understand that God works in His time. You just need to be patient. This was the case with the Jews... they had been waiting a long time for the Saviour to come and when God found the right time, He sent me to them.

This is a great time to start preparing your hearts to receive me this Christmas. Make ready by praying regularly, going to confession (if you have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation) and doing some good deeds.

I pray that you have a blessed week.  
Love always your brother Jesus!



## The journey to Christmas That Dreaded Phone

NO  
PHONE  
ZONE



The journey to Christmas has begun. Like any journey

we need to prepare ourselves. Over the next few weeks I would like to draw your attention to small things in our lives that can be worked on in preparation of the coming of the Prince of Peace, our Light in the Darkness. This week I would like to focus on the **smartphone**.

Without researching any statics, I'm sure that you will agree that over 90% of the population own a smartphone. These are very powerful devices whose primary purpose is for **communication**. They are so powerful that people can run a business with them. Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp and many more have become the order of the day. Every photo, every action, every emotion is posted on these social medians. While they can be extremely useful in increasing our knowledge, proclaiming our faith and keeping in touch with one another; they are also putting up barriers between us.

It is not uncommon for you to be on a train or bus and 95% of the passengers are busy doing something on their phone. People walking on the street, walk now with their faces entrenched in their phones. When someone comes to visit you, they spend more time on their phone than they do conversing with you. If you are out to dinner with friends or family, there is nothing more annoying than being in the company of someone who is busy doing something on that dreaded phone. In Church, at school, in meetings, the list goes on and on. Besides this being very anti-social, it is also extremely rude. Where is the **communication** in all of this?

Unfortunately, we have transformed this powerful tool into a distraction. It distracts us from one another, it distracts us from our work, but most of all it distracts us from Jesus. In some cases, it actually leads us to sin. Could you imagine if we used the time that we spend on Facebook and so, in prayer how more meaningful and fruitful our lives will become?

Like many things, the smartphone has become an addiction. We cannot go anywhere or do anything without it. So much so, that we take it to the table, we take it to the bathroom and we take it to bed. It's main purpose is for communication, but if it is becoming a barrier in our communication with others and with God, then we need to reassess if it is fit for its intended purpose in our lives. During this glorious season, let us truly reflect on this and make the change for the better. We have the freedom to make the right choice.

By Danny Nouh



# Parish Camera



Fersen Children enjoying a break between their activities in the recreation room on level 1 of the Community Centre with some of their leaders on Saturday.



The Seniors Committee at their regular activities and luncheon day on Thursday welcomed Fr Bernard back from Lebanon.



## 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**  
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# PARISH NOTICE BOARD



## FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS & FUNERALS

**Sunday 23 November 2014 - Announcement to Mary**  
5.00pm 40 Day Hedwan Tansa Cham from Sebhel

**Tuesday 25 November 2014**  
6.00pm George Kabalan El Khoury from  
Wadi Kannoubine (lived in Kousba)

**Saturday 29 November 2014**  
6.00pm Living and departed of Blouza for the Feast of  
St Saba organised by the Blouza Association

**Sunday 30 November 2014 - Visitation to Elizabeth**  
11.00am 40 Day Hanna Youssef Chalhoub from Daraya  
Zgharta  
5.00pm 40 Day Yahoudette Karam widow of Joseph  
Iskander Karam from Kfarsghab

## قَدَاسَاتِ الْأَسْبُوعِ

**الأحد 23 تشرين الثاني: أحد بشارة العذراء**  
5:00 أربعون المرحوم هدوان طنسا شام من سبعل  
**الثلاثاء 25 تشرين الثاني:**  
6:00 المرحوم جورج قبلمان الخوري من وادي قنوبين - سكان كوسبا  
(متوفي في لبنان)  
**السبت 29 تشرين الثاني:**  
6:00 قداس على نية أحياء وأموات بلدة بلوزا بمناسبة عيد القديس سابا  
تقدمة الجمعية  
**الأحد 30 تشرين الثاني:**  
11:00 أربعون المرحوم حنا يوسف شلهوب من داريا  
5:00 أربعون المرحومة يهوديت يوسف جرجس كرم أرملة المرحوم جوزيف  
إسكندر كرم من كفرصغاب



## FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE



### Parish Groups and Committees

**Pastoral Council Meeting** Thur 27 Nov at 8.00pm

### Family & Adult Events

**"The False Repentance"**  
Arabic Faith Talk Presented by Fr Elie Nakhoul by FDW  
Tues 25 Nov 7.30pm in the Seniors Room—CYPC

**"G2 Summit Judea"**  
English Bible Talk presented by Mons Shora  
Wed 26 Nov at 8.00pm  
After 7.00pm Mass on L1 CYPC—ALL WELCOME

**"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, Lodes, 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)

**Bus Pilgrimage to St Nematallah Centre, Appin**  
Sat 6 Dec 2014  
Cost: \$40 Adults \$25 Children including transportation, spiritual and social activities, lunch and refreshments. For details, Contact parish office 9689 2899 or Danny on 0458 024 838

### 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

**LOLOL 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.



### Movember

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: **Movember**  
contact Joe on 0406 111 401 or Mick on 0405 323 360

### Diocesan Notices

**International Day of People with Disability**  
Presented by Diocesan Faith & Light Committee  
Sun 7 Dec 2014, from 11:00am till 3:00pm  
At Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral  
Starting with Mass, followed by lunch, entertainment & much more..  
All are welcomed to join in celebrating this Special day for People with Disability and their families.

**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.

## لَمْ نَذْهَبْ إِلَى الْكَنِيسَةِ؟



كثيرون من الناس على علم بأن عدداً كبيراً من المؤمنين لا يذهب الى قداس الأحد، وقد أظهرت دراسة أجريت مؤخراً عن الأسباب والدوافع التي تكمن وراء هذه الظاهرة وقدمت بعض الحلول لإعادة التواصل بين المؤمنين والمنظمات الدينية. قدمت هذه الدراسة مجموعة بارنا وهي تظهر أن معدل عدد الأشخاص الذين لا يذهبون الى الكنيسة في الولايات المتحدة ارتفع من 30% ليلبلغ 43% عام 2014، من جهة أخرى يبلغ معدل الذين يرتادون الكنيسة على الأقل مرة في الشهر 49% و 8% يفقدونها بشكل دائم.

تصف الدراسة الشخص بغير الكنسي إن لم يرتد الكنيسة إلا لحضور زفاف أم دفن على ستة أشهر متتالية. كذلك أظهرت الدراسة أن نسبة الأفراد العلمانيين تنمو ببطء ولكن بثبات. أما إحدى التحديات الثقافية التي جاءت في البحث فهي الثورة الرقمية، وهي لا تشتت انتباه الناس فحسب بل تشعر الشباب بشكل خاص بأنهم معيون وعليهم أن يساهموا فيها لا أن يستهلكوا ما تقدمه ما يشكل تحدياً لتقنيات الاتصال التقليدية في الكنيسة. أما الميزة الكبرى لهذه التغيرات فهي أنها تطل الجزيء الشبابي الذي غالباً ما يجول الإنترنت بحثاً عن الإيمان على عكس الجيل القديم.

يترجع في أميركا عدد الذين يذهبون الى القداس أما أولئك الذين يوصفون بغير الكنسيين فعددهم قليل وهم يشكلون نسبة 1 على 10 من السكان. من هنا وإن أردنا أن نحث المؤمنين على العودة الى الكنيسة علينا أن نفهم أولاً ما الأسباب التي دفعتهم الى عدم الذهاب، فنجد أن قلة من الناس الذين لا يذهبون الى الكنيسة هم ضد الدين لكنهم يرون أن موضوع ارتياد الكنيسة ممل ولا معنى له ولا قيمة. 58% من البالغين غير الكنسيين يصلون لله مرة في الأسبوع وآخرون يقرأون الكتاب المقدس ولكن ما يميز هؤلاء الأشخاص عن غيرهم هو أنهم لا يبذلون جهداً كبيراً لتعميق هذه العلاقة مع الله. ما يلفت النظر في البحث هو أن ثلث البالغين الذين لا يذهبون الى الكنيسة هم من الكاثوليك السابقين وقد أصبحوا أعضاء في الكنيسة البروتستانتية ولكنهم يترددون في التواصل مع الكنيسة الكاثوليكية.

