

The Good News from Your Parish

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CO-CATHEDRAL - HARRIS PARK

Sunday 18 September 2016

Season of the Glorious Cross

www.olol.org.au

THE GOSPEL

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Mk 10:35-45

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS



Next Sunday's Readings
Second Sunday after
the Glorious Cross
1Cor 15: 19-34
Mt 24: 1-14

If you
really want
to love
Jesus,
first learn
to suffer,
because
suffering
teaches
you to
love.

St. Gemma Galgani

THE EPISTLE

Brothers and sisters,
You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops.

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David - that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

2Tim 2: 1-10

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Dear Jesus,
Help me to **quit** waking up
with a complaining spirit, an attitude,
and dwelling on **yesterday's problems**.
Instead **change** my complaining
to thanksgiving, my attitude to love,
and to turn **my problems over to you**.
Amen!

SUNDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)

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

WEEKDAY HOLY LITURGIES (Masses)

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 7am, 8.45am & 6pm. Wed 7am, 8.45am & 5:30pm; 7pm (English Youth) Sat 7:30am & 6pm (Ar/Eng)

CONFESSIONS

Before and during Saturday 6pm and Sunday Masses or by appointment on weekdays

WEEKDAY DEVOTIONS

Rosary: Mon & Tues 8pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thurs 7:30pm Sun 6:30pm Divine Mercy followed by Rosary Fri 7:30pm

Adoration Hour: Thursdays 8pm – 9pm **24 Hour Adoration:** Every first Friday of the month from 9:30am - Saturday 7:30am

Parish Contacts : Office: 9689 2899 Fax: 9689 2068. (Email: info@olol.org.au). Fr Tony Sarkis (Dean): 0433 211 248

A.P's: Fr Youwakim Noujaim 0406 060 445. Fr Raphael Abboud 0401 627 777. Fr Pierre Khoury 0411 735 258. Fr Youhanna Khalife 0403 715 105.
Fr Antoun Bou Antoun 9689 2899. Fr Paul Joubeir 0414 900 016. Fr Bernard Assi 0411 811 807. Fr Yuhanna Azize 0435 764 824. Subdeacon Danny Nough 0477 008 787.

Light from the word FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Plenty of food for thought in this Sunday's Gospel passage. So let's reflect over a few lessons we could learn.

The first food for thought is 'do we know what we are asking for?' When James and John approach Jesus they request of him, 'to do for us whatever we ask you' (v35). A very bold request indeed! Jesus listens but makes it clear that what they are asking isn't what really matters. So do we really know what is best for us? Rather than asking God to do our will, wouldn't it be best to do God's will!

The second food for thought is 'what do we get jealous of?' The other disciples 'began to be angry with James and John' (v41). Was it because the two brothers got in first with their request or because they sought favouritism? Either way what's it to the others? If the disciples had listened to Jesus' response to the two brothers, they would have realised the two did not get their way. Too often we envy others for the wrong reasons and we don't focus on our own lives and blessings.

Final food for thought is a tough one. Jesus tells the twelve disciples to basically stop competing and arguing with each other and vying for status. He then throws a spanner in the works by declaring, 'whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant' (v43). That would have challenged their over inflated egos! To serve, to be humble, to not seek power and prestige. Food for thought and probably difficult to swallow for many of us! We have a tendency to be in control, to be right, to be chosen.

Maybe after all is said and done, after our demands and egos have been silenced, we will truly know God's will, and understand that life is to be lived in love and not in an endless pursuit of self-righteousness. Amen

Sr Margaret Ghosn MSHF

The Catechism MUST WE FAST BEFORE RECEIVING COMMUNION?

What are the current rules for fasting before Holy Communion?

(a) For many centuries the Church commanded a strict fast from midnight before one could receive Holy Communion. However, in the 1950's Pope Pius XII introduced a much more lenient form of fasting before Holy Communion in order to give Catholics an opportunity to receive Holy Communion more frequently.

(b) Pope Pius XII also allowed the celebration of afternoon and evening Masses every day, when the spiritual good of a considerable number of the faithful requires it. It is the right of the bishop of each diocese to decide when such Masses may be offered in his diocese.

(c) Paul VI further reduced the fasting requirement after the Second Vatican Council, requiring only a one hour fast from all food and drink (excluding water). This may be reduced to 15 minutes for those who are sick or for other important reasons. This is the practice currently in force.

When may Holy Communion be received without fasting?

Holy Communion may be received without fasting when one is in danger of death, or when it is necessary to save the Blessed Sacrament from insult or injury.



