

Light in the Darkness

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CO CATHEDRAL

4 January 2015

Issue 11

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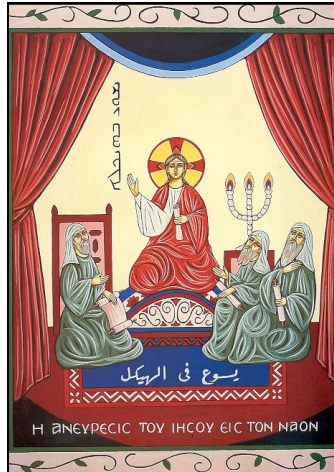
Finding of our Lord in the Temple

THE GOSPEL

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Luke 2: 41–52



Feast of the Glorious Epiphany Readings

Tit 2:11-3:7
Lk 3:15-22

Next Sunday's Readings

2 Cor 10: 1-11
Jn 1: 29-34

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Resolution One:

I will live for God.

Resolution Two:

If no one else does, I still will."
Jonathan Edwards

THE EPISTLE

Now if perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood — for the people received the law under this priesthood — what further need would there have been to speak of another priest arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life. For it is attested of him, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." There is, on the one hand, the abrogation of an earlier commandment because it was weak and ineffectual (for the law made nothing perfect); there is, on the other hand, the introduction of a better hope, through which we approach God. **Heb 7: 11 - 19**

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord,

There are many times in our lives when we become lost. There are many times when we lose You because we are focused on other things.

Grant us the wisdom Lord, to not lose sight of You. May You always be the Light that shines on our path of life. May we always place You at the very centre of our lives.

Teach us that with You, there will never be a moment of fear or insecurity. Amen

Dory Zaouk

Wish to receive the Newsletter by email, subscribe online at 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: 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 from 9:30am - Sat 7:30am

St Raymond's Parish (St. Joseph the Worker Church, Auburn South): Sunday 10.30am (Ar/Eng) Fr Sam 0417171737

Parish Contact Numbers: Office: 9689 2899 Fax: 9689 2068. Email: 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 Antoun 9689 2899. Fr Paul 0414 900 016. Fr Bernard 0411 811 807. Fr Yuhanna 0435 764 824.

Light from the Word - Finding our Lord in the Temple



Today's Gospel Reading is the only passage we have that tells of Jesus as a young boy. The finding in the Temple brings to light a number of issues in regards to child upbringing.

When Jesus goes missing his parents find 'him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions'^{v46}. Jesus had a great interest in God and religion. Faith was central to his view on life. Obviously this interest in religion originated from his parents' upbringing. It is well worth asking as parents, what interests do we encourage in our children today? Do parents

encourage and educate their children about God? Do they draw their child's attention to a deeper questioning of life and faith? Or are our children totally obsessed in sport, dance, music and iPads?

Jesus had a questioning mind, engaged in critical awareness and independently sought out answers. Children should be encouraged to seek, knock and ask. A curious mind, a discerning heart, an awakened consciousness to the mysteries of life and the grandeur of God, is what parenting is about.

Mary confronts Jesus, not about his inquisitiveness and search for answers, but about not being told where he was. Parents today need not stifle their children's sense of venture but they do need to encourage in children that understanding of responsibility to their parents. As Jesus returned home 'and was obedient to them'^{v51}, so too children are meant to be with their parents.

A loving family, as we see in the Holy Family, need to allow one another to grow in their understanding while at the same time finding encouragement and acceptance with each other. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

Saint of the Week SAINTS BASIL & GREGORY 2 JANUARY



On January 2nd the Church celebrates the Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, who were Bishops and Doctors of the Church. These men lived in the fourth century. They were both born in the year 329 in Cappadocia, in what is now the country of Turkey, and as students they became friends.

Basil decided he wanted to become a monk. He founded the first monastery in Asia Minor, and eventually became the archbishop of Caesarea. He was committed to helping the less fortunate. He founded a hospital, cared for the sick, and helped those who suffered hunger as a result of droughts and famine. He was a famous preacher, and challenged his flock to care for others and help the poor. He is considered one of the great teachers of the Church. Basil died on January 1, 379

Gregory also became a bishop, and eventually became the Patriarch of Constantinople. He had a great love and knowledge of Scripture, and was known as both a preacher and a writer. Gregory died on January 25 in the year 389 or 390. Basil and Gregory are celebrated as Saints by both the Eastern and Western Church and are considered to be Doctors of the Church.

By Charbel Dib

Shepherd's Corner

"My Peace I give to you"

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives" (John 14:27)

Dear Parishioners,

As we start 2015 there is nothing that should resonate more in our lives than the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the Gospel of Saint John which we proclaim on the first day of the year. If we look around us and especially in our inner soul, we find that our world (both personal and universal) is craving for this peace. War, destruction and poverty have become the order of the day. Not just in the world that we live in but also within the depths of our own families, communities, parishes and within ourselves.