وهنا طرح السؤال: لم ينسحب الشبان من الكنيسة؟ فقدت الدراسة 6 أسباب رئيسية:

- الكنيسة تضع قيوداً
- المسيحية التي تمارس تعد خانقة
- الكنائس تبدو معادية للعلم
- الكنائس تأخذ حيزاً صارماً تجاه الحياة الجنسية
- ينفرون من تفرد المسيحية
- الكنيسة غير ودية مع الذين يشكون

أما عن كيفية جذب الناس الى الكنيسة فأكد الباحثون أن الكنيسة هي مكان للقاء الله والموسيقى والأجهزة الصوتية ليست أنظمة جذب أساسية. أشارت الدراسة أيضاً أن كثيرين يعودون من القداس من دون أن يشعروا بأنهم تواصلوا حقاً مع الله. من ناحيته اقترح كاتب البحث طرقاً لجذب الناس الى الكنيسة ومنها الصلاة والخدمة والمحبة والرحمة، وهذا برأيه تحد كبير ولكن يستحق المجازفة.

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## الإيمان بالرب يسوع



اليوم كثيرون ممن يزعمون أنهم مؤمنون لا يمتلكون يقين خلاصهم، فهم لا يعرفون قياس قامة الإيمان ومدى عظمة الإيمان الذي ينبغي أن يكون لهم كي ينالوا الخلاص... يقول الواحد للآخر "هذا الشخص يمتلك إيماناً عظيماً" أو "إيمان هذا الشخص ضئيل". إن الإيمان بالرب يسوع يعني أنك لا تعتمد على نفسك ولكن تتق بالرب يسوع المسيح الذي يصل بك إلى السماء. فنحن لا يمكن أن ندخل السماء بفعل الأعمال الحسنة أي الأشياء التي نعتقد إنها تجعلنا مقبولين عند الله. ولكننا نحتاج بالأولى أن نرحم من خطايانا مدركين أن الرب يسوع مات من أجل خطايانا. وأن موته على الصليب عنا هو الطريقة الوحيدة لغفران خطايانا. يقول الكتاب المقدس:

«لَهُ يَشْهَدُ جَمِيعُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ أَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ يَنَالُ بِاسْمِهِ غُفْرَانَ الْخَطَايَا.» أعمال 10: 43  
«الَّذِي فِيهِ لَنَا الْفِدَاءُ، بِدَمِهِ غُفْرَانَ الْخَطَايَا، حَسَبَ غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ.» أفسس 1: 7

بعدما يؤمن الشخص بالرب يسوع المسيح لغفران الخطايا تبدأ بداخله حياة جديدة. فيصبح الشخص تابع للرب يسوع. وبما أنه تابع للرب يسوع فإنه يعتمد على الرب يسوع في باقي أمور حياته وليس فقط في موضوع غفران الخطايا. يجب أن نصل إلى ملء قامة الإيمان، إيمان الروح، ويتمتع بمجد أورشليم الجديدة موضع عرش الله، أصلي هذا في إسم يسوع المسيح. (بتصرف)

روني شيحا

## الكنيسة تدعونا اليوم ...

أحد بشارة العذراء هو الأحد الثاني من زمن الميلاد وتَدْعُونَا الْكَنِيسَةُ فِيهِ، مِنْ خِلَالِ نَصِيحِينَ مِنَ الرِّسَالَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَةَ وَمِنْ إِنْجِيلِ لَوْقَا، لِنَتَأَمَّلَ، فِي "نَعْمَ" مَرْيَمَ وَلِنَسْأَلَ اللَّهَ أَنْ يَفِيضَ رُوحَهُ عَلَيْنَا فَتَكُونَ "نَعْمَانَا" لَهُ كَنَعْمَ مَرْيَمَ، صَادِقَةً وَمِنْ "كَلِّ" الْقَلْبِ!

## 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, (B)

Raymond, Hanne & Charbel Bazouni, (C) (D) (E) Salha and Youssef Echaya, Azar Estephan (F) Salim & Jamal Fahed (G) Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George, (H) Madeline & Paul Haddad and son Joseph, Anis Haddad, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, (I) (K) Naim Khattar & George Khattar, (J) (L) Peter Lichaa and his wife Marie, Youssef Lichaa, (M) Anthony Mamah Moses and Moses Family, Arthur (Otre) Moses, Elias Barbar Moussa, Francis Moussa, Tansa Moussa and his wife and children, Boutros & Johra Moussa, John Toufic Merhi, Youssef & Ghousoub Maroun, Ghantous Jabbour Mikhael and his wife Jamile, (N) Jamil, Badwi, Hasna & Yasmine Ndaïra, (R) Milia Bou Raidan, Jamil & Labibi Roumanus, Raymond & Etour Romanos & son Joseph, (S) Fouad Saba and his children, Boutros Kozhaya Sassine, Joseph John Saad & his wife Mazie, Souls in Purgatory (T) (W) Jamil Wehbe & Barbara Wehbe, (Y) (Z)



