



# St Raymond's Parish

## One Family in Love and Joy



Issue 419

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH

13 November 2022

### THE GOSPEL

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realised that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people"

Luke 1: 1-25



Next Sunday:  
**Announcement to Mary  
& Feast of St Raymond**  
Gal 3:15-22 / Lk 1:26-38

### ADORATION



*Spend one hour  
with Jesus.*  
Every Thursday at  
7:00pm after  
our 6:00pm  
Mass.

### THE EPISTLE

Brothers and sisters, For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification

Rom 4: 13-25



### Novena Prayer to St Raymond

Lord as we honour your martyr St Raymond, make us worthy to glorify and thank you, for you strengthened him in his struggle, crowned him in your glory and exalted his memory throughout the world. Since his martyrdom was pleasing to you, may his intercession be a fortress of protection for your people, repentance for sinners, healing for the sick and peace for your Church and the whole world. Now we celebrate his memory with joy saying with him:  
*"Lord Jesus, show your might, that your Holy Name may be glorified and blessed forever." Amen*

# ST RAYMOND

Thank you to all

our Sponsors, Donors, Volunteers, Parishioners and  
Guests. May God pour his heavenly blessings upon  
you and your families.



### ST RAYMOND'S PARISH FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

SATURDAY 29 April 2023 Enrolment & Classes February 2023

For Registrations contact the office on 9643 0345



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 | M +61 417 171 737 | ABN:53 697 102 280

## Bishop's Corner - Year of Hope – Announcement to Zechariah

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday, the Announcement to Zechariah, begins our journey in this Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord leading us to the wonderful feast of Christmas. The Evangelist Luke writes about this miraculous event in a distinctive way, linking it to the temple and worship, that is, to the Old Testament and the promise of God to Abraham, to multiply his descendants as the stars in the sky.

The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth is reminiscent of Abraham and Sarah's in the book of Genesis (Gn 12:21). Zechariah and Elizabeth are righteous before God and faithful to His commandments. The Evangelist describes them as irreproachable. Yet, they have no children. This was a source of great suffering for this pious couple, made worse by the misconceptions around women who could not bear children in that period of time.

The Angel of the Lord manifests himself to Zechariah, a priest of the Temple in Jerusalem as he did for Isaiah while he worshipped at the Temple (Is 6). These similarities indicate to us that the announcement of the Angel of the Lord will concern the Covenant of God and this is confirmed by the Angel's message.

An impossible birth is made possible by the action of God, the Creator and Master of life. The child is destined to be holy and to play a role in the salvation of the people of Israel. In the Bible, a miraculous birth is not just a gift for the parents, it is always intended for the future of the people. The child will therefore have a mission and is promised great destiny.

Yet, at this miraculous announcement, the faith of Zechariah, an irreproachable priest of the Temple, having knowledge of the Scriptures and of the rites, is marked by serious doubt. Zechariah was left unable to speak until the birth; for he had doubted the word of God.

Zechariah's silence is not necessarily a punishment but also proof of the action of God manifested in the silence of the father. And in fact, the people outside the temple recognised this sign in his silence: "When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realised that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary." (Lk 1:22)

If we are to contemplate the importance of silence in understanding the wonders of God then we are able to bear witness to them. God's plan for humanity from Abraham until John, the last of the prophets, is complete. God's promise to Abraham is fulfilled by the coming of John, the voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His paths.

The birth of John is not the fulfilment of the desire of his family: they wanted a young man to support them in their old age, but he was a crying voice in the wilderness. The birth of John was the fulfilment of God's plan of salvation.

Every birth plays a role in this plan. Are we aware of our place in the history of salvation and fulfilling our role to prepare the way of the Lord?

+ Antolne-Charbel Tarabay

Last weekend, Alina, Nisrine, Joseph and I travelled to Brisbane to attend the Revive and Thrive Alpha Catholic Conference. What would follow was a transformative two days; meeting Christians from around our nation, engaging with inspirational speakers, participating in intensive workshops and sharing meal times with people who like us, have a heart on fire for Christ. The Alpha Conference was a perfect example of ecumenical unity and a space to have open conversations about our faith. It was an empowering reminder to answer the call to evangelisation and reach out to all in a personal way - through connection and food! We're excited to apply what we have learnt to our ministries and equip our community in its mission to continue helping people encounter Jesus and making His last command our first priority - 'Go and make disciples' (Matthew 28:19). Please feel encouraged to approach us if you are interested in Alpha or just to say hi and have a conversation.