War

War within ourselves and between ourselves and the ones that we love! We talk about love and forgiveness but are we truly forgiving those who have harmed us? Further, do we even forgive ourselves let alone others? Are we stretching forth our hand as a sign of love even to those who betray our trust?

Destruction

Destruction by the things that we say and the actions or reactions that we take! Too many times our words, actions and reactions destroy those who we love or come into contact with. Do we even pay attention to the fact that we are destroying the other by our remarks, our looks or our attitudes?

Poverty

Poverty is not just material! The bigger threat is the danger of the poverty of the soul and spirit. This has a more damaging effect than any form of material poverty. Have we ever considered that poverty lies in the way that we think about ourselves and in our relationship with God and the other?

My Peace I give to you

Jesus was clear when he said "my peace I give to you". It is not any kind of peace! It is the peace that transcends from the love of God the Father in heaven. It is the peace that transcends from the life and unity of the Holy Trinity. **We are all called to activate this peace in our lives – in our families, in our parish, in our workplace but most of all in our inner soul. It is only this peace that will rid us of the war, destruction and poverty that exists in our lives.**

I pray that together as one parish we can truly experience the peace of our Lord and Saviour. Like Mary and Joseph who found peace when they found Jesus in the Temple, like the waters of the Jordan river that transmitted the peace of the Messiah opening up the heavens, come and find this peace that you are yearning for in the most Holy and Blessed Sacrament, come and find this peace in the one who is that peace that never ends.

Also a very big thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation of all the events during the Christmas Season. Your hard work and dedication is truly a testament to your faith and the love that you have for your church.

Father Tony Sarkis

Article of the Week - No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters

On the occasion of the 48th World Day of Peace on 1 January 2015, the theme given by Pope Francis was "No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters."

As Maronite Catholics, we must be prepared to spread not only the idea of peace, but peace itself. We may not have the means to enforce peace across the globe, or even in our own nations, however the simplicity of Pope Francis' message is that peace is not such a difficult concept to master. Firstly, peace can be achieved within one's own home as a building block towards a wider peaceful human existence. When we make small changes in our lives we are creating a ripple effect that will continue to expand. The results of these small changes may not be immediately apparent however, as with the ripples in a pond, these small changes will continue to steadily expand and infuse a sense of peacefulness into our lives and those around us..



Small actions can indeed change the world!

What are these not so radical (small) changes that can apparently eventually change our lives and the world into a more peaceful place? We can reconnect with that relative we don't talk to anymore, or forgive a petty dispute. We can make peace with our siblings.

Given Pope Francis' theme to world day of peace, "No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters." How can this relate to us in today's society? Do we have slaves still in this modern society? The sad truth is that we do, and this lifestyle continues for many. Human trafficking, child laboring and much more still take place today. We might not see it but it is definitely in effect. Young children are trafficked into the coco industry every day and they are bought for 230 euros (about \$280) and work all day for no pay. If they refuse to work or work at a slow pace they are beaten.

What does this mean to us? Well that nice chocolate we indulge in every now and then, that has been thanks to the injustice of the coco industry. The same is with the coffee and tea industry, and the cotton industry that also use child laborers. What is the small change we can do?

If you want to make a change you can start off small, by changing the chocolate you buy and the tea and coffee. When buying products look for the fair trade logo (can be found on Cadbury dairy milk chocolate). We can all start small and create this ripple effect.



To learn more about human trafficking and other ways you can help make a change please visit the 'Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans' Website.
<http://acrath.org.au/>

Look for this logo on the products you buy to ensure you are supporting Fairtrade and not supporting human or child labour.

By Christina Maksisi

Children's Corner

Hello my dearest brothers and sisters and welcome to the House of our Father. It has been some time since I last wrote you.

In the Gospel, you would have heard about how my parents lost me and looked for me everywhere. My poor parents were so scared when they couldn't find me. But I was sitting in the Temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions.

From this Gospel, you can learn about how much our parents love us and how much they care for us. You are everything precious to your parents. I am sure that they tell you this everyday.

Another thing that you can take from this Gospel is that we can learn so much by regularly attending Mass and by asking questions when we do not understand things.

But most importantly, the greatest lesson to be learnt is to remain obedient to our parents. Even when you may think they are being too tough on you, it is for the better. They are responsible for you and your well-being. Listen to them and respect them at all times.

With all my love, Your brother Jesus

Joy in finding Christ

There are many times in our lives when we lose things: important documents, jewellery, phones, personal items of value. When we lose something, we tend to find ourselves saddened at the loss. Furthermore, when we lose loved ones, family or friends, we feel a great void in our lives.