## "هَذَا هُوَ الشَّهْرُ السَّادِسُ" هِيَ أَيْضًا بَابِنِ فِي شَيْخُوحَتِهَا. وَهَذَا هُوَ الشَّهْرُ السَّادِسُ



بعد أن روى لوقا الإنجيلي بشارة زكريا وحبل أليصابات، على ضوء وعد الله لابراهيم وسارة، ينتقل مباشرة، ليخبرنا عن بشارة العذراء مريم بميلاد يسوع.

إستهل الإنجيلي الخبر بذكر الشهر "السادس" لحبل أليصابات بابنها يوحنا. طبعاً، لم تكن غايته تأريخ الأحداث، بقدر ما كان يريد إظهار تفوق ميلاد يسوع على مولد يوحنا: مستثمراً رمزية العدد "6"، الذي يشير في الكتاب المقدس إلى "النقص" أو "عدم الكمال". بمعنى آخر، إن يوحنا السابق، المولود في نهايات العهد القديم، لا يمكن أن يكتمل معه الزمن، الذي لم يكتمل بعد. هو مدعو لأن يعد الطريق للرب الذي به سيكتمل كل شيء.

وكما تفوق ميلاد يسوع على مولد يوحنا، كذلك تفوق موقف العذراء مريم حيال بشارتها، على موقف زكريا، ذلك الخبير في الكتاب المقدس. فهي لم تخف، بل حاولت أن تكتشف دعوتها، الفريدة والغريبة، من خلال الوحي الذي لم تكن تتوقعه. لم يكن سؤالها للملاك يحمل أدنى شك حيال قدرة الله، بل كان نابعاً من إيمانها الثابت، وانتظارها تحقيق الوعد. فبادرها الملاك بالطمأنينة؛ هي المملوءة نعمة، وقد نالت حظوة عند الله:

- أقيت عليها تحية "السلام عليك": وهي التي قيلت لأورشليم، ابنة صهيون (زكريا 9: 9).

- سيحلّ الروح القدس عليها: كما كان يرفق على وجه الغمر ويعطي الحياة (تكوين 1: 1).

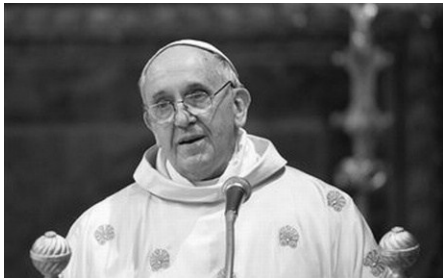
- ستظلّها قدرة العلي: كما كان الغمام يظلّل خيمة الوعد، مسكن الرب (خروج 40: 34 - 35).

- سيولد منها قدوس: وال "قدوس"، هو اسم خاصّ بالله وحده. لذلك، فإنّ المولود منها يدعى ابن الله.

فهمت مريم إرادة الله المستمرة منذ بدء التكوين، فقبلت بها دون تردد، رغم السيف الذي سيصيبها، وصعوبة ما ينتظرها من مصاعب وأحداث مؤلمة. وما كانت لتقبل رسالتها، لولا ثباتها في الإيمان، وبقيتها أنّ الرب ثابت في وعده لها. هي لم تنس يوماً أنّها خادمة الرب، والرب صالح ومحّب. وكلّ ما يخلقه، هو حسن.

وها هي اليوم تضمنا إلى صدرها، بعد أن جعلها ابنها أمّاً لنا. تظللنا بنعمها، وتعلمنا أن نصغي إلى وحي الله، فنفهم إرادته في كلّ الأحداث التي نعيشها: من فرح وحزن، من صحّة ومرض، من نجاح وفشل، من سلام واضطهاد... إلخ، فنعمل بحسب مشيئته؛ وكلّنا إيمان ثابت، أنّ الله صادق في وعده لنا، وهو وحده القادر على كلّ شيء، يحول كلّ ما يؤذي الإنسان، إلى ما يعود عليه بالخير.

