



St Raymond's Parish

One Family in Love and Joy



Issue 385

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

20 March 2022

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:

Sunday of the Paralytic

1Tim 5:24-6:5 / Mk 2:1-12

ADORATION



*Spend one hour
with Jesus.*

**Every Thursday
at 7:00pm after
our 6:00pm
Mass.**

FRIDAYS OF LENT



**5:30pm: Mass
6:30pm: Sta-
tions, Evening
Prayer & Ziah
of the Cross
Arb/Eng**

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

"Am I Content?" Fr Sam Wehbe

In the parable of the prodigal son, the two sons had a similar problem: The younger son was not satisfied with his life and discontent with his father, brother and himself. All his thoughts were about money and property. So he asked for his share and moved away to live in sin. After he lost everything, his eyes were opened and he wished to be where he originally was with his family: Content, loved and happy. The older son was also not satisfied with his life and was discontent. His mind was focused on material things. This created hatred in his heart for his brother. He therefore rejected his father and brother and refused to forgive and be united with the family. The father was the image of God, the loving and giving creator, content with His creation, waiting, forgiving, being humble and meek. The parable teaches us that discontentment and focus on material things are the causes of sin, hatred, pride and rejection. However, contentment and the focus on God and on what He wants are the causes of joy, love, peace, humility and sanctity.

Lord, grant us the contentment and the focus to listen to You and live according to Your Will. Amen

Let us pray for our sick: Linda, Roger, Rose Therese, Joe, Michael, John, Eva, Ray, Tony, Arthur, Rochelle, Simon, Hanna, Milad, Antoinette & all the sick.

Address: ST RAYMOND & ST JOSEPH THE WORKER MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 37 – 39 Wellington Road Auburn South NSW 2144

Parish Office: 41 Wellington Road Auburn South NSW 2144 | Ph 9643 0345 | M +61 417 171 737 | ABN:53 697 102 280


St Joseph – 19 March



Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from scripture. Joseph was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). Joseph was a faithful, compassionate and caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his. He planned to divorce Mary quietly and not expose her to shame or cruelty (Matthew 1:19-25). Joseph treated Jesus as his own son, for the people of Nazareth repeatedly said of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22). Joseph is the patron saint of the dying and of the universal Church, fathers, carpenters, and social justice. We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker. **May his prayers be with us.**

ماريوسف – ١٩ آذار

يوسف أعظم القديسين شرفاً، لأن الله الأب قد أقامه أباً ومُربياً لابنه الوحيد الكلمة المتجسد، واتَّخذه الله الإبن أباً له بالجسد، واصطفاه الله الروح القدس خطيباً لِعَروسه مريم العذراء الكُلية القداسة. وقد صرَّح الانجيلي بذلك بقوله: "وكان يوسف رجلها صديقاً" (متى 1: 19). ويسوع المتواضع والفقير، إختار رجلاً فقيراً مسكيناً لأن يكون مُربيّه والحارس له، فيإيمان يوسف الراسخ، وثقته العظيمة بالله كانا له عوناً في المصاعب. وأوّل ما اصطدم به أن العذراء خطيبته هي حبل، فاحتار في أمره، ولكنّ شهادته منته من أن يشهرها فهم بتخليتها سراً. وفيما هو مفكر في ذلك ظهر له ملاك وكشف له عن الحقيقة. ومنذ تلك الساعة جعل يوسف حياته وفقاً على خدمة العذراء وابنها يسوع. وكان يوسف يواصل رسالته وعنايته بيسوع ومريم بإيمان حي ومحبة وحنان وكد وصمت فاستحق يوسف أن يموت بين يدي يسوع ومريم. وكان بذلك شفيع ألميته الصالحة. كما أقامته الكنيسة شفيع العيلة المسيحية وشفيع العمال الكادحين. صلاته معنا. آمين.



ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

IN PREPARATION OF THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MARONITE EPARCHY
(1973 - 2023)

