



St Raymond's Parish

One Family in Love and Joy



Issue 429

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

22 January 2023

THE GOSPEL

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:1-16



Next Sunday:

Sunday of the Priests

Mal 2:1, 5-9 / Tim 4:6-16 / Lk 12:42-48

THE EPISTLE

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Gal 3:23-29

**NO
ADORATION
on Thursday 26 January
@ 7:00pm**



**ST RAYMOND'S
PARISH FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION**



SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023

**Enrolment & Classes
February 2023**

**For Registrations contact
the office on 9643 0345**

Saint Raymond's Parish First Holy Communion

Parent Information Night 2023

Friday 3rd February @ 7pm

Join us at Saint Raymond's Parish to enrol your children as they enter into a fruitful journey of learning about the Blessed Sacrament.



NO MASSES & NO ADORATION

Due to the Annual Clergy Retreat, there will be:

NO MASSES & NO ADORATION from Monday 23 to Friday 27 January in our Parish & most Parishes. At Our Lady of Lebanon, Harris Park there will be Masses at 9am & 6pm celebrated by a visiting priest from Lebanon.

خلال راحة الكهنة من الإثنين 23 حتى الجمعة 27 كانون الثاني، لا قداسات ولا ساعة سجود في رعيّتنا وفي أغلب الرعايا. في سيدة لبنان هاريس بارك سيكون هناك قداسين الساعة 9 صباحاً و6 مساءً.

"Be Born Again?" - Fr Sam Wehbe

Jesus told Nicodemus, who came to Him by night, that no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again from water and Spirit:

Water: is a symbol of death and life. For this reason, those who are being baptised take off their old garments, are immersed in the water and die with Christ. Thus, they die to their old self, the self of the original sin and being distant from God. When they re-emerge from the water they wear their white garments; that is, they wear Jesus Christ who is the light, purity and the Resurrection. St Paul tells us in today's letter to the Galatians: "You who are baptized in Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

Spirit: We acquire the spirit through the sacrament of confirmation. This is the Holy Spirit who confirms us in our Christian journey to live a holy life according to God's commandments. I, who have been baptised in Jesus through water and spirit, need to be born again each day so that I can take off the garment of sin and wear the garment of virtue to achieve salvation in the kingdom of God.

Jesus, save us, who have been baptised in You, through Your glorious garment. Amen

Let us pray for our sick: Linda, Roger, 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 | ABN:53 697 102 280

Our St Francis de Sales - 24 January

Francis was born in 1566 of noble and pious parents near Annecy and studied at Paris and Padua. On his return from Italy he gave up the grand career which his father had marked out for him as a diplomat and became a priest. When the Duke of Savoy had resolved to restore the Church in the Chablais, Francis offered himself for the work, and set out on foot with his Bible and breviary and one companion, his cousin Louis De Sales. It was a work of toil, privation, and danger. Every door and every heart was closed against him. He was insulted and threatened with death. But nothing could daunt him and, before long, the Church burst into a second spring. It is stated that he converted 72,000 Protestants. He was then compelled by the Pope to become Coadjutor Bishop of Geneva, and succeeded to the See in 1602. At times the exceeding gentleness with which he received heretics and sinners almost scandalized his friends, and one of them said to him, "Francis of Sales will go to Paradise, of course; but I am not so sure of the Bishop of Geneva: I am almost afraid his gentleness will play him a shrewd turn." "Ah," said the Saint, "I would rather account to God for too great gentleness than for too great severity. Is not God all love? God the Father is the Father of mercy; God the Son is a Lamb; God the Holy Spirit is a Dove - that is, gentleness itself." Though poor, he refused provisions and dignities, and even the great See of Paris. He died at Avignon in 1622. One of his famous sayings for a practical spiritual life is: "I don't ask, I don't desire and I don't refuse." May his prayers be with us.