### يسوع يبكي على حالتنا اليوم!



"يسوع يبكي اليوم حينما تقفل أبواب قلوبنا وقلوب رعاة الكنيسة في وجهه من دون أن نعرف جميعاً بأنه هو من يجلب السلام، هكذا افتتح البابا عظته الصباحية اليوم من دار القديسة مارتا في الفاتيكان. تابع فرنسيس أن يسوع يبكي على أورشليم لأنها لا تعلم من هو جالب السلام، وهو يبكي على القلوب المقفلة لمدينته المختارة وشعبه المختار فلم يمتلكوا الوقت ليفتحوا الأبواب، كانوا منشغلين جداً ومكتفين جداً وهو أيضاً لم يكل من القرع على أبوابنا كما قرع أبواب أورشليم... شعب أورشليم كان يستمتع بحياته ولم يكن بحاجة إلى الرب لم يعلموا أنهم بحاجة إلى الخلاص فأقفلوا قلوبهم بوجهه ويسوع يبكي على هذه الحالة كما يبكي على

كنيسته وعلينا اليوم. أكمل البابا متسائلاً لم رفضت أورشليم استقبال الرب فقال بأن الشعب كان مكتفياً وسعيداً بما يملكه ولم يرد أية مشاكل، كانت المدينة تهاب زيارة الرب وتخاف من مجانيته فهي كانت تشعر بالأمان إزاء ما يمكنها الاهتمام به فقط ولكن وكما يقول الرب: "لَيْتِكَ عَرَفْتَ أَنْتِ أَيْضًا فِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ طَرِيقَ السَّلَامِ! وَلَكِنَّهُ حُجِبَ عَن عَيْنَيْكَ." وضحّ فرنسيس أن أورشليم خافت على الأرجح من الخلاص الذي يمكن أن تجلبه لها مفاجئات الرب وكان الناس يخافون الرب، ولكننا نعلم أنه حين يفقد الله شعبه يجلب معه الفرح والإرتداد، ونحن جميعاً نخاف الفرح الذي يجلبه الرب لأننا ل نستطيع أن نتحكم به ونخاف الإرتداد لأن ذلك يعني أن الله يقودنا. اكتفت أورشليم بما تملك فمعابدها كانت تعج بالحجاج وكهنتها يقدمون الأضاحي وكل شيء كان واضحاً وكل الوصايا تتبع ومه ذلك أقفلت الأبواب بوجه الرب والصليب الذي كان هو ثمن هذا الرفض يرينا حب يسوع الذي يدفعه إلى البكاء اليوم على كنيسته. ختم الحبر الأعظم متسائلاً إن كنا كمسيحيين وكرعاة نؤمن ونذهب إلى القديس نكتفي بذلك لأننا نظمنا حياتنا ولا نحتاج لأن يفقدنا الرب وهو لا يزال يقرع على باب كل واحد منا على أبواب قلوبنا وقلب كنيستنا ولكن لا أحد يفتحها هو الرب يبكي...

# الخبر السار من رعيّتك

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

٢٣ تشرين الثاني ٢٠١٤

عدد ٤

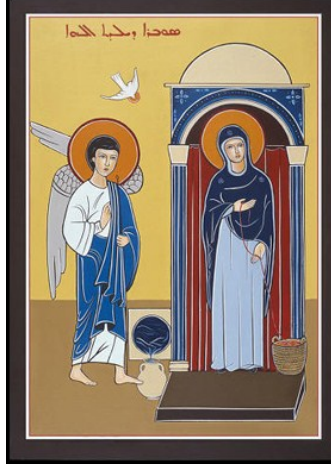
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الإنجيل

