

The Good News from Your Parish

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CO-CATHEDRAL - HARRIS PARK

Sunday 8 March 2015

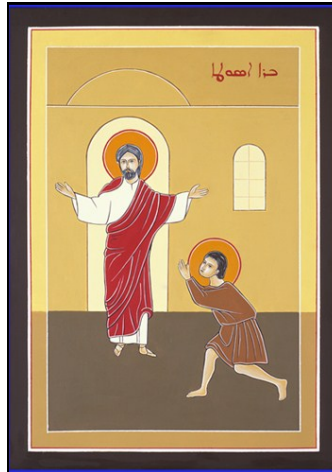
Issue 20

www.olol.org.au

Sunday of the Parable of the Prodigal Son

THE GOSPEL

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" **Lk 15: 11–32**



Next Sunday's Readings

Sunday of the Paralytic

1 Tim 5:24–6:5

Mk 2:1-12

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Forgiveness is a virtue of the brave"

Indira Gandhi

FRIDAYS OF LENT

6:00pm Stations of the Cross, Evening Prayer and Adoration of the Cross (Arabic)

8:00pm Stations of the Cross, Evening Prayer and Adoration of the Cross (English)

THE EPISTLE

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realise that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong — not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. **2Cor: 13: 5-13**

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

*Heavenly Father,
Help us to be like the Prodigal Son, who recognised his sins and went back to his father asking for forgiveness.
Help us to also be like his father who in seeing him from afar ran to him, embracing and forgiving him.
Teach us to forgive with love and compassion in the same way that you forgive us.*

Amen

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)

OLOL Co Cathedral - Harris Park 8am (Arabic), 9:30am (English Family), 11am (Ar/Eng), 5pm (Ar/Eng), 7pm (English Youth)
Mass 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



Fullness of life is only found in God as we discover in today's Gospel passage. The parable of the prodigal son provides a study of our human weaknesses and God's unwavering fidelity.

In today's reflection let us focus on the prodigal son. He represents each one of us and our fleeting desires. From the beginning of the parable the young son is seeking independence and what he believes is freedom. He wants to leave the comfort of home in order to explore the world. However he soon finds himself ill prepared for

the reality that awaits him. For many young people the thoughts of riches, travels and a good time, seem so important in life but one soon realises that life can also be cruel and sacrifices need to be made.

True pleasure is not in escaping the toils of every day. It is in appreciating what one has, desiring to make more of the life that is already given and being considerate of others. The young son, only after having wasted his time realised, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!' v17.

We often feel God cannot satisfy our immediate desires. God is too different to our way of thinking and too distant to really capture our attention. The lures of the world entice us and we follow, only to find they leave us empty.

Today's Gospel calls us to return always to God, who without judgment, welcomes us back with open arms and gives us our true heart's desire. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn mshf

- These Cappadocian heroes were officers in the Roman Army, under the leadership of a pagan Lycias. They were arrested for refusing to offer sacrifice to the pagan/state god and confessed their Christian Faith.

- The Governor ordered them to sacrifice to the pagan gods, promising them high promotions in the army, and threatening them if they do not, that they will be stripped off their Roman Army badges. They answered the governor: "Between serving in the Roman Army and serving Our God Jesus Christ, we'll happily give up the service under the Roman flag."

- Whilst they were in Prison, our Lord appeared to them and encouraged them to persevere till the end.

- Lycias threatened to fire them from the army. And when one of them, Ktidios answered him: "You might have power to fire us from the Roman Army, but you cannot influence our love for Christ;" he sentenced them to death.

- Upon that the governor ordered them to be thrown in an icy lake. And they were encouraging each other saying: "we go into the waters 40 people, and 40 martyrs we go to heaven." However, one of them could not take the severe cold, and run out to the baths, where he fell down dead. This saddened the other 39, who persevered encouraging each others and praying. And suddenly a miraculous light appeared in heaven and angels were seen bringing down some 39 crowns for the martyrs.