Isabella

## **St Raymond's Feast Week Sponsorship**

**11-20 November 2022**

Sponsor & advertise your business - GST Inclusive:

### Week & Family Day Sponsorship

Hirissi meat - Ray & Marie Raad & Family  
Mince meat - Ray & Marie Raad & Family  
Kebab meat - \$1750  
Kebab chicken - \$1000  
Halloumi Cheese - Johnny & Madeline Chamy & Family  
Hot chips - Gabriel Family  
Youth BBQ meat - \$750  
Youth BBQ chicken - \$400  
Youth Kafta - \$225  
Ice cream - Sam & Caroline Habib & Family  
Soft drink - \$700  
Juice - \$300  
Popcorn - Thank you, God bless you  
Food ingredients - \$1500  
Fairy floss - Thank you, God bless you  
Ice - Elie Meouchi & Family  
Coffee van - Thank you, God bless you  
Cutlery & Grease Papers - \$400  
Movie night - \$1000  
Youth event 1 - Thank you, God bless you  
Youth event 2 - \$300  
Youth event 3 - \$300  
Water - Thank you, God bless you  
Table rolls - Thank you, God bless you  
Flour - \$700  
Mixed Nuts - Ray & Nancy Wehbe & Family  
Gas bottles - Elie Meouchi & Family  
Sweet ingredients - \$1000  
Bread - Hanna Sassine & Family  
Fetta Cheese - Moussa Haddad & Family  
Mozzarella Cheese - Soul of Rose Therese Haddad  
Vegetables & Salads & Corn & Fruits - Thank you Charbel Ayoub & Family  
Oil & sugar - Johnny & Amanda Mardini  
Tea & Coffee - Thank you, God bless you  
Plastic containers - Anthony & Akela Moussa  
Heat beads - Simon, Savannah, Noah & Veronica Bazouni  
Security 1 - Thank you, God bless you  
Security 2 - Thank you, God bless you  
Printing - Charlie & Elmaze Bazouni & Family  
Pony Rides - Thank you, God bless you  
Kids' Zoo - Thank you, God bless you  
Children's Entertainer - Thank you, God bless you  
1st Arcade game - \$650  
2nd Arcade game - \$650  
3rd Arcade games - \$650  
Air Hockey Table 1 - \$650  
Air Hockey Table 2 - \$650  
Dance machine - Thank you, God bless you  
Church Flowers - John & Eva El-Hessen & Family  
School contribution - \$500

Thank you and may Jesus bless you and your families



## PARISH NOTICE BOARD

### Services of the week

# St Raymond's Feast Week 2022

#### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November

6pm Rosary, 6:30 Mass and Novena  
7:30pm St Raymond's Feast Dinner  
@ Renaissance Grand Ballroom  
Tickets \$100 per person  
Dress Code: Come As You Are

#### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November

5:30pm Rosary, 6:00 Mass and Novena  
7:30 English Movie Night  
"AMAZING LOVE" PG

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November

7:30am Rosary, 8:00 Mass and Novena  
9:30am Rosary, 10:00 Mass and Novena  
Pastries & Sweets after the two Masses

#### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November

6pm Rosary, 6:30 Mass and Novena  
8pm Syriac Mass Celebrated by  
Fr Loubnan TARABAY

#### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

6pm Rosary, 6:30 Mass and Novena  
Celebrated by Fr Joe-Awtel MAROON  
8pm English Rosary led by Youth

#### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

8am Bread, Pastries & Sweets  
6pm Rosary, 6:30 Mass and Novena  
8pm Youth Mercy Night

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November

8am Bread, Pastries & Sweets  
6pm Rosary, 6:30 Mass and Novena  
7:30pm Parish Adoration

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November

St Raymond's Feast Day  
(Church Open all Day)  
6pm Rosary, 6:30 Mass and Novena  
Celebrated by Fr Robert-Pio AL BAYEH  
8pm - 10pm Silent Adoration

#### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November

5:30pm Rosary, 6:00 Youth Mass and  
Novena followed by Youth Haffle

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November

7:30am Rosary, 8:00 Feast Mass and Ziyah  
9:30am Rosary, 10:00 Feast Mass and Ziyah  
celebrated by His Excellency  
Bishop Antoine-Charbel TARABAY  
HIRISSI from 9.00am to 4pm  
11.30am Family Fun Day (includes food, arcade  
games, pony rides, kids zoo, face painting and more)

### Cleaning the House of God

Interested in helping  
to keep the House of  
God clean? Every  
Thursday after Ado-  
ration