The Servant's Word

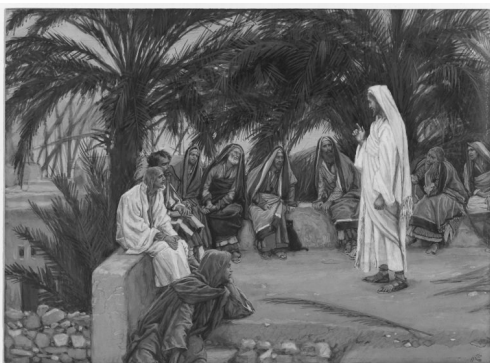
"WHOEVER WISHES TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU MUST BE YOUR SERVANT"

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this first Sunday after the Feast of the Exaltation of Glorious Cross we are confronted with a rather challenging Gospel passage. It contradicts everything that society teaches, it contradicts everything that we are taught at university or work about leadership, but yet again it gives us a charter on how we should live our Christian lives. Sometimes when we read what Jesus says we question ourselves: "does this man really know what he is talking about?" I mean who in this day and age would instruct us to "be servants" or "slaves"? Everyone encourages us to be strong leaders. We are challenged to get to the top at whatever cost, be it through status, fame, money, power and unfortunately oppression of others. But Jesus came to teach us a new way of getting to the top. He taught us that we must serve everyone with love. He taught us that we must humble ourselves not to reach the top of the organisation that we are working for but to reach the ultimate "top" which is the heavenly kingdom.

"Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant", is a difficult constitution to follow, but these are the words of a true leader. If we take a moment to think about these words, we can see how right Jesus was. Let's face it, who would you prefer to be your leader, someone who is arrogant, pompous or selfish; someone who is proud and is only concerned about rank or status! Or would you prefer someone who is humble, someone who is kind, generous, loving; someone who respects your opinion, your freedom and your dignity! I know that I would choose the latter; I would choose someone who is like Jesus, the true leader. Let us always look to our Lord as our ultimate example and truly live and proclaim his words in everything that we do and everything that we say.

Well, I can truly say that I am missing everyone at the parish. Although my time here in Lebanon has given me the opportunity to spend some time with my family and especially my baby nephew; and also to rest, seeing all the activity in the parish via social media really stirs in my emotions of love and attachment to Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. I watched with great joy the procession that took place on Tuesday night. It is wonderful that we continue to live out our Maronite traditions in Australia. Thank you to Father Youwakim and Fr Pierre for organising and leading the procession with our Bishop. Also, this week the courses on the Maronite Church and traditions have begun through our English Faith Formation Committee and I encourage you all to take part in them so that you can discover and understand the treasures of our Maronite Church.



Blessings from Lebanon,

Father Tony Sarkis

Article of the Week

ARE YOU ABLE TO DRINK THE CHALICE THAT I DRINK?

Jesus has many who love His Kingdom in Heaven, but few who bear His Cross (Luke 14:27). He has many who desire comfort, but few who desire suffering. He finds many to share His feast, but few His fasting. All desire to rejoice with Him, but few are willing to suffer for His sake. Many follow Jesus to the Breaking of Bread, but few to the drinking of the Cup of His Passion. Many admire His miracles, but few follow Him in the humiliation of His Cross.

This little reflection by Thomas à Kempis should really challenge us to think about what kind of spiritual life we are living!

So many of us are willing to suffer at the gym for our physical appearance yet who is willing to suffer for the conversion of sinners? So many of us are willing to suffer at work for material wealth but how many of us are willing to fast as a sacrificial offering for the poor? So many of us are willing to have sleepless nights out in pubs and clubs but who is willing to spend the night in church with our Blessed Lord?

When the disciples John and James asked to be seated on either side of our Lord in his kingdom, Jesus responded by asking them, "Are you able to drink the chalice that I drink?" This chalice is the chalice of suffering that Christ would forego on mount Calvary as he laid down his life for us like a lamb that is led to the slaughter. Brothers and sisters let us remember that God never gives us more than we can carry. In fact Christ invites us to share in his sufferings and never forces it upon us. There are many ways we can suffer in our daily lives and most importantly we need to remember to do it with love. We can suffer in our work places by taking on the more toilsome tasks, we can suffer at home by helping our parents and wife's, we can suffer in our relationships by humbling ourselves and overcoming pride and we can suffer everyday by the sacrificial act of charity whereby we learn to put the needs of others before our own needs. This my friends is what we call selflessness and exactly what the world is not doing!



Robert Mourad

Teen's Corner

ROCK CLIMBING TEENS DAY OUT

"The faith given to me in baptism suggests to me surely: by yourself you will do nothing, but if you have God as the centre of all your action, then you will reach the goal."

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

ATTENTION TEENS!!!

Our next Teens Day Out for Years 7-9 will be on the 24th of September 2016. We are reaching new goals and SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS...!!! That's right. We are going...NDOOR ROCK CLIMBING!!!



It will be an action packed, fun filled day with lunch provided for the teens. The Teens will depart and return back to Our Lady of Lebanon Harris Park by bus. There will also be professional supervision at the venue.

BE QUICK and register as spaces are limited.

Looking forward to seeing you all UP THERE...!!!

For more information, please feel free to contact me.