But what of us losing Christ? Do we feel the same emotions? In our daily lives, with the busy hum-drum of everyday routines, we often find ourselves putting Christ aside. We often neglect to think of Him or to even place Him in the centre of our daily activities. There are times, when we also completely disregard Him because of other so-called "important" events. The repetition of such actions can become detrimental to the lives of a Christian. Why? Because by placing Christ aside, we start to lose Him. We begin a downward spiral and we soon find ourselves in an unhealthy state and in unwanted places. We begin to feel down and depressed. This week's Gospel is a good example of this situation. When Mary and Joseph did not find the child Jesus, they actively looked and searched for Him. When they discovered Him in the Temple, Mary says to Jesus: "Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." (Lk 2:48)

Notice Mary and Joseph's reaction. They were searching in great anxiety. Some may argue that this is because they were responsible for His welfare and therefore their emotions were called for. This is true. But more than this, their anxiety was great because they knew the importance of the child in their lives. They knew that without Christ, there was no salvation; that without Christ there was no happiness.

We, therefore, as Baptised Christians, also hold the same responsibility as Mary and Joseph. We have the responsibility of bringing Christ to those around us. We have the responsibility of bearing His light to the world. If we truly desire Salvation and eternal life, then we must always be actively searching for Christ. We must be placing Him in the core of our lives.

So as the New Year begins, perhaps we can resolve to do just this: to actively seek Christ in our daily lives and to give Him first priority. Trust me, when you do this, you will notice that many of your problems will dissolve. You will notice that an irremovable happiness begins to fill your life everyday.

Dory Zaouk





Parish Camera



Youth Christmas & Pre New Years Eve Party

Our youth celebrated Christmas and New Years on Tuesday 30 December in the Cathedral Hall.

Many people attended this great event and everyone enjoyed the food, entertainment and the company of one another.

A big thank you to the youth executive team for their hard work in organising this event in such a busy time.

MaroniteCare COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE Planned Giving Target

Target 2000 Parishioners \$5 a week

367 Parishioners committed

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



Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Loans

CYPC \$5,178,511 Units \$1,627,181 Property \$38,849

Community Business Network Page

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5 Memorial Ave, Merrylands

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- Hip / Knee & Ankle Pain / Heel Spurs
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PARISH NOTICE BOARD



FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS & FUNERALS

Sunday 4 January 2015 - Finding of our Lord in the Temple
11.00am 1 Year Hanna Gergi Haklani from Batroun
5.00pm 1 Year Mariam Habib Moussa from Karm El Mohr

Monday 5 January - Eve of the Epiphany
10.30am Funeral Kawkab Khoury Isber from Hadchit
6.00pm Epiphany Mass Vigil with Blessing of the water
10.00pm Epiphany Mass Vigil with Blessing of the water

Tuesday 6 January - Feast of the Glorious Epiphany of our Lord
7.00am Epiphany Mass with Blessing of the water
8.45am Epiphany Mass with Blessing of the water
6.00pm Bahyege Bou Hanoun from Zgharta (Epiphany Mass with Blessing of the water)

Wednesday 7 January
7.00pm Chahira Sulman Moussa widow of Mansour Coorey from Kfarsghab (deceased in Toowoomba QLD)

Saturday 10 January
6.00pm 40 Day Charbel Youssef Cham from Sebel

Sunday 11 January 2015 - 1st Sunday after Epiphany
11.00am Samuel Mikhael Toppalian from Kfardlakous
5.00pm Linda Semaan Assaad from Kertada

قَدَاسَاتِ الْأَسْبُوعِ

الأحد 4 كانون الثاني: أهد وجود الرب في الهيكل
11:00 السنة للمرحوم حنا جرجي الحقلاني من البترون
5:00 السنة للمرحومة مريم حبيب موسى زوجة مخائيل سعيد موسى من كرم المهر

الاثنين 5 كانون الثاني وليلة عيد الغطاس:
10:30 دفن المرحومة كوكب الخوري من حدشيت أرملة المرحوم ريمون إسبر من كفرصغاب

الثلاثاء 6 كانون الثاني - عيد الدنج (الغطاس):
6:00 قداس مع رتبة تبريك المياه
10:00 قداس ليلة عيد الغطاس مع رتبة تبريك المياه

الاربعاء 7 كانون الثاني:
6:00 القداسات 7:00، 8:45 صباحًا و 6:00 مساءً مع رتبة تبريك المياه المرحومة بهيجة بو هارون من زغرنا (متوفاة في لبنان)

الجمعة 10 كانون الثاني:
7:00 المرحومة شهيرة سلمان موسى أرملة المرحوم منصور خوري من كفرصغاب

الأحد 11 كانون الثاني: الأحد الأول بعد الدنج
6:00 أربعون المرحوم شربل يوسف شام من سبيل
11:00 المرحوم سامويل مخايل طوبالان من كفر دلاقوس - زغرنا
5:00 المرحومة ليندا سمعان أسعد من قرطاضة المتن زوجة فؤاد زعيتير زيدان من القصيبة المتن (متوفاة في لبنان)



FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE



Parish Groups and Committees

Pastoral Council Meeting TBA

Family & Adult Events

Faith Formation for Married Men & Women

Married Men faith formation meetings run once a month on Monday nights at 7.30pm (February to November). Married women faith formation happens on a separate Monday at 7.30pm. The aim is to enrich faith and spiritual life on a personal and family level. Meetings conclude at 9pm. If interested, please register to receive meeting dates and topics by sending SMS of your name and email address to:

Juliette Ayoub 0403 133 502 (for women faith formation)
 Joe Ayoub 0411 752 993 (for men faith formation)

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: Resumes after school holidays

Youth Events

Blood Donation contact Myrna 0421677998
Nursing Home Visit 21 Dec 2014 contact Josette 0447777703
Youth Meeting: TBA contact Maroun 0410656099

Youth 2015 Harbour Cruise

Saturday 17 Jan 2015 at 7pm
 Cost: \$60p/p includes Buffet Dinner & 2 levels of Entertainment
 Contact Maroun Draybi 0410 656 099 for enquiries

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

"Bible Basics"-English Bible Study Talks

Learn about the Bible in easy stages. No experience necessary.
Mondays 7.00pm to 8.00pm Starting 2 February
 Youth Discussion Room — Level 1
 For info and to book call Fr Yuhanna Azize
 0435 764 824 or 9689 2899

Registrations for First Holy Communion for 2015
 being taken contact Parish office 9689 2899

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

Counselling Services (English/ Arabic)

Nada Coorey-Psychologist provides confidential counselling to individuals and couples in her private consulting rooms. Her areas of specialisation include relationship difficulties, family/parenting and the treatment of Anxiety and Depression.
Mobile: 0434642509 Phone: 88409475.

MaroniteCare Counselling Service
For young people 12-18 years and their families.

Call Lina Ishac 0433 217 063
 or Anthony Chidiac 0435 407 911
 Email: 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.

2015 LOL Parish Pilgrimage

2 June to 20 June 2015
 Cathedrals and Churches of Europe including Rome, Cascia, Padua, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Turin, Nice, Cannes, Lorges, 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 or tinasalame@hotmail.com



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OUR LADY OF LEBANON
 Maronite Catholic Parish

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Daily Bible verses to your mobile
 To receive send your name on an SMS to 0404057777.

"لا عبيد بعد الآن بل إخوة"



في بداية عام جديد نقبله كنعمة وعطية من الله للبشرية أرغب بالتوجه، لكل رجل وامرأة، وهكذا أيضاً لكل شعب وأمة في العالم، لرؤساء الدول وللحكام ولمسؤولي الديانات المتعددة، بأمنياتي الحارة بالسلام المصحوبة بصلاتي كي تتوقف الحروب والنزاعات والألام العديدة التي تسببها

يد الإنسان والأويثة القديمة والجديدة والآثار المدمرة للكوارث الطبيعية. أرفع صلاتي بشكل خاص لكي، ومن خلال الإجابة على دعوتنا المشتركة

بالتعاون مع الله وجميع الناس ذوي الإرادة الصالحة من أجل تعزيز الوفاق والسلام في العالم، نعرف أن نواجه تجربة التصرف بشكل لا يليق بإنسانيتنا.

في رسالة الأول من يناير / كانون الثاني في العام الماضي لحظت أن الرغبة في حياة مليئة تتميز بشوق، لا يمكن قمعه، للأخوة التي تدفعنا نحو

الشركة مع الآخرين الذين نجد فيهم لا أعداء ولا منافسين وإنما إخوة لقبولهم ونعانقهم [1]. وبما أن الإنسان هو كائن علائقي، مدعو ليحقق ذاته في إطار

علاقات شخصية تلهمها العدالة والمحبة، لذا من الأهمية بمكان لتطوره أن يُعترف بكرامته وحرية واستقلالته وأن تُحترم. ولكن للأسف، لأن الآفة

المنتشرة على الدوام لاستغلال الإنسان من قبل الإنسان تجرح بشكل خطير حياة الشركة والدعوة لنسج علاقات شخصية يطبعها الاحترام والعدالة والمحبة.

هذه الظاهرة المقيتة التي تقود إلى دوس حقوق الآخر الأساسية والقضاء على حرمة وكرامته، تأخذ أشكالاً متعددة أرغب بالتأمل بها بشكل مختصر، لكيما،

وفي ضوء كلمة الله، نتمكن من اعتبار جميع البشر "إخوة، لا عبيداً بعد الآن".