### Last week's collections

**\$3645.35**



### 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

### With Your Support, We Will Build Our New Parish

#### KEEP UP TO DATE:

Email: [admin@straymondparish.org.au](mailto: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 - 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)



## COMMUNITY ADVERTISING

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# رعيّة مار رومانوس

## عائلة واحدة بمحبة وفرح



١٣ تشرين الثاني ٢٠٢٢

أحد بشارّة زكريا

عدد ٤١٩

### الرسالة

با إحتوي، ألوعد لإبراهيم أو لنسله بأن يكون وارثاً للعالم، لم يكن بواسطة الشريعة، بل بالبر الذي ناله بالإيمان. فلو كان أهل الشريعة هم الوارثين، لأبطل الإيمان، وألغى الوعد؛ لأن الشريعة تُسبب غضب الله؛ وحيث لا شريعة، فلا تعدي للشريعة. لذلك فأهل الإيمان هم الوارثون، لكي تكون الوارثة هبة من الله. وهكذا تحقق الوعد لكل نسل إبراهيم، لا للنسل الذي هو من أهل الشريعة فحسب، بل أيضاً للنسل الذي هو من أهل الإيمان، إيمان إبراهيم، الذي هو أب لنا أجمعين؛ كما هو مكتوب: "إني جعلتك أباً لأمم كثيرة". فإبراهيم الذي آمن بالله هو أب لنا أمام الله، الذي يُحيي الأموات، ويدعو غير الموجود إلى الوجود. وقد آمن إبراهيم راجياً على غير رجاء، بأنه سيصير أباً لأمم كثيرة، كما قيل له: "هكذا يكون نسلك". ولم يضعف بإيمانه، برغم أنه رأى، وهو ابن نحو مئة سنة، أن جسده مائت، وأن حشاً سارة قد مات. وبناءً على وعد الله، ما شك ولا تردّد، بل تقوى بالإيمان، ومجدّد الله. وأيقن ملء اليقين أن الله قادر أن يُنجز ما وعد به. فلذلك حسب له إيمانه براء. ولم يُكتب من أجله وحده أنه "حسب له براء"، بل كُتب أيضاً من أجلنا، نحن الذين سيُحسب لنا براء، لأننا نؤمن بالذي أقام من بين الأموات يسوع ربنا، الذي أُسلم من أجل زلاتنا، وأقيم من أجل تبريرنا.

روم ١٣ : ٤ - ٢٥

### "ها أنت تكون صامتاً" - الخوري سام وهبه

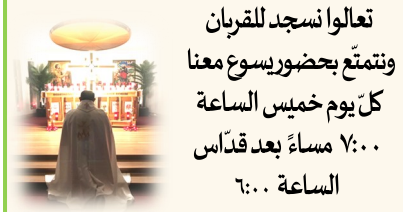
يبدأ زمن الميلاد مع زكريا الشيخ الذي كان بلا رجاء إلى أن أتته البشارة بيوحنا الذي سيعبد الطريق أمام المسيح بالرغم من عمر الإصابات زوجته وشيخوختهم. شكّ زكريا ببشارة الملاك جبرائيل، فجعله صامتاً تسعة أشهر إلى أن ولد يوحنا. فما معنى شكّ وصمت زكريا؟ شكّ زكريا ببشارة الملاك لأنه ببل أن يركّز نظره على الرجاء وقوة ومحبّة الله وكلمته، وببل أن يتذكّر كيف رزق الله إبراهيم وسارة ولدًا في شيخوختهم، نظر إلى ضعف طبيعته البشرية بأنه أصبح شيخاً وأن زوجته عاقر وأنه من المستحيل أن يغيّر واقعه العقيم، فغرق في يأسه وضعفه. أما صمته، فلم يكن قصاصاً بقدر ما كان علامة دخل مدرسة الصمت والتأمل، وكان الله يضعه في رياضة روحية، إلى أن حبلت الإصابات. ولم يستطع زكريا الكلام إلا بعد ولادة يوحنا وبعد أن اختبر حبّ وحنان الله فكتب "يوحنا" أي الله تحنّ. اكتشف أن واقعه العقيم ليس النهاية، بل يتحول فرحاً وخصباً عندما تخضع عليه حقيقة قدرة ومحبّة الله. في أحد بشارّة زكريا نبأ برحلة زمن الميلاد، زمن الاستعداد لميلاد يسوع هذه السنة أيضاً في قلوبنا وعيالنا وكنائسنا وعلمنا. فيا رب، علّمنا أن نصمت، لنعرف كيف نصغي إليك وإلى ذواتنا وإلى من حولنا. ساعدنا أن نعيش الحب والقداسة على مثال مار رومانوس. آمين