## أحد بشارة العذراء

الرسالة

في الشهر السادس، أُرْسِلَ الْمَلَكُ جِبْرَائِيلُ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ فِي الْجَلِيلِ اسْمُهَا النَّاصِرَةُ، إِلَى عَذْرَاءَ مَخْطُوبَةٍ لِرَجُلٍ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ اسْمُهُ يُوسُفُ، واسْمُ الْعَذْرَاءِ مَرْيَمَ. وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ الْمَلَكُ إِلَيْهَا قَالَ: "السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ، يَا مَمْلُوءَةٌ نِعْمَةً، الرَّبُّ مَعَكَ!". فاضْطَرَبَتْ مَرْيَمُ لِكَلَامِهِ، وَأَخَذَتْ تَفَكَّرُ مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا السَّلَامُ! فَقَالَ لَهَا الْمَلَكُ: "لَا تَخَافِي، يَا مَرْيَمَ، لِأَنَّكَ وَجَدْتِ نِعْمَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ. وَهَا أَنْتِ تَحْمَلِينَ، وَتَلِدِينَ ابْنًا، وَتُسَمِّيْنَهُ يَسُوعَ. وَهُوَ يَكُونُ عَظِيمًا، وَابْنُ الْعَلِيِّ يُدْعَى، وَيُعْطِيهِ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهُ عَرْشَ دَاوُدَ أَبِيهِ، فَيَمْلِكُ عَلَى بَيْتِ يَهُوּدَا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، وَلَا يَكُونُ لِمُلْكِهِ نِهَايَةٌ!".



قراءات الأحد القادم  
أحد زيارة العذراء لأليصابات

أف ١ : ١ - ١٤  
لو ١ : ٣٩ - ٤٥

من أقوالهم...

"صانعك هو مُشبعك! من يُشبع قلب الإنسان هو صانع هذا القلب وحده"

القديس البابا يوحنا بولس الثاني

أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، هَا أَنَاذًا أَتَكَلَّمُ عَلَى طَرِيقَةِ الْبَشَرِ: إِنَّ الْوَصِيَّةَ، وَإِنْ تَكُنْ مِنْ إِنْسَانٍ، إِذَا مَا قُرَّرْتُ لَا يُبْطِلُهَا أَحَدٌ وَلَا يَزِيدُ عَلَيْهَا شَيْئًا وَالْحَالُ أَنَّ الْمَوَاعِدَ قَدْ قَبِلْتُ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَلِنَسْلِهِ - وَنَسْلُهُ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ - فَأَقُولُ إِذْنًا: إِنَّ وَصِيَّةَ قَدْ قَرَّرَهَا اللَّهُ، لَا قَبْلَ لِلنَّامُوسِ، الَّذِي كَانَ بَعْدَهَا بِأَرْبَعِ مِئَةِ وَثَلَاثِينَ سَنَةً، أَنْ يَنْسَخَهَا فَيُبْطِلَ الْمَوْعِدَ.

فَلِمَ النَّامُوسُ إِذْنًا؟ إِنَّمَا أُضِيفَ بِسَبَبِ الْمَعَاصِي حَتَّى مَجِيءِ النَّسْلِ الَّذِي جُعِلَ لَهُ الْمَوْعِدَ. وَلَقَدْ أُعْلِنَ بِوَسِيَّةِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ عَلَى يَدِ وَسِيطٍ؛ بَيِّدَ أَنْ الْكِتَابَ قَدْ أُغْلِقَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ تَحْتَ سُلْطَانِ الْخَطِيئَةِ، لِكَيْ يُعْطَى الْمَوْعِدُ، بِالْإِيمَانِ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، لِلَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ.

غل ٣ : ١٥-٢٢

صلاة الأسبوع

أَيُّهَا الْآبَ السَّمَاوِيِّ، يَا مَنْ أُرْسَلْتَ، فِي مَلَأِ الزَّمَنِ، مَلَائِكَةُ جِبْرَائِيلَ، لِيَبَشِّرَ ابْنَةَ النَّاصِرَةِ بِتَجَسُّدِ الْإِلَهِيِّ فِي حَشَاهَا الْبَتُولِيِّ، أُرْسِلْ إِلَيْنَا الْيَوْمَ، رُوحَ الْقُدُّوسِ، لِيَسْتَكْمَلَ تَجَسُّدَ الْكَلِمَةِ فِي حَيَاتِنَا وَقُلُوبِنَا وَعُقُولِنَا، فَيُنَالِ الْخَلَاصَ كُلَّ مَنْ نَلْتَقِي بِهِمْ أَوْ نَعِيشُ مَعَهُمْ، فَيَتِمَّجِدَ عَلَى الدَّوَامِ سِرَّ النَّالُوثِ الْأَقْدَسِ، إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، آمِينَ.

قَدَاسَاتُ يَوْمِ الْأَحَدِ

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)

قَدَاسَاتُ الْأُسْبُوعِ

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 وقَدَاسَاتُ الْأَحَدِ أَوْ بِتَحْدِيدِ مَوْعِدٍ خِلَالَ أَيَّامِ الْأُسْبُوعِ

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