في إصغاء لتدبير الله للبشرية: إن الموضوع الذي اخترته لهذه الرسالة يذكر برسالة القديس بولس إلى فيلمون، والذي يطلب فيها الرسول من مساعده أن

يستقبل أونيسمس، الذي كان سابقاً عبداً لفيلمون ولكنه أصبح الآن مسيحياً، وبالتالي، وبحسب بولس، يستحق أن يُعتبر أخواً. وهكذا يكتب رسول الأمم:

"لعلّه لم يفصل عنك ساعة إلا ليُعاد إليك للأبد، لا ليكون عبداً بعد اليوم، بل أفضل من عبداً، أي أخواً حبيباً" (ف 15-16). فأونيسمس صار أخواً لفيلمون

عندما أصبح مسيحياً. وهكذا فإن الارتداد إلى المسيح، بداية حياة تتلمذ في المسيح بشكل ولادة جديدة (را. 2 كور 5، 17؛ 1 بط 1، 3)، تخلق الأخوة

مجدداً كرباط أساسي للحياة العائلية وقاعدة للحياة الاجتماعية. نقرأ في سفر التكوين (را. 1، 27-28) أن الله خلق الإنسان نكراً وأنثى وباركهم لينمو

ويكثروا: لقد جعل من آدم وحواء والدين، وبتحقيقهما لبركة الله بأن يكونا خصيين ويكثروا، أنجبا الأخوة الأولى، أي أخوة قايين وهابيل. فقايين وهابيل

هما أخوان لأنهما ولدا من ذات الأحشاء، ولذلك لديهما المصدر نفسه وطبيعة وكرامة والديهما المخلوقين على صورة الله ومثاله.

رسالة قداسة البابا فرنسيس، بمناسبة الاحتفال باليوم العالمي الثامن

عادتنا اللبنانية في عيد الغطاس "دايم دايم"



حافظ الناس في عيد

الغطاس في لبنان على تقاليد

كثيرة، وامتاز بعبادات منها

إقبال ربات البيوت على إعداد

الاطعمة والحلويات الخاصة

بهذا العيد ك: العوام الذي

يُحضّر من الدقيق ويُقطع قطعاً مستديرة وصغيرة تُقلى ثم تُطهى بمعقود

السكر، كذلك الزلاية والمعكرون، وكانوا يسمونها "بركة العيد". ومن

أبرز اعتقادات اللبنانيين أن المسيح يطوف على المنازل في منتصف

الليل وهو يقول: دايم دايم. وقيل منتصف الليل كان الناس يتلون

الصلوات وهم ساجدين لنيل البركة عند مرور المسيح، ويرفعون الطلبات

فتُستجاب لأن أبواب السماء مفتوحة في هذه الليلة. وكانوا يوقنون النار

لشدة برد كانون، فيلتفون حولها وفي يدهم قضيب طويل يضربون به

النار، فإذا تطاير الشرر تفاعلوا وتمنوا على الله أن يعطيهم قدر هذه

الشرارات ما لا أو غير ذلك. ومن المعتقدات أيضاً أن كل الأشجار

تتركع للمسيح عند مروره ما عدا شجرة التوت المنكبة، لذلك يشعلون

أغصانها عقاباً لها. وفي هذه الليلة تطوف ربة البيت على "المونة"

فتحركها وهي تقول: "دايم دايم" إعتقاداً منها أن البركة سوف تحل عليها.

وفي هذا اليوم يقدّم المؤمنون أطفالهم لقبول سر العماد. وصباح العيد

تقام القداسات، ويحمل المؤمنون معهم بعض الماء، وفيه عود اخضر

ليصلّي عليه الكاهن، فيشرمنه المرضى طلباً للشفاء، ويرشون منازلهم

لطرد الأرواح الشريرة والفرقان وغيره، ومن أمثالهم: اللي ما عنو

معمود يعملو بالغطاس عود". وبعض الناس كانوا يقيمون القداس على

إنبع القرية ليتبارك ماؤها. ويعجنون الدقيق في هذه الليلة، فيختمر

العجين بدون خميرة. ومن التقاليد أيضاً أن يزور الكاهن المنازل فيباركها

برشّ الماء المبارك. (بتصرف)

الخوري طوني سركيس

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,

Mickael Anjoul(B) Raymond, Hanne & Charbel Bazouni, Sobhi & Saadie Bazouni & their children and grandchildren Maroun, Dibi, Elias, Ramza & Fadwa Bou Melhem, Father Hanna Bou Melhem, Elias Becharra(C) (D) (E) Tannous & Shmouni El-Hosn, Youssef & Hanne El-Hosn & their children and grandchildren (F) (G) Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George, Youssef & Lila Gittany, Leila Touma Gerges, Touma Gerges (H) Madeline & Paul Haddad and son Joseph, Anis Haddad, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, Aziz Hanna (I) Tansa Souraya Ishac & the children & grandchildren, Julia & Tony Ishac, Ramana Ishac, Marie Ishac (K) Naim Khattar & George Khattar, Simon Khoury, Salim & Jamal Khaicy & their family, Youssef, Hanni & Marie Kabarra (J) (L) Peter Lichaa and his wife Marie, Youssef Lichaa, Boulos Loulach (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, Chad Melan(N) Jamil, Badwi, Hasna & Yasmine Ndaira, Abed Almoussih Naoum, Firas Naoum (R) Milia Bou Raidan, Jamil & Labibi Roumanus, Raymond & Etour Romanos & son Joseph, (S) Boutros Kozhaya Sassine, Joseph John Saad & his wife Mazie, Katie Saad, Souls in Purgatory (T) Hanna & Marcella Toubia (W) Jamil Wehbe & Barbara Wehbe, (Y) (Z)



أحد وجود الرب في الهيكل



يسوع ، "ابن اثنتي عشرة سنة" ، زار الهيكل مع والديه ليصار إلى إعلانه "ابناً للشريعة" وفقاً للتقليد اليهودي، أي لكي يبدأ بالاطلاع على الشريعة وليفهم أسرارها ومعانيها الظاهرة والرمزية.