WE ARE CALLING UPON ALL OUR PARISHIONERS
WHO HAVE ANY

HISTORICAL INFORMATION & IMAGES

KINDLY FORWARD TO YOUR PARISH OFFICE
OR CONTACT THE
MARONITE CHANCERY ON 02 8831 0000

Bishop's Corner – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is an opportunity every year to go back to ourselves and to God, to rediscover His great mercy, His immense forgiveness, and His amazing love. The Parable of the Prodigal Son, which is the core of our reflection on this fourth Sunday of Lent presents to us a wonderful and meaningful story about our relationship with God. In this parable, Our Lord wanted to put into pictures a truth, deeper than any lecture, and a narrative deeper than any homily or reflection. In this parable, the younger son first shows that he believes only in himself and material things. He wants to leave his father's house thinking he will be free to do whatever he wants. But he soon finds that material things do not last, and the pleasures which come from them are soon forgotten. The flesh has an appetite which is never satisfied. When all his money is gone and his friends have deserted him, the question was where is the hope, where is this freedom? His only hope now is in his father's goodness. The father has compassion on his son. He had been standing at his front door, looking long and hard for a sign of the return of his son. The father who is the very source of hope for his children had himself hope that the one who had been lost, would return to him and he was waiting for that moment. In fact, although the father is the perfect apostle of hope simply by him being what he is and being in his own house, the younger son also becomes an apostle of hope by the loving act of returning in a spirit of penance. There is another very important lesson for us in this parable, and a powerful incentive to acknowledge our sins, to go to confession, and to do penance for them. Through God's mercy, the one who has sinned but now repents, is treated as if he had never sinned, as if he never done wrong. He is fully restored to his rights and to his honours. There is an Eastern saying that for two things alone there is no limit: the stupidity of man and the mercy of God. There is some truth in that. Our hope is that we realise in our life how blessed we are by having the opportunity to be believers in Jesus Christ and living in the father's house. We are invited to learn that leaving the father's house is a sign of death and coming back is a sign of life. And then, by our very act of returning to the father's house, we become apostles of hope for ourselves and for others.

Consecration of Russia and Ukraine

The Vatican has announced that His Holiness Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday 25 March, Feast of the Annunciation, in St Peter's Basilica. The same act, on the same day, will be performed in Fatima by Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner.

Our Maronite Church in Australia will participate in the consecration in our Churches raising our prayers to God our Father, so that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, he will grant us the gift of peace. Let us strive to be apostles of hope this week!

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Services of the week

Monday 21 March & Tuesday 22 March: 5:30pm Rosary + 6:00 Mass

Wednesday 23 March - **Feast of St Rafka**: 5:30pm Rosary + 6:00 Mass

Thursday 24 March: 5:30pm Rosary, 6pm Mass & 7pm adoration

Friday 25 March - **Feast of the Annunciation**: 5:30pm Mass, 6:30pm Stations, Evening Prayer & Zieh of the Cross Arb/Eng

Saturday 26 March - **Feast of Gabriel The Archangel**: 5:30pm Rosary, 6:00pm one year Mass Sobhie DAHER wife of late Georg e NASSIF from Hadchit

Sunday 27 March - **Sunday of the Paralytic**:

8:00am Arabic Mass

10:00am Eng/ Arb Mass

Confessions: will be held Half an hour before and during Masses.

خدمات الأسبوع

الإثنين ٢١ آذار والثلاثاء ٢٢ آذار: ٥:٣٠ مساءً مسبحة و ٦:٠٠ قداس

الأربعاء ٢٣ آذار - **عيد القديسة رافكا**: ٥:٣٠ مساءً مسبحة و ٦:٠٠ قداس

الخميس ٢٤ آذار: ٥:٣٠ مساءً المسبحة، ٦ قداس و ٧ ساعة سجود

الجمعة ٢٥ آذار - **عيد البشارة**: ٥:٣٠ مساءً قداس، ٦:٣٠ مساءً مراحل درب الصليب، صلاة المساء وزيارح الصليب باللغة العربية واللغة الإنكليزية

السبت ٢٦ آذار عيد رئيس الملائكة: ٥:٣٠ مساءً المسبحة و ٦:٠٠ قداس السنة

للمرحومة صبيحة ضاهر زوجة المرحوم جورج ناصيف من حدشيت

الأحد ٢٧ آذار - أحد المخلف:

٨:٠٠ صباحاً: قداس باللغة العربية

١٠:٠٠ صباحاً: قداس باللغة الإنكليزية والعربية

الإعترافات: نصف ساعة قبل وخلال القداسات



Last week's
collections



\$3,896.75

PARISH FINANCIALS

Amount Owing to the Bank \$11,300.56

Anyone wishing to donate, please find bank details below:

Bank of Sydney: **St Raymond's Parish**

BSB: 942 206 A/C: 1109719

ST RAYMOND'S PARISH FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

SATURDAY 14th May 2022



Cleaning the House of God

Interested in helping to keep the House of God clean? **Please contact the office**



With Your Support, We Will Build Our New Parish

KEEP UP TO DATE:

Email: admin@straymondparish.org.au



@saintraymonds



Saint Raymond's Maronite Parish Sydney



st.raymonds

For **Final Rites** at home or in hospital please call **Fr Sam on 0417171737**



Taking the payment responsibility of:

1. Teaching Choir & PowerPoint **Done - Thank you & God bless you**
2. The Mobile Phone Bill **Done - Thank you to Raymond & Georgette Daher**
3. Caltex Fuel Card (\$50 p/w)
4. E-Tag
5. Church Weekly Flowers - \$75 per week
6. Second Parish Office Rent for Pastoral Work - (\$480 per week)
7. Large garbage bin (\$40 per week)
8. Utilities (Gas, Electricity & Water) \$75 per week
9. Parish Priest Accommodation (\$125 per week)
10. Office Phone Bill + Internet (\$100 per week)
11. Technical Network Maintenance . **Done - Thank you & God bless you**
12. Photocopier (\$100 per week)
13. Electricity Bills (\$600 per month)
14. Diocesan Levy (\$750 per week)
15. Cutting Grass (\$160 per month)

For Maronite Care services, or any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us directly at Maronite Care Office: 1300 627 227 (1300 MAR CAR)



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May God Bless you always.

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رعيّة مار رومانوس

عائلة واحدة بمحبة وفرح



٢٠ آذار ٢٠٢٢

أحد الإبن الضال

عدد ٣٨٥

الرسالة

إِخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ زَائِسُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. إِمْتَحِنُوا 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 لِنَنْظُرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَتَكُونُ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلٌ، إِنَّنَا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضَعْفَاءُ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْتُبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أَعَامِلَكُمْ بِقِسَاوَةٍ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِئِنِّيَا نَكُنْ لَا لِيَهْدِمَكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، إِفْرَحُوا، وَاسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيٍ وَاحِدٍ، وَعِشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَاللَّهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقُبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقِدِّيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشِرْكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!.

٢ قور ١٣: ٥ - ١٣



الأحد القادم:

أحد المخلع

اطيم ٥: ٢٤-٥: ٦ / مر ١: ١٢-١

ساعة سجود



تعالوا
نسجد
للقرابين
ونتمتع
بحضور
يسوع معنا
كل يوم
خميس
الساعة
٧:٠٠ مساءً
بعد قداس
الساعة
٦:٠٠

“هل أنا راضي؟” - الخوري سام وهبه

كان هناك مشكلتين كبيرتين في حياة الإبنين في مثل الإبن الشاطر وهما عدم القناعة والتركيز على الأمور المادية.

فالإبن الأصغر لم يكن راضيًا بعيشته، وغير مقتنع بأبيه وأخيه وحالته، وكان تفكيره فقط بالمال وبخصته وحرته، لذلك طلب حصته وابتعد عن بيته وعائلته وحياته الأساسية، ليعيش في الخطيئة. وبعدما خسر كل شيء، انفتحت عيناه وتمنى أن يكون حيثما كان أولاً مع عائلته بقناعة ومحبة وفرح.

والإبن الأكبر، لم يكن راضيًا ومقتنعًا، وكان تفكيره بالماديات أيضًا وببطلته. وهذا سبب له الحقد والغضب في قلبه على أخيه وأبيه، ورفض المسامحة والدخول في حياة العائلة.

أما الأب فهو صورة الله، المحب، المعطي، المنتفع بخليقته، والمنتظر، والغفور، والمتواضع والوديع.

يقول لنا مثل الإبن الشاطر أن عدم القناعة والتركيز على الماديات هما سبب للخطيئة والحقد والكبرياء، بينما القناعة والتركيز على ما يريد الله منا وتنميت مسؤوليتنا بمحبة، هما سبب فرح وسلام ومسامحة وقداسة على مثال الأب.

فيا رب، إمنحنا نعمة القناعة والإصغاء لك والعمل بإرادتك. آمين.

كل يوم جمعة في زمن الصوم

الساعة ٣: ٥ مساءً قداس ٦: ٣٠
مساءً مراحل درب الصليب، صلاة
المساء وزياح الصليب باللغة العربية
وباللغة الإنكليزية.



الإنجيل

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: "كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حَصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرَوَتُهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْابْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حَصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهَنَّاكَ بَدَدَ مَالِهِ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّلَشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُجِسُّ بِالْعُوزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجَأً إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حَقُولِهِ لِيَرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخُرُوبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَرَجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يَفْضُلُ الْخُبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَاهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَأَلْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا. فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحُلَّةَ الْفَاحِشَةَ وَالْبِسُوهُ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَتُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَادْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لَأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَاقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقَصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعُلَمَاءِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخْدُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السَّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالَفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرَوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوْائِي، 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 مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ."

لوقا ١٥: ١١ - ٣٢