- Upon that scene a soldier who was present there, was moved by the God's grace, and shouted out: "I am Christian", then jumped into the freezing waters, and gained the crown of martyrdom; which was lost by the poor coward one. Hence the martyrs were again 40 as they desired to be.

- The Eastern Church takes pride in these holy martyrs, and offers them an ideal to follow for her children, especially the young ones, encouraging them to be faithful to Christ's teaching and persevere until the end in his service, sacrificing for his sake every earthly glory. May their prayers be with us. Amen.

Charbel Dib

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In this fourth Sunday of Great Lent we reflect on the parable of the prodigal son. One thing that we can find striking about the prodigal son is that after he fell into the trap of sin, he reflected on the state that he had reached, accepted that he had made a mistake and then got up and faced his problems. As Sister Margaret says above, "he represents each one of us and our fleeting desires." If we take a moment to reflect on this, we find that this is so true. Each one of us is the prodigal son in one way or another. How often do we get caught up in our own issues and problems? However unlike the prodigal son we dwell on them, we procrastinate and then we fall again without doing anything to fix the situation or the state that we are in. Procrastination is simply laziness and this leads to idleness. We become idle within the realm of our sins. This leads to further issues and problems and instead of facing these, we take out our frustrations on those who we love the most.

Like the prodigal son, we need to get up and take action! We need to take a close look at ourselves in the mirror, then we need to accept ourselves for who we are and get up and do something about it. Our mirror doesn't have to be the glass mirror that we look into, but the mirror of our thoughts, the mirror of our consciences and the mirror of our souls. In the Epistle today, St Paul tells us to examine ourselves to see whether we are living in the faith. He tells us to test ourselves. Until we do this, we will not be able to face ourselves and we will continue to hide from the truth of our lives.

The Season of Great Lent is the perfect time to reflect on our lives and test ourselves. It is a journey that takes us to the resurrection where our Father in heaven will be waiting for us, he will see us from afar and he will run and greet us with open arms and forgive us for all our sins.

On a parish level, last Thursday, it was wonderful to see our seniors participating in the activities that the Seniors Committee prepared for them. It is also very inspiring to see the number of people that have been walking the way of the Cross every Friday night during the Arabic and English Stations of the Cross followed by evening prayers and adoration of the Cross. These are just some examples of what our parish offers each one of us to really take a close look into the mirror of our lives. Offcourse, always refer to the announcements page in the middle where you will find several talks and activities for young and old which will help you and your families. I thank the many volunteers who work day in and day out in our parish. They have all decided to get up and take action! So what are you waiting for?

Fr Tony Sarkis

Article of the Week - Today's Gospel - A Lesson for Confession

In today's gospel we hear the parable of the prodigal son. The younger son eventually realises that he has done wrong and goes back to ask for his father's forgiveness. How many times do we see 'prodigal sons and daughters' who return to the church and Jesus welcomes them back with open arms? When we go astray and disregard Jesus from our life, that life may be fulfilling for only a while and we always find something missing from our life. Jesus is missing, He completes us and nothing else can compare. You may think that all the wrong that you have done cannot be forgiven but you are wrong. This is what this parable teaches us, no matter what we have done Jesus is ready to greet us and welcome us back with open arms.

This is why the sacrament of confession is the most beautiful sacrament that we have. Jesus knows that we are human and that we will fall, but he assures us that he will forgive us. A good confession can make you feel refreshed. Remember there is no shame in going to confession that shame comes from the devil. He wants us to be ashamed and continue in our sin, but Jesus is waiting for you in that confessional room.

An examination of conscience can help if you are unsure of what you will say in confession, but we must remember the steps to a good confession (Lifeteen.com)

1- Recognise

We must recognise our sin and the need to go to confession. We are human it is in our nature to sin but we must acknowledge our wrong and resolve to do right.

2- Examine

Perform an examination of conscience. Meditate on your thoughts, words and actions since your last confession. Write them down if you want and take them into the confessional.