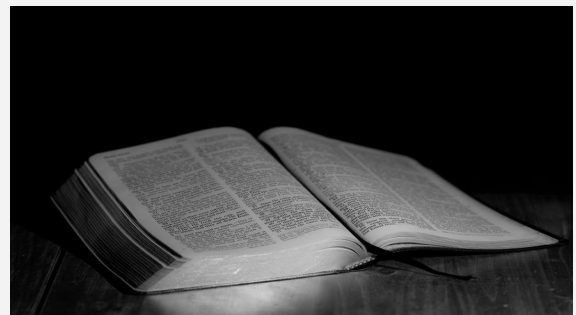
God bless you all and may the wood of the most Glorious Cross of Christ, be forever in your sight...!!!

AJ Stephan
OLOL Maronite Flame Teens Coordinator

Youth Corner

YOUTH TESTIMONY

A wise man once told me "when you pray you speak to God, but when you read your Bible God speaks to you" This quote has stuck with me for many years and has inspired me to get involved with our Church. We are blessed to have a variety of ways to learn about God and his teachings within our community. Just to name a few there are the English Faith Formation on every second Wednesday as well as my personal favorite The Bible Project every Thursday. Ps did I mention the Charismatic Prayer Nights on the first Monday of every month... Pretty Awesome if you ask me!!!



The Bible Project has opened my eyes to the wonders of God's word and has helped answer questions about the faith which I'm sure we all have. It shows the beauty of how the Church was formed and works together as one body for the Glory of God. This also gives us a great example to how we should contribute in whichever way can.

Just like the example of Our Lord Jesus and Our Blessed Mother Mary, they show us we are here to serve.

So ask the question, am I doing enough or is there more that I'm seeking? You never really know what journeys lay ahead unless you take that first step. I will leave you with a quote "if you get up God will get up with you, sit down and God will sit down with you" You decide!

Joey Nakhoul

PARISH CAMERA



EFF talk on 'Do we really need to rediscover our Maronite Traditions'



Round 1 of Soccer Tournament organised by Youth



Divine word family with Fr Fadi Tabet



OLOL Kids Play Group

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



MARONITECARE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE PLANNED GIVING TARGET

Target 2000 Parishioners
\$5 ONLY a week

Pledge Forms for your monthly Tax Deductible donation
Made through Direct Debit or Credit Card payments. Are available at the Parish Office.
For Enquiries: Contact The Parish office on (02) 9689 2899
Pledge Envelopes are also available in the Gift shop (Maroun)

133 Parishioners committed

Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Loans: CYPC \$4,884,284 Units \$1,554,044

COMMUNITY BUSINESS NETWORK PAGE

Protect your loved ones.
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up in the right hands
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- Callus / Corns / ingrown Toe Nails
- Diabetic Foot Care & Assessment
- Hip / Knee & Ankle Pain / Heel Spurs
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PARISH NOTICE BOARD

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS & FUNERALS

Sunday 18 September: 1st Sunday of the Glorious Cross
11:00am 40 Day Kamleh Amine Bechara widow of the late Elias Rizkallah Bechara from Blouza
5:00pm 40 Day Samir Fleifel from El Kodss
St Patrick Guildford
6:00pm One Year Maurice Azar from Wadi Qannoubine
Tuesday 20 September:
6:00pm Ghsoub Gerges Bou Merhi from Zghartaghine (died in Lebanon)
Saturday 24 September:
6:00pm 40 Day Lamia Mtanios Abboud from Basloukit widow of the late Khalil Morched from Mazraat Al Touffah
Sunday 25 September: 2nd Sunday of the Glorious Cross
9:30am One Year Joseph Younis from Blouza
11:00am All the Livings and Departed of Karm El Mohr for the Feast of St Moura
5:00pm 40 Day Akel Youssef Kozah from Deir Al Ahmar
St Patrick Guildford
6:00pm One Year Martha Bou Chahine wife of Moussa Tannous

قَدَّاسَاتِ الْأَسْبُوعِ

الأحد ١٨ أيلول: الأحد الأول بعد عيد الصليب
 ١١:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة كاملة أمين بشارة أرملة المرحوم الياس رزق الله بشارة من بلوزا
 ٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم سمير فليف من القدس
Guildford سان باتريك
 ٦:٠٠ السنة للمرحوم موريي غازار من وادي قنوبين
الثلاثاء ٢٠ أيلول:
 ٦:٠٠ المرحوم غصوب جرجس بو مرعي من زغرتغرين (متوفي في لبنان)
السبت ٢٤ أيلول:
 ٦:٠٠ أربعون المرحومة لميا مطانيوس عبود من بسلوقيت أرملة المرحوم خليل مرشد من مزرعة التفاح
الأحد ٢٥ أيلول: الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب
 ٩:٣٠ السنة للمرحوم جوزف يونس من بلوزا
 ١١:٠٠ قداس على نية أحياء وأموات بلدة كرم المهر بمناسبة عيد القديسة مورا
 ٥:٠٠ أربعون المرحوم عقل يوسف القزح من دير الأحمر
Guildford سان باتريك
 ٦:٠٠ السنة للمرحومة مارتا بو شاهين زوجة موسى طنوس حوا من داريعشتار

FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH & PASTORAL CENTRE

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT 5 LOAVES CAFÉ

- Weekend **experienced** Coffee Barista

- Weekdays Casual all-rounder

To apply, please contact Diane on **0450 263 511**

SEPT 2016

The Maronite Calender & Liturgy - EFF Talk

Wed 21 September 2016 at 8pm Led by Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

SEPT 2016

LOL Youth Grand Ball

Fri 30 September 2016 at 7pm (October long weekend)

Venue: Clarence House - The Lemnos. 42 Albert Street, Belmore

Cost: \$100 a ticket. Incl. Entertainment, 4 course fine dining meals, soft drinks, beer & wine. Contact: James Isaac **0406 336 771**, Kristy Gerges **0406 888 036**

Sponsorship interest: contact Fr Raphael **0401 627 777** or JC **0422643203**

OCT 2016

Sodality trip to St Rafqa

Sat 1 October 2016 bus departs at 8:00am

Cost: \$40pp including breakfast, lunch and bus cost.

To book: Contact Gladis on **0401 265 210** no later than **28/09/2016!**

Give an Extra Hour to God

Volunteers needed for 11am Sunday Children's Liturgy fortnightly

10.30am - 11.30am to help our children participate in the Sunday Liturgy of the Word.

Contact Subdeacon Danny Nough on **0477 008 787**

OCT 2016

Family Brunch

Sun 9 October 2016 after 9:30am Mass in CYPC (recreation room)

There will be activities for the kids and lots of free nibbles (food, sweets, coffee, juice) It's a great way to meet parish families. Mark your diaries.

OCT 2016

English Faith Formation Course on Women in the Gospels

Begins Mon 17 October at 7pm in CYPC (Seniors Room) led by Sr Margaret

NOV 2016

Family Spiritual Day Out

Sun 27 November 2016 from 8:30am - 4:30pm

The day will include Family Mass, speakers, activities, morning tea & lunch

Location: St Joseph's conference centre 64 Mackillop Drive, Baulkham Hills

Cost: Adults \$45, Teens (aged 12-17) \$35 & Children (under 12) \$20

To register email ololfamilycommittee@gmail.com or text Lillian Mawad **0414935303** or Sonia Baltasar **0402404247** Registration & placement is essential as places are limited!

Closing date 1 Nov 2016!

REGULAR PARISH EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

Youth & Teens Events

Teens Saturdays 4-6pm contact Albert Junior (AJ) **0415241514**
Blood Donation contact Joanna **0447442940** or Annette **0405297746**
Youth Meeting First Tue of the month 8-9pm contact John-Claude **0422643203**
LOL St Vincent De Paul Conference contact Kim Moussa **0424658190**

Children's Events

Arabic Classes: Sat 9:30am-12:30pm call Margo on **0400 001 758**

Fersan Al-Adra: Sat 1pm -3pm call Eliana Gerges on **0421 740 115**

Children's Playgroup: Tuesdays & Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am

Seniors Events

Activities for Seniors

Every fortnight if you wish to bring a parent or grandparent, call **Nadine Dib** on **0488 807 080** or the Parish on **9689-2899**

نشآت كبار السن في الرعية

كل أسبوعين لمن يهيم إحضار أحد الوالدين أو الجدّين
 الإتصال بنا ديب على الرقم ٠٤٨٨٠٧٠٨٠ أو الإتصال بالرعية ٩٦٨٩٢٨٩٩

Adult Events

Arabic Classes: Mon 7-9pm call Margo on **0400 001 758**

DIOCESAN NOTICES

SEPT 2016

Official Launch of White Stone Wellbeing Program

Sunday 25 September 2016

beginning at 10am - Official Opening, 11am - Mass, 12:30pm - Lunch,

3pm - Procession & Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 92 Powells Rd, Bilpin NSW 2758

To RSVP contact Daniella Taouk **0450 434 776** or Rhonda Gittany **0414 439 516**

Transport will be provided to Bilpin from LOL at 8am, cost is \$15 to book

contact Samir Bayeh **0401 978 404** by Monday 19 September 2016!

OCT 2016

The Diocesan Faith & Light Committee invites you to the celebration of the First Holy Communion for People with Special Needs celebrated by His Excellency Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

Sun 30 October 2016 at 2pm at St Joseph's Church, Croydon

For families with special needs children,

Contact Mary Raffoul on **0418 214 010** before **30 September 2016**

MARONITECARE SERVICES

Are you a Psychologist/Counsellor? Interested in working for MaroniteCare?

MaroniteCare is seeking to employ a Psychologist/Counsellor to work from its offices in Harris Park.

The employment may be on a full-time or part-time arrangement. For more information or to apply, please contact **Subdeacon Danny Nough** on **8831 0006** or **0477 008 787** or email on danny@maronitecare.org.au

Youth Services & Facilities

Youth Drop in Recreation Room & Library & Study Centre

Open 10am – 10pm for Youth 18 & over

Under 18s only with adult supervision

Homework Help for Students K-10 Tues **3:30pm - 6pm**

Bookings essential call Anthony Chidiac **0411 217 103**

Counselling Services (English/ Arabic)

For Teens 12-18 years and their families.