الأحد القادم: أحد بشارّة العذراء مريم  
وعيد مار رومانوس

غلا ٣ : ١٥ - ٢٢ / لو ١ : ٢٦ - ٣٨

### ساعة سجود



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

### صلاة تساعيّة مار رومانوس

أهّلنا يا رب، في تذكّر  
شهيدك رومانوس،  
أن نمجّدك ونشكّرك  
لأنك قوّيت في  
جهادِهِ، وكلّلتَهُ في  
مجدّك وعظّمت ذكرَهُ في الأقطار.  
فكما رضيت عن شهادتِهِ، فلتكن  
شفاعتُهُ حمايةً لشعبك، وتوبةً  
للخطاة، وشفاءً للمرضى، وسلاماً  
لكنيستك وللعالم أجمع. والآن،  
نحتفل بتذكّره بابتهاجٍ قائلين معه:



"أيها الرب يسوع المسيح، أظهر  
قدرتك، ليتمجّد اسمك وتبارك  
إلى الأبد". آمين

### الإنجيل

قال لوقا البشير: "بما أن كثيرين أخذوا يُرتّبون روايةً للأحداث التي تمتّ عندنا، كما سلّمها إلينا من كانوا منذ البدء شهود عيانٍ للكلمة، ثم صاروا خُدّاماً لها، رأيتُ أنا أيضاً، أيّها الشريفُ تيوڤيل، أن أكتبها لك بحسب ترتيبها، بعدما تتبّعناها كلها، منذ بدايتها، تتبّعاً دقيقاً، لكي تتيقن صحّة الكلام الذي وعظت به. كان في أيام هيرودس، ملك اليهوديّة، كاهن اسمه زكريا، من فرقة أبيّا، له امرأة من بنات هارون اسمها إيصابات. وكانا كلاهما بارّين أمام الله، سالكين في جميع وصايا الرب وأحكامه بلا لوم. وما كان لهما ولد، لأن إيصابات كانت عاقراً، وكانا كلاهما قد طعنا في أيامهما. وفيما كان زكريا يقوم بالخدمة الكهنوتيّة أمام الله، في أثناء نوبة فرجه، أصابته القرعة، بحسب عادة الكهنوت، ليُدخل مقدس هيكل الرب ويُقرّح البخور. وكان كلُّ جمهور الشعب يُصلي في الخارج، في أثناء إقرّاح البخور. وترأى ملاك الرب لزكريا واقفاً من عن يمين مذبح البخور، فاضطرب زكريا حين رآه، واستولى عليه الخوف. فقال له الملاك: "لا تخف، يا زكريا، فقد استجبت طلبك، وأمرأتك إيصابات ستلد لك ابناً، فسّمّه يوحنا. ويكون لك فرح وابتهاج، وتفرح بمولود كثيرين، لأنه سيكون عظيماً في نظر الرب، لا يشرب خمرًا ولا مسكراً، ويمتلي من الروح القدس وهو بعد في حشا أمّه. ويؤد كثيرين من بني إسرائيل إلى الرب إلههم. ويسير أمام الرب بروح إيليا وقوّته، ليؤد قلوب الآباء إلى الأبناء، والعصاة إلى حكمة الأبرار، فيهبى للرب شعباً معداً خيراً إعداداً". فقال زكريا للملاك: "بماذا أعرف هذا؟ فإني أنا شيخ، وأمرأتي قد طعنت في أيامها!". فأجاب الملاك وقال له: "أنا هو جبرائيل الواقف في حضرة الله، وقد أرسلتُ لأُكلّمك وأبشّرك بهذا. وها أنت تكون صامتاً، لا تقدر أن تتكلّم، حتّى اليوم الذي يحدث فيه ذلك، لأنك لم تؤمن بكلامي الذي سيتم في أوانه". وكان الشعب ينتظر زكريا، ويتعجب من إنطائه في مقدس الهيكل. ولما خرج زكريا، لم يكن قادراً أن يكلمهم، فأدركوا أنه رأى رؤيا في المقدس، وكان يُشير إليهم بالإشارة، وبقي أنكم. ولما تمت أيام خدمته، مضى إلى بيته. بعد تلك الأيام، حبلت امرأته إيصابات، وكنمت أمرها خمسة أشهر، وهي تقول: هكذا صنع الرب ليّ، في الأيام التي نظر ليّ فيها، ليُريل العار عني من بين الناس.

لو ١ : ١ - ٢٥