3- Contrition

Contrition is an important one, we must be genuinely sorry for our sin/s. When we sin against God we are choosing not to love Him and harm our relationship with Him.

4- Go

Find a priest, they might be busy but our parish is blessed with so many priests that can be found in the church or in the youth centre. There is also confession available at every Sunday mass.

5- No fear

Going to confession can be a scary thing, but there is no need to be afraid. Remember this is the devil holding us back, he does not want us to reconcile with God. However remember God constantly tells us "Be not afraid". Remember Jesus is waiting for you in that confessional.

6- Confess

Yes you are speaking to a priest but he is a mediator and it is Jesus Himself who forgives our sins. I often felt embarrassed to speak to a priest but one priest once told me that he hears that many confessions he forgets what people confess. Priests are not there to judge they are there to help us out of our sins and advise us on how not to commit those sins again.

7- Repent & Absolution

Repent means that we are truly sorry for our sins. We have now resolved to turn away from the sins we have committed and become a better version of ourselves. At the end of confession the priest will pray a prayer of absolution. In this prayer Jesus, through the priest, frees us from our sins.

8- Penance

This is a way of making amends for the sins we have committed. The priest will give you penance before the confession is over and ask you to offer up these prayers and sacrifices in reparation for your sins.



For an examination of conscience guide, visit the website below:

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/prayer/examconscience.htm>

Christina Maksisi

"Make your hearts firm" (Jas 5:8) "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9) Individual Christians

As individuals too, we have are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

- First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer!
- Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organizations. Lent is a favourable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.
- Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.

As a way of overcoming indifference and



our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart. A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: "Make our hearts like yours ". In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.

Extract from Pope Francis' message for Lent 2015



Parish Camera



Our Seniors enjoyed the activities prepared for them on Thursday.



Stations of the Cross, evening prayers & adoration of the Cross every Friday night of Lent.

Golf Day Sponsors



Arab Bank Australia

OLOL Annual Charity Golf Day

Fri 20 March 2015

Macquarie Links International Golf Club

The cost is \$200 per player which includes Green Fees, Snacks, Drinks on Course, Dinner, Golf Carts & Presentation. Corporate packages available for \$1,000. To register, contact: Ray Wehbe on 0414 833 007 or RWehbe@betterbuildings.com.au Tina on 0448 247 336 or tinasalame@hotmail.com Jade on 0411 833 254 or jade.elchoueifati@gmail.com Ray Haddad on 0412 478 363 or raymond@camdev.com.au John on 0434 531 611 or johnwardan@gmail.com

Community Business Network Page

Interested in becoming part of our Newsletter **Community Business Network Page**? The Newsletter reaches over 2000 individuals a week through print and online media. For \$500 you can promote your business on our Business Network Page for the whole month. For details call Joe on 0400 444 999.

CATERING AND EVENTS
GEORGE KHOUZAME
 EST SYDNEY 1985

private events weddings corporate events

P 02 9709 6588 WWW.GEORGEKHOUZAME.COM

The Bellevue
 RECEPTION CENTRE

02 9796 4444 | 0404 944 444
 2-10 Restwell Street, Bankstown NSW 2200
 elie@thebellevue.com.au
 www.thebellevue.com.au

Weddings | Christening | Holy Communion | Birthdays and more.

AMESCOP

"THE GRANNY FLAT SPECIALIST"
 INCREASE YOUR INCOME

PHONE 02 8798 9858
 WWW.AMESCORR.COM.AU



PARISH NOTICE BOARD



FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS & FUNERALS

قَدَاسَاتِ الْأَسْبُوعِ

Sunday 8 March – Sunday of the Prodigal Son
11:00am 40 Day Janette Moussa from Tannourine
3:00pm Mantoura Tansa Assya Younen from Kannoubine (died in Lebanon)
5:00pm 1 Year Anthony Joseph Saba from Blouza
Monday 9 March – The Forty Martyrs
6:00pm Janette Aflak Gebrael wife of Youssef Gebreal from Bazoun (died in Lebanon)
Saturday 14 March
6:00pm 40 Day Pierre Roumano Kizana from Hadchit
Sunday 15 March – Sunday of the Paralytic
11:00am 40 Day Souad Makhael Maroun ElDoueihy from Zgharta
5:00pm 40 Day Mona Youssef ElWadi Barakat wife of Sarkis Barakat from Hadchit