مار فرانسوا دي سال - ٢٤ كانون الثاني

وُلد في مقاطعة "سافويا" (في فرنسا) عام ١٥٦٦. دَرَس لدى اليسوعيين في باريس، ثم ذهب إلى بادوفا، إيطاليا، حيث نال الدكتوراه في الحقوق المدنية والكنسية. رُسم كاهنًا في كانون الأول ١٥٩٣، وعُيِّن رئيس مجمع جنيف وكُرس نفسه لتبشير البروتستانت. إنجذب منذ سنواته الأولى بشدة إلى أمور الله، وكانت مختلف أحداث حياته علامات على أنَّ دعوته إلى الحياة الكهنوتية هي دعوة إلهية مباشرة. تقدَّم عقيدته تعليمًا روحيًا بطريقة مميزة، وتدعم حركة انتقال الروحانية المسيحية من الإطار الديري الذي تكوَّنت فيه طوال قرونٍ عديدة. وكتاب "مدخل إلى الحياة التقوية" صدرَ أولًا في العام ١٦٠٩، والطبعة الأخيرة التي أشرف هو نفسه عليها صدرت في العام ١٦١٩. كانت أهم مساهمات القديس فرنسوا دي سال في اللاهوت الروحي هي "توحيد كل الأخلاق المسيحية والقداسة في رباط المحبة". وهذه العقيدة علَّمتها بوضوح القديس توما الأكويني ولاهوتيون آخرون من العصر الوسيط، وكان من الضروري، في زمن القديس فرنسيس، الإلحاح مَرَّة أخرى على أنَّ الكمال المسيحي ليس في أي تمرين خاص أو ممارسة خاصة، بل في محبة الله والقريب. توفِّي في عام ١٦٢٢. ومن أقواله لحياة روحية عملية هذا المبدأ: "لا أطلب، لا أشتهي ولا أرفض". فلتكن صلاته معنا.

Bishop's Message

Are we open to the Spirit of Truth or the evil of gossip?

Brothers and Sisters,

The passage from the Gospel this Sunday (John 3:1-21) is a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council. He comes to Jesus at night to reveal his faith in him and to ask him few questions about his mission.

This passage is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. It is through the Spirit that we are – like Nicodemus – born anew, and it is through the Spirit that we are able to enter the kingdom of God.

In this Season of the Epiphany, we are encouraged to have an open heart and mind to receive the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth and allow Him to work in our hearts and lives. This is a source of great inspiration and we must all strive to be promoters of truth, and promoters of the Word of God, our Gospel, and its values.

There is no greater betrayal of truth than the evil of gossip; spreading rumours, propagating information from unreliable sources and subsequently drawing conclusions from these. Evil gossip tears down the body of Christ because it is rooted in pride and in sin, it is also often driven by a need to defame others.

We read in James 3:9 about the tongue, "With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men and women, who have been made in the likeness of God."

This sentence convicts all of us.

We are called as believers to promote truth and justice rather than gossip and lies. Everyone is owed the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. Even then, before we rush to judgement we must remember the impact our words can make. They have the power to build up or destroy people, relationships and even whole communities.

We are called to speak the truth with love. When we hear bad news or rumours, we should instead find refuge in prayers and surrender to God's will.

We are also called to become witness to the truth as it is our duty to be witness to the salvation in Jesus-Christ to others. This is what it means to be born anew from the spirit who "opens our eyes, our ears and our hearts through the Father's gift of faith" (Ephesians 3:8-9).

Dear friends, I invite anyone who has an issue or concern regarding their parish to get in touch with their priest. This is the right way to clarify things and to build and encourage each other up.

Importantly, if you have a load you are bearing alone, please also reach out to your parish priest. You are not alone and your priest will help connect you with the support you need, and guide you towards the right outcome.

By the same token I ask you to pray with me and for me, asking for God's grace so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world of today, and seek only the path that will lead us and others to be born from above by the Spirit of the living God.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Services of the week

From Monday 23 January to Friday 27 January NO MASSES and NO ADORATION

Saturday 28 January: 6:00pm 40 day Mass Zakia Youssef Lichaa widow of the Late Mtanios Faraj Nohra from Fradis living in Kfersghab

Sunday 29 January- Sunday of the Priests:

8:00am Arabic Mass

10:00am Eng / Arb Mass

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

خدمات الأسبوع

من الإثنين ٢٣ كانون الثاني إلى الجمعة ٢٧ كانون الثاني لا قداسات ولا ساعة سجود بسبب رياضة الكهنة السنوية