Call Lina Ishac **0433 217 063** or

Anthony Chidiac **0411 217 103**

For Youth 18 & over and Adults & Couples

Anthony Chidiac **0411 217 103**

White Stone Family Support Services

Is your family impacted by addictions?

Psychologists & Social Workers can assist you

For information contact: **9633 2900**

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

Women's Well-being Office

Natural Fertility Services. Evening appointments. Nelly Azize **0430 332 888** or **9689 2899**

Marriage Preparation Sessions book 8 months prior to the wedding: **8831 0000**

Carers Support Group

The Carers meeting will take place on **Tuesday September 13th** at 10:30 on

the Ground floor of the CYPC. Contact: Madeleine Wakim **0419 449 066**.

تأمل وصلاة

تأمل وصلاة

رَبِّي وإلهي ... مازلتَ سرّاً لكثيرين مما أدى للخلاف فيما بينهم. لم يدركوا أنك أب الجميع، لم يدركوا أنك تحبهم سواسية، لم يدركوا مشيئتك ونعمك وماذا تريد من الإنسان وماذا تبغي له، لم يدركوا معنى "تحمل المشقات من أجل نيل الخلاص في المسيح يسوع مع المجد الأبدي"، لم يتطلّعوا إليك بل نظروا لأنفسهم.

رَبِّي وإلهي ... مَنْ أدرك هذه الأمور قمع جسده وقَدَس أفكاره وأعماله بحسب كلمتك وتحلّى بصفات توصل للقداسة ومطاف القديسين ونزع من قلبه كل ما يُبعده عنك.

رَبِّي وإلهي ... يا حامل النعمة، والنعمة ذاتها، وواهبها أيضاً ... ماذا أريد؟ أريد أن أصبح قديسة مثلاً للآخرين في حبك وحب الآخرين مجداً لك، فإنعم عليّ بما أحتاج، ولك الشكر على الدوام، آمين

كلمة الرحمة

"الصليب قمة الرحمة" كان عنوان التأمل الأسبوعي الذي أقامته عائلة الكلمة الإلهية في رعية سيدة لبنان مساء الثلاثاء الماضي مع الأب فادي ثابت، من جمعية المرسلين اللبنانيين الموارنة، والذي يزور أستراليا لتقديم مسرحيته الجديدة "الحياة الجوزية". التأمل تمحور حول إنجيل شفاء أعمى أريحا، ذاك الرجل الذي كان متروكاً على جانب الطريق وأراد الناس إسكاته عندما راح يصرخ "يا يسوع ابن داود ارحمني"، وإذا بالرب يطلب من الناس أن ينادوه ليأتي إليه ويشفيه (مرقس 10: 46-52).

يمكن اختصار اختبار الأعمى مع الرحمة التي أظهرها له الرب يسوع بخمس كلمات تعكس أيضاً اختبار كل شخص منا مع رحمة الأب.

الكلمة الأولى في هذا الاختبار هي "النداء". لم يكثرث الأعمى للناس الذين كان كلُّ همهم أن يصمت، بل ازداد صراخاً "يا يسوع ابن داود ارحمني". هذا الرجل المنبذ، المرمي على جانب الطريق والمحروم من نعمة النظر، كانت له البصيرة ليرى ملوكية يسوع ويعلمها على الملأ، فيما الأعمى الفعلي هم الناس الذين لم يتمكنوا من رؤية الرب على حقيقته.

الكلمة الثانية في اختبار الأعمى مع الرحمة هي "اللقاء" الذي خصّه به يسوع. الرب توقّف وطلب من الناس أن يأتوا بالرجل إليه بدلاً من أن يستمروا في إسكاته واحتقاره. لم يلتفت يسوع إلى أي شخص آخر من الجموع الغفيرة التي كانت هناك، بل إلى الأعمى دون سواه. ناداه الرب بدوره ليردّ إليه اعتباره. اللقاء مع يسوع هو لقاء رحمة لأن إله الرحمة يفيض علينا بما في ذاته.

الكلمة الثالثة في هذا الاختبار هي "الشفاء". لقد تم الشفاء ليؤكد لنا يسوع أنه جاء حقاً من أجل المرضى والخطاة، أيّاً كانوا وأياً كان مرضهم أو خطيئتهم، سواء بالجسد أو النفس أو الروح، وأياً كان رأي الناس فيهم. ذاك الذي دأب الناس على ازدراؤه لاعتقادهم بأن الله ضربه بسبب خطيئته وأعماه، بات علامة على رحمة الأب، تماماً مثل النازفة والأبرص والمخلع والعشار وكثيرين سواهم.



الكلمة الرابعة هي "الصفاء". إنها حالة الفرح والانخطاف التي ترافق النعمة والتي يعيشها الإنسان ما أن يلمس رحمة الله له. لم يعد الأعمى ليريد ترك يسوع بل تبعه على الطريق، تلك الدرب التي طالما انتظر عند حافتها من يرمي إليه بقطعة نقود يتسوّلها ليعيش.