وهنا وقعت المفاجأة الكبرى: فهذا الولد القادم ليتعلم الحكمة من الشيوخ علمهم ما كانوا يجهلون. كيف لا وهو نفسه رب الهيكل والشريعة؟

وهنا كل واحد منا مدعو ليسأل نفسه:

- كم أصبحنا بعيدين عن مناهل الإيمان والمعرفة الحقيقية ونبعها الأول الكتاب المقدس؟

- كم أصبحنا غريبين عن بيتنا "الكنيسة" حيث نفضل الساحة على الداخل والبيت على الهيكل وحتى النوم على التسبيح والتمجيد للرب؟

- كم أصبحنا أسرى لتعاليم نأخذها من هنا أو هناك في حين نجهل ما يعطينا، وحده دون سواه، الحياة الأبدية؟

فالحقيقة هي أننا، كلنا، أصبحنا في غربة لئمة سبب وسبب عن أمانة الكنيسة: فتارةً السبب هو الخوري وتارةً من حوله وتارةً الظروف إلى ما هنالك من أسباب.

ولكن ألسنا نحن من يساهم في تقويض الكنيسة حين نبتعد عنها ونضع أنفسنا في خارجها فنكون، كما يقول مار بولس، كمن يفصل الأعضاء عن الجسم مما يسبب ضعفاً في الجسم كله؟

لنتذكر هنا المثل القائل: "تعددت الأسباب والموت واحد" والموت هنا ليس موت الكنيسة لأنها تأسست على تأسس وموت وقيامه يسوع المسيح ف"لا تقوى عليها أبواب الجحيم"، بل موتنا نحن إذ كلما ابتعدنا عن الكنيسة كلما تغلغل الموت الروحي إلى قلوبنا وعقولنا وبيوتنا لذا يدعونا إنجيل اليوم

لنعود ونذكر دورنا كأبناء لله نفتخرون ويقوون بالانتماء إلى الكنيسة التي هي حكماً ودون أي تردد بيتنا وعائلتنا الأولى والأهم.

وهذا كله لا يتم دون أن ترجع عائلتنا "كنيسة صغيرة" كما يقول "رجاء جديد للبنان" ينمو فيها وبدءاً منها الإيمان في قلوب الأطفال فيفتح ويزهر في عائلاتهم حين يكبرون فتزدهر معهم دائماً وأبداً شجرة الكنيسة، آمين

ما هي نوايا صلاة البابا مع مطلع العام الجديد؟

دعا البابا فرنسيس كل المسيحيين للصلاة في شهر كانون الثاني على نية الأشخاص المكرسين وعلى نية التبشير والترويج لثقافة السلام: "لنصلّ لكي يعيد المكرسين والمكرسات في هذه السنة المخصصة للحياة المكرسة اكتشاف فرح اتباع المسيح وأن يلتزموا بطواعية لخدمة الفقراء. ولنصلّ من أجل أن يساهموا كل المؤمنين وكل ذوي الإرادة الصالحة بالسلام."

عيد الدنح 6 كانون الثاني



عيد الدنح هو عيد ظهور الرب وإشراقه واعتلائه. هذا العيد يسمّى عيد الظهور وهو من الاعياد المسيحية الكبرى. لفظة كلمة الدنح آرامية معناها ظهور الله على الأرض. وباللغوية "ببفانيا" أي ظهور واعتلان. أما كلمة الغطاس فمشققة من الغطس في الماء. وفيه تلميح إما إلى غطس المسيح في نهر الأردن، وإما إلى تغطيس المعمودين بالماء، وإما إلى حفلات الغطس التقليدية التي كانت تُقام إلى جانب نهر أو حوض ماء كبير. وقدما كان المسيحيون يعيدون في هذا اليوم عيدي الميلاد والغطاس معاً، إلى أن أمر يوستينوس (482-565) بفصلهما، وجعل عيد الميلاد في 25 كانون الأول، وثبت الغطاس في 6 كانون الثاني. فامتثل المسيحيون تبعاً ما عدا الأرمن الأرثوذكس الذين ما زالوا يعيدون العيدين معاً حتى اليوم.