السبت ٢٨ كانون الثاني: ٦:٠٠ مساءً، أربعون المرحومة زكية يوسف ليشع أرملة المرحوم مطانيوس فرج نهر من الفراديس سكان كفر صغاب

الأحد ٢٩ كانون الثاني - أحد الكهنة:

٨:٠٠ صباحاً: قداس و ١٠:٠٠ صباحاً: قداس

الإعترافات: نصف ساعة قبل وخلال القداسات

**Last week's
Collections
\$3,740.15**



PARISH FINANCIALS
Amount Owing to the Bank \$11,300.56
Anyone wishing to donate, please find bank details below:
Commonwealth Bank: St Raymond's Maronite Catholic Parish
BSB: 067 950 Account No: 03457

Parish contacts

Parish office on 96430345

Fr Sam 0417 171 737

Fr Michael 0401 369 892

Deacon Joseph 0413 245 501

With Your Support, We Will Build Our New Parish

KEEP UP TO DATE:

Email: admin@straymondparish.org.au



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Saint Raymond's Maronite Parish Sydney



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



Taking the payment responsibility of:

1. Teaching Choir & PowerPoint - Thank you & God bless you
2. Mobile Phone Bill - Thank you & God bless you Raymond & Georgette Daher
3. Caltex Fuel Card - Thank you & God bless you Joe & Dianne Bechara & Family
4. E-Tag
5. Church Weekly Flowers - \$50 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) Done - Thank you & God bless you
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 Done - Thank you & God bless you

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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**Thank you all for
your support and
generosity.**
**May God Bless you
always.**



**Please contact the office
if you would like to advertise
your business in St Raymond's Newsletter**



رعيّة مار رومانوس

عائلة واحدة بمحبة وفرح



٢٢ كانون الثاني ٢٠٢٣

الأحد الثالث بعد عيد الدّنج

عدد ٢٩٤

الرسالة

قَبْلَ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ الْإِيمَانُ، كُنَّا مُحْتَجِزِينَ مَحْبُوسِينَ تَحْتَ الشَّرِيعَةِ، إِلَى أَنْ يُعْلَنَ الْإِيمَانُ الْمُنتَظَرُ. إِذَا فَالْشَّرِيعَةُ كَانَتْ لَنَا مُؤَدِّبًا يَقُودُنَا إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ، لِكَيْ نُبَرَّرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ. فَلَمَّا أَتَى الْإِيمَانُ، لَمْ نَعُدْ تَحْتَ مُؤَدِّبٍ. لَأَنَّكُمْ جَمِيعًا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ بِالْإِيمَانِ، فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. فَانْتُمْ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ اعْتَمَدْتُمْ فِي الْمَسِيحِ قَدْ لَبِسْتُمْ الْمَسِيحَ. فَلَا يَهُودِيٌّ بَعْدُ وَلَا يُونَانِيٌّ، لَا عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، لَا ذَكَرٌ وَلَا أُنْثَى، فَإِنَّكُمْ جَمِيعًا وَاحِدٌ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. فَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، فَانْتُمْ إِذَا نَسَلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، وَوَارِثُونَ بِحَسَبِ الْوَعْدِ.

غل ٣: ٢٣ - ٢٩



الأحد القادم:

أحد الكهنة

ملاخي ١: ٢، ٥-٩ / طيم ٤: ٦-١٦ / لو ١٢: ٤٢-٤٨

لا ساعة سجود يوم
الخميس ٢٦ كانون الثاني
الساعة ٧:٠٠
مساءً بسبب
رياضة الكهنة
السنوية