الكلمة الخامسة في اختبار الأعمى مع الرحمة هي "الدعاء". فتح يديه مجدداً الله وشاكراً إياه، ليصير صليباً يصل بوقوفه العمودي السماء بالأرض، وبذراعيه الممدودتين أفقياً البشرية من جهتي النور والظلمة، شاهداً حياً على رحمة الأب.

صار للصليب معنى في حياته لأنه تعرّف عليه واكتشف أنه قمة الرحمة.

عائلة الكلمة الإلهية

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, All the lost souls, All the faithful departed, Jabbour Azizi, Mikhael Anjou, Tonnous & Loulou Abboud and their brother Maroun (B) Raymous & Hanneh Bazouni and their son Charbel, Joseph Saad Boutros, Sobhi & Sid Bazouni and their children & grandchildren (C) (D) (E) (F) Ibrahim Hanna Fakhry & Family and his faithful departed (G) Colleen Madeline George, Helen George, Majid George, Youssef Salim El Khoury Gebrael (H) Madeline & Paul Haddad and son Joseph Haddad, Anis Jamil Haddad, Maurice & Martha Jamil Haddad, Tannous & Chmoune Hasan, Jeanette Harb, Youssef & Hanneh Hasan and their children & grandchildren (I) Tansa & Thouraya Ishac and their children & grandchildren (J) (K) Karam Antonios Karam (L) Boulos Laoulach (M) Therese Melhem, Arthur (Otre) Moses, Boutros & Johra Moussa and their daughter Malki, John Toufic Merhi, Anthony Marmah Moses, Deceased of Moses Family, Youssef & Ghssoun Maroun, Semaan & Karime Masri (N) Jamil Ndaira, Yasmine Ndaira, Badwi Ndaira, Hasna Ndaira (O) (P) (Q) (R) Milia Bou Raidan, Jamil & Labibi Roumanus, Raymond & Etour Romanos and their son Joseph, Rouhana & Elaine Rahme, Elie Saba Rahme, Saoud Youssef Rizk (S) Souls in Purgatory, Boutros Kozhaya Sassine, Matilda Abboud Sadek, Antoun Sarkis (T) (U) (V) (W) (Y) Youssef & Hanneh and their children & grandchildren (Z)

تأمل من وحي الإنجيل

كثيرون يبحثون عن المناصب في هذه الدنيا ويطمحون إلى إرتقاء السلم الاجتماعي نحو القمة...

بالطبع، الطموح هو من الخصال الحميدة في الإنسان ولكنه يضحي سمة خطيرة إن تحوّل إلى طمع وجشع يتحقّق على حساب النَّاس أو القيم! في الحياة المسيحية، يطمح الكثيرون إلى عيش حياة هائلة وسعيدة وهو طبعاً أمر مشروع ولكنه يضحي خطراً إن تحوّل هذا الطموح إلى نوع من الأحلام الوردية بدنيا خيالية...

الواقعية الموجودة في نصّ اليوم أساسية لكلّ مسيحيّ فهي تبين له أن المسيحية هي سرّ سعادة وفرح وسط الضيقات وعبرها لأن تركيز الإنسان المؤمن يكون على حضور الله في حياته وإدراك هذه النعمة الدائمة مهما واجهه من ظروف خارجية أو من هموم تحجب كاليوم وجه السماء ولكنها لا تلغي وجودها!

المشكلة الأكبر ربّما هي في عدم تقرّنا بشكل كافٍ من المسيح...

فحتّى تلاميذه ورسله الذين رافقوه لم يكونوا دائماً على مقدار كافٍ من الإدراك لمن يباركهم بحضوره!

فبدل أن يكون الربّ محور حياتهم، يظهر النصّ بأنّ بعضهم كان لهم هموم خاصّة كهّم والده إبنى زبدى...

يدفعنا هذا إلى إعادة التأمل في مجرى حياتنا وفي مدى تركيزنا على حضور الله ومحبّته لنا وتواجده معنا في الكلمة (الكتاب المقدّس) والقربان (جسد ودم الربّ يسوع المسيح) والإنسان (صورة الله ومثاله)!

في هذا الأحد الأوّل من زمن الصليب، نرفع فلوبنا إلى الآب كي ينيّرنا بروحه القدّوس فنتمسّ حضوره في حياتنا بصورة أعمق!