ظهور الرب ليس ظهوراً تم منذ 2014 سنوات، وانتهى في التاريخ، انه حدث احياء انا في حياتي

الروحية، فابحث عن وجه الله ليتجلى في داخلي فأعكسه لأخوتي البشر. فما معنى اذا ان تُعيد الكنيسة عيد الظهور الالهي

بينما انا أستعيد بعض التقاليد وابقى عندها، وما معنى ان نحتفل بعماد المسيح في الوقت الذي يمنع بعضنا اولاده من

المعمودية لأسباب تافهة، او نهتم بالمظاهر المرافقة دون الجوهر؟ يقولون ان الله لا يرى، فكيف يعيدون عيد ظهوره؟ فهل تؤمن

انت بظهور الله في حياتك اليوم؟ وهل تؤمن انك وسيلة لانعكاس نور وجهه على العالم، فيؤمن ويشهد؟ ما رأيك بتبريك الماء

ورشه؟ ماذا تعرف عن رتبة المعمودية والتثبيت؟ تيارات كثيرة ترفض ألوهية يسوع، ما رأيك وماذا تفعل للشهادة والتبشير؟ واين

تضع رجاءك؟ عيد الدنح، هو العيد الذي ينبغي ان تذكر فيه انك انت ايضا ولدت ولادة جديدة من ماء العماد، واعلنك الله ابنا

له في المسيح يسوع. فانت مدعو لأن تعرف ان السماوات انفتحت، وان طريقك الى القداسة صارت سالكة وانك قبلت روح الله

الذي به تدعو الله: "أباً"، وان الله يقول لك: "انت ابني الحبيب". وجوابك يكون: "دايم ... دايم حضورك".

الخوري طوني سركيس

نور في الظلمة

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

٤ كانون الثاني ٢٠١٤

عدد ١١

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أحد وجود الرب في الهيكل

الإنجيل

كَانَ أَبُو يَسُوعَ يَذْهَبَانِ كُلَّ سَنَةٍ فِي عِيدِ الْفِصْحِ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ. وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ يَسُوعُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، صَعِدُوا مَعًا كَمَا هِيَ الْعَادَةُ فِي الْعِيدِ. وَبَعْدَ انْقِضَاءِ أَيَّامِ الْعِيدِ، عَادَ الْأَبْوَانُ، وَبَقِيَ الصَّبِيُّ يَسُوعُ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ، وَهُمَا لَا يَدْرِيَانِ. وَإِذْ كَانَ يَطْنَانِ أَنَّهُ فِي الْقَافِلَةِ، سَارًا مَسِيرَةَ يَوْمٍ، ثُمَّ أَخَذَا يُفْتَشَانِ عَنْهُ بَيْنَ الْأَقَارِبِ وَالْمَعَارِفِ. وَلَمْ يَجِدَاهُ، فَعَادَا إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ يُفْتَشَانِ عَنْهُ. وَبَعْدَ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ، وَجَدَاهُ فِي الْهَيْكَلِ جَالِسًا بَيْنَ الْعُلَمَاءِ، يَسْمَعُهُمْ وَيَسْأَلُهُمْ. وَكَانَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَهُ مُتَذَلِّهِينَ بِذَكَائِهِ وَأَجْوِبَتِهِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَهُ أَبَوَاهُ بُهْتًا، وَقَالَتْ لَهُ أُمُّهُ: "يَا بُنَيَّ، لِمَاذَا فَعَلْتَ بِنَا هَكَذَا؟ فَهَذَا أَنَا وَأَبُوكَ كُنَّا نَطَّلُبُكَ مُتَوَجِّعِينَ!". فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: "لِمَاذَا كُنْتُمَا تَطَّلُبَانِنِي؟ أَلَا تَعْلَمَانِ أَنَّهُ يُنْبِئُنِي أَنَّ أَكُونَ فِي مَا هُوَ لِأَبِي؟". أَمَّا هُمَا فَلَمْ يَقْهَمَا الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي كَلَّمَهُمَا بِهِ. ثُمَّ نَزَلَ مَعَهُمَا، وَعَادَ إِلَى النَّاصِرَةِ، وَكَانَ خَاصِعًا لَهُمَا. وَكَانَتْ أُمُّهُ تَحْفَظُ كُلَّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي قَلْبِهَا. وَكَانَ يَسُوعُ يَنْمُو فِي الْحِكْمَةِ وَالْقَامَةِ وَالنُّعْمَةِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَالنَّاسِ.

لوقا ٢: ٤١ - ٥٢



قراءات الأحد القادم

٢ قور ١٠: ١-١١

يو ١: ٣٥-٤٢

قراءات عيد الدنح (الغطاس)

طي ٢: ١١-٣: ٧

لو ٣: ١٥-٢٢

من أقوالهم...