الأحد 8 آذار : أحد الإبن الشاطر
11:00 أربعون المرحومة جانيت موسى زوجة شربل حرب من تانورين
3:00 منتورا طنسا أسيا يونان من وادي قنوبين زوجة حنا أبوعيد من بشري (متوفاة في لبنان)
5:00 السنة للمرحوم أنطوني جوزف سابا من بلوزا
الإثنين 9 آذار:
6:00 المرحومة جانيت عفلق زوجة يوسف جبرائيل من بزعون (متوفاة في لبنان)
السبت 14 آذار:
6:00 أربعون المرحوم بيار رومانوس كيزانا من حدشيت
الأحد 15 آذار : أحد شفاء المخلع
11:00 أربعون المرحومة سعاد مخايل مارون الدويهي من زغرنا
5:00 أربعون المرحومة منى يوسف الودي زوجة سركييس بركات من حدشيت



FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE



Parish Groups and Committees

Pastoral Council Meeting Wed 18 March at 8pm

Family & Adult Events

"The anointing and healing of the sick" (FDW)

مسحة الشفاء
Arabic Faith Talk Presented by Fr Tony Sarkis
 Tues 10 March 7.15pm in the Seniors Room—CYPC

English Faith Discussion Nights

11 March - Robert Haddad - "1001 reasons why it's great to be Catholic"
25 March - Marcha Makari - "The Treasures of Suffering"
1 April - Rob Mourad - "Having loved them, he loved them to the very end" (Jn 13:1) The Greatest Love Story Ever Told"
6 May - Madeleine Vella - "Discovering your call to Sanctity"
 Wednesday/s at 8.00pm **After 7.00pm Mass on L1 CYPC**

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 4-6pm

Youth Events

Blood Donation contact Myrna 0421677998
Nursing Home Visit contact Therese 0431792205
Youth Meeting: contact Maroun 0410656099

Seniors Events

Seniors Bus Trip - Feast of Saint Joseph
 Spiritual visit to St Joseph's Church Croydon with Mass
Thursday 19 March at 9.30am (leaving OLOL)
 Cost \$35/p incl. bus, lunch at club. Contact Elias on 0414 495 955 or Mariette on 0412 201 183 or the parish office 9689-2899

عرض فيلم قديس
 لجنة المسنين تعرض فيلم قديس كل رابع اثنين من كل شهر.

General Parish Notices

Vocation Discernment Day
 Sr Margaret will be holding a Vocation discernment day for young women 15 years and over on
Sunday 22nd March from 9.30am to 1.15pm.
 Contact Sr Margaret on 0412 588 045 for more information.



MCHF Open Day
 Maronite College of the Holy Family (MCHF) is holding an Open day in the Secondary department on
24th March from 9-11am
 All parents and prospective students are welcome.



Feast of St Patrick
"The unity of the family stems from the clover of the unity of the Holy Trinity"
 Celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Anton-Charbel Tarabey
Sunday 22nd March at 7pm
 St Patrick's Mass Centre,
 32 Calliope St Guildford. All are welcome

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 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: 0434 642 509 Phone: 8840-9475.

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

OLOL 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.

General Parish Notices

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is a world-wide pro-life campaign to pray for an end to abortion. Our Parish will be keeping prayerful vigil outside the abortion clinic on Saturdays between 6:00pm-8:00pm. To register or for more information please contact Rob Mourad on 0404066877.



Painter Required

Are you a painter that can DONATE your talent for the parish from time to time? We need your help for painting jobs to help maintain the facilities in our parish. Please call 02 8898 1510 or email media@olol.org.au for more information.