كلمة الخادم : "من أراد أن يكون فيكم عظيماً فليكن لكم خادماً"

إخوتي وأخواتي بالمسيح،

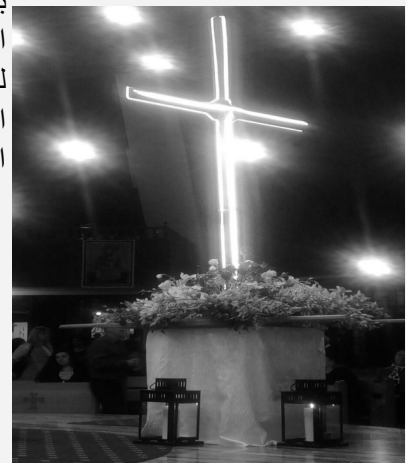
في الأحد الأوّل بعد عيد ارتفاع الصليب الممجد، نجد أنفسنا أمام تحديات يواجهها بها مقطع من الإنجيل. هذا المقطع يتناقض مع كل ما يعلمه المجتمع، ومع كل ما تعلّمناه في الجامعة عن القيادة، مقدّمًا لنا شرعةً مختلفة عن كيفية عيش حياتنا المسيحية. عندما نقرأ ما يقوله لنا يسوع نتساءل أحياناً: "هل يعرف هذا الرجل حقاً ما يقوله؟" أعني، من يأمرنا في هذه الأيام وهذا الزمن أن نكون "خدماً" أو "عبيداً"؟ ألا يشجعنا الجميع على أن نكون قادة أقوياء. لا بل أنهم يتحدثوننا دائماً لنصل إلى القمة بأي ثمن، سواء عبر المركز، الشهرة، المال، السلطة أو بظلم الآخرين مع الأسف. أما يسوع فقد جاء ليعلمنا طريقة جديدة للوصول إلى القمة. علّمنا أنه يجب أن نخدم كل إنسان بمحبة. علّمنا أنه يجب أن نتواضع لا أن نسعى للوصول إلى قمة المؤسسة التي نعمل فيها، بل إلى القمة القصوى وهي ملكوت الله.

"من أراد أن يكون فيكم عظيماً فليكن لكم خادماً"، دستور من الصعب اتباعه، لكنها كلمات قائد حقيقي. إذا تأملنا لحظة بهذه الكلمات، نستطيع أن نرى كم كان يسوع محقاً. فلنكن صريحين، من تفضلون أن يكون قائدكم؟ تفضلون شخصاً متعجرفاً، مغروراً أو أنانياً يفتخر بذاته ولا يهتم سوى المرتبة والمركز؟! أم تفضلون شخصاً متواضعاً، لطيفاً، سخيّاً، محباً يحترم رأيكم وحرّيتكم وكرامتكم؟! من جهتي، أختار الشخص الثاني، أختار شخصاً مثل يسوع، القائد الحقيقي. لننظر إلى ربنا دائماً على أنه المثال الأعلى ولنعش كلمته فعلاً ونبشر بها في كل ما نفعل ونقول.

أود أن أعبّر لكم عن مدى اشتياقي إلى كل شخص في الرعية. على رغم أن وجودي في لبنان الآن يمنحني فرصة تمضية بعض الوقت مع عائلتي، خصوصاً مع ابن أخي، الطفل الصغير، ويمنحني وقتاً للراحة، فإن متابعتي للنشاطات في الرعية عبر وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي تحرك فيّ الشعور بالحب لكاتدرائية سيدة لبنان والتعلّق بها. لقد شاهدت بفرح عظيم الزياح الاحتفالي بعيد الصليب مساء الثلاثاء الماضي. إنه لرائع حقاً أن نستمر في عيش تقاليدنا المارونية في أستراليا. شكراً للكهنة يواكيم وبيار لتنظيمهما هذا الزياح وقيادته مع سيادة المطران. هذا الأسبوع شهد أيضاً انطلاق دورة جديدة عن الكنيسة المارونية وتقاليدها من خلال اللجنة الانكليزية للتنشئة على الإيمان. أشجعكم جميعاً على المشاركة في هذه الندوات لكي تكتشفوا كنوز كنيسةكم المارونية وتفهموها.

مع البركات من لبنان،

الخوري طوني سركيس



الخبر السار من رعيّتك

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان المارونية - هاريس بارك

الأحد ١٨ أيلول ٢٠١٦

عيد الصليب

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الإنجيل

الأحد الأول بعد عيد الصليب

الرسالة

قَالَ مَرْثُسُ الْبَشِير: دَنَا مِنْ يَسُوعَ يَعْقُوبُ وَيُوحَنَّا، ابْنَا زَيْدَى، وَقَالَا لَهُ: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ تَصْنَعَ لَنَا كُلَّ مَا نَسْأَلُكَ". فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: "مَاذَا تُرِيدَانِ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكُمَا؟".
قَالَا لَهُ: "أَعْطِنَا أَنْ تَجْلِسَ فِي مَجْدِكَ، وَاحِدٌ عَنْ يَمِينِكَ، وَوَاحِدٌ عَنْ يَسَارِكَ".



قراءات الأحد القادم

الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب

١٥: ١٩ - ٣٤
٢٤: ١ - ١٤

فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: "إِنَّكُمَا لَا تَعْلَمَانِ مَا تَطْلُبَانِ: هَلْ تَسْتَطِيعَانِ أَنْ تَشْرَبَا الْكَأْسَ الَّتِي أَشْرَبُهَا أَنَا؟ أَوْ أَنْ تَتَّعَمَدَا بِالْمَعْمُودِيَّةِ الَّتِي أَتَّعَمَدُ بِهَا أَنَا؟".