هكذا يحب الله الإنسان!
"يحب الله الإنسان كما لو
أن الإنسان هو إله الله"
(القديس توما الأكويني)

الرسالة

لَوْ كَانَ الْكَمَالُ قَدْ تَحَقَّقَ بِالْكَهَنُوتِ اللَّائِي، وَهُوَ أَسَاسُ الشَّرِيعَةِ الَّتِي أُعْطِيَتْ لِلشَّعْبِ، فَأَيُّ حَاجَةٍ بَعْدُ إِلَى أَنْ يَفُومَ كَاهِنٌ آخَرَ عَلَى رُثْبَةِ مَلْكِيسَادِقَ، وَلَا يُقَالُ "عَلَى رُثْبَةِ هَارُونَ"؟ فَمَتَى تَغَيَّرَ الْكَهَنُوتُ، لَا بُدَّ مِنْ تَغْيِيرِ الشَّرِيعَةِ أَيْضًا. فَالَّذِي يُقَالُ هَذَا فِي شَأْنِهِ، أَيِ الْمَسِيحِ، جَاءَ مِنْ سِبْطِ آخَرَ، لَمْ يُلَازِمَ أَحَدٌ مِنْهُ خِدْمَةَ الْمَذْبَحِ، وَمِنْ الْوَاضِحِ أَنَّ رَبَّنَا أَشْرَقَ مِنْ يَهُودًا، مِنْ سِبْطِ لَمْ يَصِفْهُ مُوسَى بِشَيْءٍ مِنَ الْكَهَنُوتِ. وَيَزِيدُ الْأَمْرَ وَضُوحًا أَنَّ الْكَاهِنَ الْآخَرَ الَّذِي يَفُومُ عَلَى مِثَالِ مَلْكِيسَادِقَ، لَمْ يَقُمْ وَفَّقَ شَرِيعَةَ وَصِيَّةِ بَشَرِيَّةٍ، بَلْ وَفَّقَ قُوَّةَ حَيَاةٍ لَا تَزُولُ. وَيُشْهَدُ لَهُ: "أَنْتَ كَاهِنٌ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، عَلَى رُثْبَةِ مَلْكِيسَادِقَ!". وَهَكَذَا يَتِمُّ إِبْطَالُ وَصِيَّةِ الْكَهَنُوتِ السَّابِقَةِ، بِسَبَبِ ضَعْفِهَا وَعَدَمِ نَفْعِهَا، لِأَنَّ الشَّرِيعَةَ لَمْ تَبْلُغْ شَيْئًا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَيَتِمُّ أَيْضًا إِدْخَالُ رَجَاءٍ أَفْضَلَ، بِهِ نَقْتَرِبُ مِنَ اللَّهِ.

عب ٧: ١١ - ١٩

صلاة الأسبوع

صَلَاتُنَا الْيَوْمَ نَرْفَعُهَا إِلَى الرَّبِّ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْعَائِلَةِ، لِتَكُونَ دَوْمًا صُورَةً لِعَائِلَةِ النَّاصِرَةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ، مَدْرَسَةً لِلصَّلَاةِ وَاللِّتِمَامِ بِوَصَايَا اللَّهِ وَالنَّفْتِيشِ عَنْ إِرَادَتِهِ دَوْمًا. بِشَفَاعَةِ مَرْيَمِ أُمِّ يَسُوعَ وَأُمِّ الْعَائِلَةِ نَرْفَعُ الصَّلَاةَ إِلَى اللَّهِ لِيُعْطِيَ عَائِلَاتِنَا قُوَّةَ الشَّهَادَةِ لِإِنْجِيلِ يَسُوعَ فِي حَيَاتِنَا الْيَوْمِيَّةِ، رَغْمَ التَّعَبِ وَالخَوْفِ وَمَشَاكِلِ الْحَيَاةِ وَمُصَاعِبِهَا. وَبِشَفَاعَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يَوْسُفَ الْعَامِلِ بِصِمْتِ وَالْحَامِلِ الْمَسِيحِ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْآبِ، تَصْبِحُ عَائِلَاتُنَا مَكَانَ اعْتِلَانِ يَوْمِيٍّ لِلرَّبِّ، يَعلنُ بِوَسْطِطِهَا عَنْ عِظَمَةِ الْحُبِّ الْمُخْلِصِ وَالْفَادِي، وَعَنْ عِظَمَةِ سِرِّ اللَّهِ الَّذِي صَارَ طِفْلًا وَحَلَّ فِي عَائِلَةٍ، وَيَسْمَعُنَا دَوْمًا كَلِمَةً "لَا تَخَافُوا فَأَنَا مَعَكُمْ إِلَى مَنتَهَى الدَّهْرِ".

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

قَدَاسَاتُ الْأَسْبُوعِ

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 وقَدَاسَاتُ الْأَحَدِ أَوْ بِتَحْدِيدِ مَوْعِدٍ خِلَالَ أَيَّامِ الْأَسْبُوعِ

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

رعية مار رومانوس في كنيسة مار يوسف العامل - أوبرن. يوم الأحد الساعة ١٠:٣٠ ق.ظ. (عربي، إنكليزي)