Lawyers Guild Talks

11 March - Theresa Simon - "Dealing with the Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Client"
15 April - Judge Brian Sully - "So you are a Catholic lawyer. Really?"
 Contact Fr Yuhanna Azize on 0435 764 824 for more information.

Social Media



Visit us at olol.org.au



Like us on Facebook
 Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral

الصدقة



الصدقة، وهي أعمال المحبة والرحمة، تُشكّل المُكوّن الثالث لزمّن الصوم الكبير، بعد الصوم والصلاة. هذه الثلاثة هي شريعة الإنجيل الجديدة وأفعال فضيلة التدين [8]، تجعل من الصوم الكبير زمن تجدد في المؤمنين وفي الكنيسة، لأنها وسائل لنيل مغفرة الخطايا من خلال التوبة والمصالحة مع الإخوة والإهتمام بخلصهم، وعيش المحبة الإجتماعية نحو "أخوة يسوع الصغار": الجائع والعطشان والعريان والغريب والمريض والسجين (متى 25: 31-46)، مادياً وروحياً، ثقافياً ومعنوياً، إقتصادياً واجتماعياً.

في الواقع ندعو الكنيسة، في تعليمها الرّسمي، أبناءها وبناتها إلى أعمال محبة ورحمة يُساعدون بها هؤلاء في حاجاتهم الجسدية كإطعام الجائع، وإيواء الشريد، وإلباس من لا ثوب له، وزيارة المرضى وإفقاد الأُسرى؛ وفي حاجاتهم الروحية كالتعليم والتربية والتعزية والتشجيع، والغفران

والمصالحة والإحتمال بصر. إننا نُقدّر مؤسسات الكنيسة، التربوية والاستشفائية والاجتماعية والخيرية، التي نتفانى في تلبية هذه الحاجات، إلى جانب العمل الراعوي والمؤسسات المدنية والخاصة المماثلة. كما نُقدّر مبادرات الأفراد والجماعات الراعوية والمنظمات الرسولية التي تساعد في هذا الإطار. فلا بدّ من مُضاعفة الجهود والقوى لكي نحافظ على شعبنا المسيحي في لبنان وسوريا والعراق ومصر وفلسطين والأراضي المقدسة، للمساهمة في نهوض هذه الأوطان على القيم الثقافية والاقتصادية والإنمائية.

وتُعربُ عن امتناننا لأبناء كنائسنا وأوطاننا المنتشرين في عالم الاغتراب، على يد العون التي يمدونها، بسخاء، لمُدنهم وبلداتهم ولأهلها. يدعو قداسة البابا فرنسيس، في رسالة الصوم، إلى الخروج من حالة الأنانية وعدم الإكتراث أمام هذه الحاجات الجسدية والروحية الآخذة بالتزايد، وقد أصبحت هذه الحالة عالمية. ولا مجال للخروج منها إلا بالإمتلاء من محبة الله التي تتقلها إلينا الكنيسة بإعلان كلمة الإنجيل، فنسمعها بإصغاء، وتوزيع الأسرار، وبتقبّل النعمة المكونة فيها، ولا سيما في سرّ الإفخارستيا. ويذكرنا البابا فرنسيس بثلاثة نداءات:

الأول من القديس بولس الرسول: "إذا تألمت عضو، تألمت معه كل الأعضاء" (1كور 12: 6). إنّه سرّ الكنيسة - الشركة، وجسد المسيح الواحد والمنتوّع الأعضاء، الذي نعيش فيه واقع الترابط بالمشاعر الإنسانية.

الثاني من كلام الله لفايين في سفر التكوين: "أين أخوك؟" (تك4: 9). إنّه دعوة للمحافظة على رباط الأخوة بين جميع الناس بروح المسؤولية والتضامن.

الثالث من القديس يعقوب الرسول: "ثبّتوا قلوبكم" (يع 5: 8). إنّه دعوة للتغلب على تجربة عدم الإكتراث، ولتكوين قلب فينا يكون رحيماً، قوياً وصامداً؛ وقلباً فقيراً من الذات، متفانياً في سبيل الآخرين في حاجاتهم.