الإنجيل

كَانَ إِنْسَانٌ مِنَ الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ اسْمُهُ نِيقُودِيمُوسُ، رَئِيسٌ لِلْيَهُودِ. هَذَا جَاءَ لَيْلًا إِلَى يَسُوعَ وَقَالَ لَهُ: "رَأَيْتِي، نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ جِئْتَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مُعَلِّمًا، لِأَنَّهُ لَا أَحَدَ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَصْنَعَ الْآيَاتِ الَّتِي أَنْتَ تَصْنَعُهَا مَا لَمْ يَكُنِ اللَّهُ مَعَهُ". أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: "الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكَ: لَا أَحَدَ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَرَى مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُولَدْ مِنْ جَدِيدٍ". قَالَ لَهُ نِيقُودِيمُوسُ: "كَيْفَ يَقْدِرُ إِنْسَانٌ أَنْ يُولَدْ وَهُوَ كَبِيرٌ فِي السِّنِّ؟ هَلْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ ثَانِيَةً حَشًا أُمِّهِ، وَيُولَدْ؟". أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ: "الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكَ، لَا أَحَدَ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُولَدْ مِنَ الْمَاءِ وَالرُّوحِ. مَوْلُودُ الْجَسَدِ جَسَدٌ، وَمَوْلُودُ الرُّوحِ رُوحٌ. لَا تَعْجَبْ إِنْ قُلْتُ لَكَ: عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ تُولَدُوا مِنْ جَدِيدٍ. أَلَرِيحُ تَهْبُّ حَيْثُ تَشَاءُ، وَأَنْتَ تَسْمَعُ صَوْتَهَا، لَكِنَّكَ لَا تَعْلَمُ مِنْ أَيْنَ تَأْتِي وَلَا إِلَى أَيْنَ تَمْضِي: هَكَذَا كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ مِنَ الرُّوحِ". أَجَابَ نِيقُودِيمُوسُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: "كَيْفَ يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يَصِيرَ هَذَا؟". أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: "أَنْتَ مُعَلِّمٌ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَتَجْهَلُ هَذَا؟ الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكَ: نَحْنُ نَنْطِقُ بِمَا نَعْلَمُ، وَنَشْهَدُ بِمَا رَأَيْنَا، وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَقْبَلُونَ شَهَادَتَنَا. كَلَّمْتُكُمْ فِي شُؤْنِ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا تُؤْمِنُونَ، فَكَيْفَ تُؤْمِنُونَ إِذَا كَلَّمْتُكُمْ فِي شُؤْنِ السَّمَاءِ؟ مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ صَعِدَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، إِلَّا الَّذِي نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، أَيْ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ. وَكَمَا رَفَعَ مُوسَى الْحَيَّةَ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ، كَذَلِكَ يَجِبُ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ، لِكَيْ تَكُونَ لِكُلِّ مُؤْمِنٍ بِهِ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً. هَكَذَا أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ الْعَالَمَ، حَتَّى إِنَّهُ جَادَ بِابْنِهِ الْوَحِيدِ، لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ أَيُّ مُؤْمِنٍ بِهِ، بَلْ تَكُونَ لَهُ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً.

يو ٣: ١ - ١٦

"أولّد من جديد؟؟"

الخورى سام وهبه

قال يسوع لنيقوديموس الفريسي الذي أتى إليه ليلاً بأنه لا يمكن لأحد أن يرى ملكوت الله، إلا إذا ولد من جديد، ولادة ليست جسدية، بل ولادة من الماء والروح: من الماء: فالماء رمز للموت والحياة. لذلك طالب العماد يخلع الثوب القديم ويغسل ويموت مع المسيح، يموت عن إنسانه العتيق، إنسان الخطيئة الأصلية والبعد عن الله، وعندما نخرجه من الماء يكون ولد من جديد من ماء حشا المعمودية، ويلبس الثوب الأبيض، أي يلبس يسوع المسيح الذي هو النور، والطهر، والقداسة والقيامة. ومار بولس يقول اليوم في رسالته إلى أهل غلاطية: "أنتم الذين اعتمدتم في المسيح، قد لبستم المسيح" (غل ٣: ٢٧). من الروح: فالروح ناله بسر التثبيت، هو الروح القدس الذي يشيطننا مسيرتنا المسيحية لنعيش القداسة والعمل بوصايا الله. وأنا الذي اعتمدت بالمسيح بالماء والروح، علي أن أولد من جديد كل يوم، فأخلع ثوب الخطيئة والكبرياء والحسد والغضب والبخل والشره والذنس والكسل والحقد، وألبس ثوب التواضع والحب والوداعة والطهارة والمصالحة فأنال الخلاص في الملكوت. نحن الذين اعتمدنا فيك أيها المسيح، إحفظنا بثوب ضيائك المجيد. آمين