قَالَا لَهُ: "تَسْتَطِيعُ". فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: "الْكَأْسُ الَّتِي أَنَا أَشْرَبُهَا سَتَشْرَبَانِهَا، وَالْمَعْمُودِيَّةُ الَّتِي أَنَا أَتَّعَمَدُ بِهَا سَتَتَّعَمَدَانِ بِهَا. أَمَّا الْجُلُوسُ عَنْ يَمِينِي أَوْ عَنْ يَسَارِي، فَلَيْسَ لِي أَنْ أَمْنَحَهُ إِلَّا لِلَّذِينَ أُعِدُّ لَهُمْ".

وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْعَشْرَةُ الْآخَرُونَ، بَدَأُوا يَغْتَاطُونَ مِنْ يَعْقُوبَ وَيُوحَنَّا. فَدَعَاهُمُ يَسُوعُ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ الَّذِينَ يُعْتَبَرُونَ رُؤَسَاءَ الْأُمَمِ يَسُودُونَهُمْ، وَعُظَمَاءَ هُمْ يَتَسَلَّطُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ. أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَلَيْسَ الْأَمْرُ بَيْنَكُمْ هكَذَا، بَلْ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيكُمْ عَظِيمًا، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمْ خَادِمًا. وَمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْأَوَّلَ بَيْنَكُمْ، فَلْيَكُنْ عَبْدًا لِلْجَمِيعِ؛ لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ أَيْضًا لَمْ يَأْتِ لِيُخْدَمَ، بَلْ لِيُخْدَمَ، وَيَبْدُلَ نَفْسَهُ فِدَاءً عَنْ كَثِيرِينَ".

مر ١٠: ٣٥-٤٥

لعدم السماح

للانقسامات

بالقضاء

على

الكنيسة

لبابا فرنسيس

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنْتَ يَا ابْنِي، تَشَدَّدْ بِالنُّعْمَةِ الَّتِي فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. وَمَا سَمِعْتَهُ مِنِّي بِحُضُورِ شُهُودٍ كَثِيرِينَ، اسْتَوْدِعْهُ أَنْاسًا أَمْنَاءً، جَدِيرِينَ هُمْ أَيْضًا بِأَنْ يُعَلِّمُوا غَيْرَهُمْ. شَارِكْنِي فِي احْتِمَالِ الْمَشَقَّاتِ كَجُنْدِيٍّ صَالِحٍ لِلْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. وَمَا مِنْ جُنْدِيٍّ يَنْهَمِكُ فِي الْأُمُورِ الْمَعِيشِيَّةِ، إِذَا أَرَادَ أَنْ يُرْضِيَ مَنْ جَنْدُهُ. وَمَنْ يُصَارِعُ لَا يَنَالُ إِكْلِيلًا إِلَّا إِذَا صَارَعَ بِحَسَبِ الْأَصُولِ. وَالْحَارِثُ الَّذِي يَتْعَبُ لَهُ الْحَقُّ بِالنَّصِيبِ الْأَوَّلِ مِنَ الثَّمَرِ. نَأْمَلُ فِي مَا أَقُولُ: وَالرَّبُّ سَيُعْطِيكَ فَهْمًا فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ! تَذَكَّرْ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ الَّذِي قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَهُوَ مِنْ نَسْلِ دَاوُدَ، بِحَسَبِ إِنْجِيلِي.

٢ طيم ٢: ١-١٠

صلاة

أيها الإبن السماوي، نرفع قلوبنا إليك كي تنيرها بالروح القدس فنميز وجهك في الإنسان المقهور والمظلوم ونمدّ إليه يدنا مجسدين بذلك محبة ورحمة الآب للعالم، فيتمجد بأعمالنا أسمى القدوس، من الآن وإلى الأبد،

آمين!

قداسات يوم الأحد

كاتدرائية سيدة لبنان - هاريس بارك ٨:٠٠ (عربي) ٩:٣٠ (إنكليزي) ١١:٠٠ (عربي) ٥:٠٠ (عربي) ٧:٠٠ (إنكليزي) (إنكليزي) مركز قداس ٦:٠٠ ب.ظ. في كنيسة سانت باتريك، غيلفورد (عربي) (إنكليزي)

قداسات الأسبوع

الاثنين - الجمعة ٧:٠٠، ٨:٤٥ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً، الأربعاء ٧:٠٠، ٨:٤٥ صباحاً و ٥:٣٠، ٧:٠٠ مساءً (إنكليزي) السبت ٧:٣٠ صباحاً و ٦:٠٠ مساءً

الإعترافات

مؤمّنة قبل وخلال قداس السبت الساعة ٦:٠٠ مساءً وقداسات الأحد أو بتحديد موعد خلال أيام الأسبوع

ساعات السجود

ساعة سجود: كل يوم خميس ٨:٠٠ - ٩:٠٠ مساءً ٢٤ ساعة سجود أمام القربان: كل أول جمعة من الشهر من ٩:٣٠ صباحاً لغاية السبت ٧:٣٠ صباحاً