أنتم تعلمون، أيها الأخوة والأخوات الأحباء، كم هي متزايدة حاجات شعبنا في لبنان وسوريا والعراق ومصر والأراضي المقدسة، بسبب الحروب والدمار والنزوح والتهجير والإفقار، بسبب الأزمات الإقتصادية والمعيشية المتزايدة، والبطالة وضالة فرص العمل. فلا بدّ من مواجهتها بالتضامن وتوحيد القوى في عيش المحبة الإجتماعية. (يتبع)

رسالة الصوم الرابعة لصاحب الغبطة والنيافة
الكردينال مار بشاره بطرس الراعي

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:

Najah (A) All departed souls, Fr Elias Ayoub, Antoun Azar, Tannous & Loulou Aboud, Maroun Aboud & his parents(B) Raymond, Hanne & Charbel Bazouni, (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George, Youssef Salim El Khoury Gebrael, (H) Madeline & Paul Haddad and son Joseph, Anis Haddad, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, Youssef & Amine Halal & their family (I) K) Naim Khattar & George Khattar, Mikhael Badwi Khoury, his wife Hanni & his sister Afifi (J) (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 & Chousoub Maroun, Chantous Jabbour Mikhael and his wife Jamile, Tannous, Marin & David Moujali(N) Jamil, Badwi, Hasna & Yasmine Ndaira, (R) Milia Bou Raidan, Jamil & Labibi Roumanus, Raymond & Etour Romanos & son Joseph, (S) Azar Stephen, Boutros Kozhaya Sassine, Joseph John Saad & his wife Mazie, Matilda Abboud Sadek, Souls in Purgatory, (T) Bernadette Tanna, Salim, Farid, Bernard & Danny Ters (W) Jamil Wehbe & Barbara Wehbe, (Y) (Z)



أحد الابن الشاطر "يا أبي، أعطني حصتي من الميراث. فقسّم لهما ثروته".



لكلِّ واحدٍ منّا شعارُهُ في هذه الحياة ولكن هذه الشعارات رهن الظروف والمناسبات والمصالح والأهواء، فتتبدّل مع تبدّلها وأوقات كثيرة نعيش بعكس شعاراتنا. ولكن الله شعارُهُ لا يتبدّل ولا يتغيّر لأنّه شعارٌ مبنيٌّ على المحبّة المجانيّة للإنسان والشعار الذي نتأمّل به اليوم مع مثلّ الابن الشاطر هو "الله لا يريد موت الخاطيء بل أن يعود عن ضلاله ويحيّا". هذا ما قاله يسوع بقوة في هذا المثلّ من خلال الأب الحنون: "إبني هذا كان ميتاً فعاش". فبعد أن انفصل الابن الأصغر بحرّيته عن أبيه وذهب بعيداً عن البيت الأبوي عائشاً على هواه، مُبدراً مال أبيه وتعب عمره على أمور لا تبني بل تهدم فافقر واشتهى أن يملأ جوفه من أكل الخنازير، ويفعله هذا أصبحت الخنازير التي تُعتبر في الدين اليهودي نجسة، أصبحت أفضل منه. عاد هذا الابن إلى نفسه وأدّل ذاته بعودته إلى أبيه ولكن ليس ليكون ابناً بل أجيراً، ليعمل لدى أبيه

فيعيش مُعترفاً بخطيئته عليها. لكن الأب الذي طال انتظاره لعودة ابنه، لما رآه تحنّ عليه وألقى بنفسه على عنقه وقبله طويلاً. وقيل الأب أن يسمع منه: "يا أبي، خطيت إلى السماء وأمامك ولا أستحق أن ادعى لك ابناً". ولكن لم يدعه يكمل ما كان يعتزم قوله بأن يجعله كأحد أجزائه. فأعاد هذا الأب الحنون كلّ الإمتيازات التي خسرها وأعاد ابنه فرحاً عظيماً لأنّه كان ميتاً فعاش، ضالاً فوجد. ولنا من يسوع مثلاً حياً في الإنجيل مع مار بطرس عندما أنكره بطرس بأنّه لا يعرفه كيف عامله الربّ بسؤاله عن حبه ثلاث مرّات "يا سمعان ابن يونا أتحبني وسلّمه رعاية الكنيسة. فلنقم إخوتي بفحص ضمير جدّي وصادق ومسؤول. ونسأل ذواتنا هل تركنا البيت الوالدي على مثال الابن الضالّ وذهبنا نعيش في غربة عن الأب الحنون الذي يحبنا مستثمرين حريتنا التي أعطانا إياها الله بغير وجه حقّ فأوصلتنا إلى غربة مذلّة عن البيت الوالدي؟ هل نعرف بأنّ الله الذي خلقنا بدون إرادتنا لا يخلصنا بدون إرادتنا؟

هل نعلم بأنّ الأب ينتظرنا بفرح الصبر لنعود إليه لا ليحاسبنا أو يعاقبنا أو يذلنا بل ليردّ لنا ما أضعناه باستعمالنا حريتنا لما يدلنا ويحفرنا ولبغور خطايانا (لو كانت خطاياكم كالقرمز ، فأنا أبيضها كالثلج). اليوم إذا سمعنا صوته فلا نقسّ قلوبنا ولنا في هذا الصوم دعوة مهمّة لنخرج شياطين الجهل وقساوة القلوب بالصلاة والصوم لأنّ هذا النوع من الشياطين لا يطرد إلا بالصوم والصلاة. فلننشج وتأخذ خطوة الألف ميل باتجاه بيتنا الأبوي عارفين أنّ من ينتظرنا هو أب حنون.

تدعونا الكنيسة اليوم ...

إنّه أحد الابن الشاطر ومعه نبلغ إلى منتصف الطريق إلى نهاية رحلة الصوم. في المقطع المختار من الرسالة الثانية إلى أهل كورنثوس، نصغي إلى مار بولس يتلو آيات التشجيع و"التحريض" على السلام والمحبّة والكمال. أما في الإنجيل، ينفرد لوقا الإنجيلي برواية مثلّ هو الأشهر ربما ما بين أمثلة الكتاب المقدّس، يتحدث فيه عن فرح لقاء الخاطيء بالله من بعد الغرق في وحول الخطيئة والتجارب. نحن مدعوون إذاً، إخوتي، لتأمّل في هذا الأحد، في محبّة الله لنا كما تظهر في الإنجيل وفي دعوتنا لمبادلة هذه المحبّة من خلال فعل الخير كما تدعونا الرسالة!

مقاصد أصوامنا



إنّ من الواجب علينا أن نعرف مقاصد أصوامنا، فلا نكون كالتائهين في البحر، يتوهّمون أنّه إلى المدينة قاصدون، وهم في متجّه آخر هائمون. فإن قلت ما الصوم في الحقيقة، فهو غير الامتناع عن جميع الرذائل والتمسك بجميع الفضائل، بمنع النفس عن اللذات البدنيّة كالأطعمة والأشربة وسواها. ليس الصوم أن يصنع الإنسان نفسه ويحيي عقله ويفترش له مسخاً ورمادا، بل أن تحلّ أغلال الإنثم، وتقطع رُبط الظلم، وتجنّب المكرّ والعش، وتعتق المستعبدين، وتكسر خبزك للجانع، وتؤويّ الغريب إلى بيتك، وتُصيف الأيتام والأرامل، ولا تتعاضى عن لحمك ودمك. فإنّ تفعل ذلك، فيشرق نورك في الظلمة، ويظهر برك سريعاً، وينفجر ضياؤك مثلّ الصبح، وتجمع كرامة الربّ شملك، ويُدبرك الله تدبيراً صالحاً، وتشتبع نفسك من الخصب، وتصيّر كالبستان الذي تُموج أعصانه نضرة، وكينبوع الماء الذي لا ينقطع. وتبني من خيراتك الخبز التي خربت منذ القديم، وتقيم الأساس الذي سقط من أوائل الزمان".

القديس يوحنا فم الذهب

الخير السار من رعيّتك

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

٨ آذار ٢٠١٥

عدد ٢٠

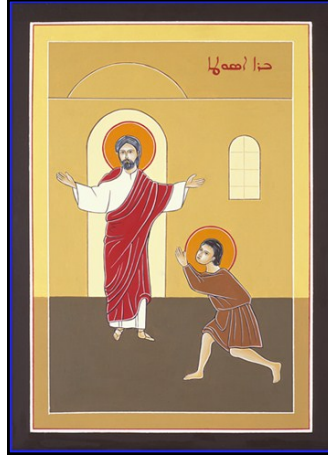
www.olol.org.au

الإنجيل

أحد الإبن الشاطر

الرسالة

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعَ: "كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حَصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَفَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرَوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الابْنُ الْأصْغَرُ كُلَّ حَصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يَحْسُ بِالْعَوَازِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجًّا إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حَقُولِهِ لِيَزْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَسْتَهْجِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرُوبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَرَجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفَضِّلُ الْخَبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ يَبْعِدًا، رَأَى أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَأَلْقَى نَفْسَهُ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: اسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحَلَّةَ الْفَاحِزَةَ وَالنَّبِسُوهُ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَادْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيْثًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَفْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعِلْمَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَحْوَكٌ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخْذُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السَّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالِفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَنَّتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرَوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَّانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِيَ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ تَتَنَعَّمَ وَتَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيْثًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ." لُق ١٥ : ١١ - ٣٢



قرءات الأحد القادم

أحد شفاء المخلع

١ ظم ٥ : ٢٤ - ٦ : ٥

مر ٢ : ١ - ١٢

رتبة درب الصليب

٦:٠٠ مراحل درب الصليب، صلاة المساء وزياح الصليب (عربي)

٨:٠٠ مراحل درب الصليب وزياح الصليب (إنكليزي)

اِحْتَبَرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِحُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. اِمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِلَّا إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَارْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّنَا نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّي إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرٍّ، لَا لِتُظَهَرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَنَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّنا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلٌ، إِنَّنَا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضَعْفَاءَ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. اَكْتُبْ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أُعَامِلَكُمْ بِسَاوَةِ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أُعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِئُنْبِئَانَكُمْ لَا لِهَدْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، اِفْرَحُوا، وَاسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيِ وَاحِدٍ، وَعَيْشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَاللَّهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقَبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقَدِيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشِرْكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدِّسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ! ٢ قر ١٣ : ١٣ - ١٣

من أقوالهم...

”هدف رحلة صومنا هو الدخول إلى داخل النفس

حيث يطهرها الرب بدمه ويكرسها هيكلًا له ،

ويزينها بمواهبه.“

أباء الكنيسة

صلاة الأسبوع

أيها الرب يسوع، لقد افتديتنا بموتك على الصليب، وتقديتنا في كل ذبيحة قدّاس تُرفع على مذابح كنائس العالم. نسألك، في هذا الصوم المقدّس، أن يقف كل واحدٍ أمام نفسه، كالابن الضال، فيدرك خطأه الشخصي، ويأسف للحالة التي بلغ إليها، فيعود إلى الله بروح التوبة، والله يعيده إلى حقيقة ذاته وكرامته. أعطنا أن نتعلّم الرحمة من غفران الله لنا وعنايته بنا، لكي نعيشها أفعال رحمة وحنان ومحبة تجاه كل إنسان في حالته الخاصة. فنستحقّ الرحمة الإلهية، ونرفع نشيد المجد والتسبيح، للأب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وإلى الأبد، آمين.

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)

مركز قدّاس 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 مؤمنة قبل وخلال قدّاس السبت الساعة 6:00 مساءً وقدّاسات الأحد أو بتحديد موعد خلال أيام الأسبوع

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