



St Raymond's Parish

One Family in Love and Joy



Issue 436

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

12 March 2023

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: Stations, 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



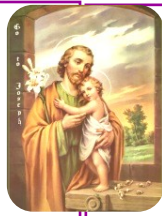
Thank You Jesus for Father Sam
and for his 14 years of love
service and dedication to our parish
May God bless Father Charbel
and give him the strength to
continue the mission

Let us pray for our sick: Linda, Roger, Joe, Michael, John, Eva, Ray, Pierre, 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 +61 491 235 629 | 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 لإبنه الوحيد الكلمة المتجسد، واتَّخذه الله الإبن أباً له بالجد، واصطفاه الله الروح القدس خطيباً لعروسته مريم العذراء الكلية 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 إصطلم به أن العذراء خطيبته هي حبلى، فاحتار في أمره، ولكن شهادته منعتُه 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 وإبنها 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 الثمّل الكادحين. صلاته معنا. آمين.

**ST RAYMOND'S
PARISH FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION
SATURDAY
29 APRIL 2023**

ST RAYMOND'S MARONITE CATHOLIC PARISH

Alpha

Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs.



**Tuesday nights at 7pm starting 28th
February 2023**

All Ages (18+) | Registration Essential
<https://www.straymondparish.org.au/our-ministries> OR via QR



Bishop's Corner – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday, the Maronite Church reads and reflects on the parable of the Prodigal Son. After hearing this parable told by Jesus, we can be confident of the infinite patience and love of God.

The infinite love of God for humanity manifests itself in His patience, His forgiveness and His joy at the return of every sinner. God, the Father, desires and waits patiently to save and forgive each one of us. No sinner is irretrievably lost and doomed. Patience, forgiveness and joy are three fundamental characteristics of divine love. These are also the characteristics of true love.

The parable tells the story of two sons and, through them, allows us to learn to live contrition and understanding. The youngest son, called prodigal because he squandered the paternal fortune, embodies the human error of taking for happiness the satisfaction of his desires, without constraints. After spending all his money, he regrets turning away from the love that his father poured on him for years. This regret pushes him towards a humble conversion: "he returned to himself".

In this time of Lent, we find ourselves in this son who needs conversion and forgiveness. We constantly need to return to the house of our Father. Our conversion of heart and desire to change and improve our lives manifests itself in works of sacrifice and self-giving.

Jesus also invites us to have the understanding and mercy of the father in the parable. By often being the prodigal sons and daughters ourselves, we are the recipient of God's divine mercy. We then must be able to be merciful to others, like the father in this parable. We will also avoid becoming like the eldest son, full of zeal for his father's business, but a bitter zeal. We would rejoice for the return of every sinner as the father rejoices.

Let us not forget that while the younger son was still far away, his father saw him and rushed towards him. Such is the infinite love of God! No sooner does the sinner repent and set out for God than God comes quickly to meet them and welcome them.

Encountering Jesus in Adoration changes the world —starting with ourselves.

I have requested that all Eucharistic Adoration next week beginning with Monday 13 March, be dedicated specifically for the conversion of those offending the loving heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether knowingly or unknowingly. I will be joining in adoration at Our Lady of Lebanon, Harris Park, on Thursday evening.

When most of us are calling for action to stand up to what we see as a downward spiral in our society, prayer and adoration form key elements of our action and response. A better home, a better organisation, a better society starts with a better and holier "us". Adoration has a big role to play and one of the most beautiful elements of spending time before the Eucharist is that what we see before us is the truest version of ourselves.

Let us deliberately and resolutely return to the house of the Father, bringing our hearts closer to His Son, believing that He awaits us all with patience and will throw a feast at the return of every sinner and every prodigal child.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Services of the week

Monday 13 March to Wednesday 15 March: 5:30pm Rosary, 6:00pm Mass

Thursday 16 March: 5:30pm Rosary, 6:00pm Mass, 7:00pm Adoration

Friday 17 March: 5:30pm Mass, 6:30pm Stations, Evening Prayer & Zieh of the Cross Arb / Eng

Saturday 18 March: 5:30pm Rosary, 6:00pm Mass

Sunday 19 March - Sunday of the Prodigal Son

8:00am Arabic Mass

10:00am Eng / Arb Mass

Confessions will be held during Sunday Masses.

خدمات الأسبوع

من الإثنين ١٣ آذار إلى الأربعاء ١٥ آذار: ٥:٣٠ مساءً المسبحة و ٦:٠٠ مساءً قدّاس

الخميس ١٦ آذار: ٥:٣٠ مساءً المسبحة ٦:٠٠ قدّاس يليه ساعة سجود

الجمعة ١٧ آذار: ٥:٣٠ مساءً قدّاس، ٦:٣٠ مساءً: مراحل درب الصليب، صلاة المساء وزيّاح الصليب باللغة العربية واللغة الإنكليزية

السبت ١٨ آذار: ٥:٣٠ مساءً المسبحة و ٦:٠٠ قدّاس

الأحد ١٩ آذار- أحد الابن الضال:

٨:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس باللغة العربية

١٠:٠٠ صباحاً: قدّاس باللغة العربية والإنكليزية

الإعترافات: نصف ساعة قبل وخلال القداسات



Last week's
collections



\$3,322.65

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 A/C: 03457

Parish contacts

Parish office on 9643 0345

Fr Charbel 0491 235 629

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



@saintraymonds



Saint Raymond's Maronite
Parish Sydney



st.raymonds

For **Final Rites** at home or in hospital please call **Fr Charbel 0491235629**



Taking the payment responsibility of:

1. Teaching Choir & PowerPoint - *Thank you & God bless*
2. Mobile Phone Bill - *Thank you & God bless Raymond & Georgette Daher*
3. Caltex Fuel Card - *Thank you & God bless 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*
10. Office Phone Bill+ Internet (\$100 per week)
11. Technical Network Maintenance *Done - Thank you & God bless*

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

RAYMOND & TONY GHALLOUB
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

IC FORM
JOHN EL-HESSEN
Director
Form Work, Steel Fixing, and Concreting
icform@live.com.au
0413 734 444

CRYSTALCARS
Don't Dream It, **DRIVE IT**
187 Hume Highway Lansvale
Corner of Longfield St 2166
Ph: 02 9755 5882
Chad Baissari | Director Ph: 0416 468 652
Tony Baissari | Director Ph: 0418 286 542
WWW.CRYSTALCARS.COM.AU

WTP PTY LTD
WEHBE TRUCKS & PARTS
02 4721 7889

Sympathy Funerals
John & Hayat Francis
Managing Directors
66-68 Railway Pde,
Granville NSW 2142
Website: www.sympathyfunerals.com.au
Tel: 02 9637 2611
Fax: 02 9637 2677
Mobile: 0410 552 030
We provide White or Black Services - 24/7 ALL AREAS

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



١٢ آذار ٢٠٢٢

أحد الإبن الضال

عدد ٤٣٦

الرسالة

إِخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ زَاسِخُونَ 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 أَيْ شَرًّا، لَا لِنَنْظُرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَتَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلٌ، إِنَّنَا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضِعْفَاءُ، 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، لِبُنْيَانِكُمْ لَا لِتَهْدِيمِكُمْ. 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 للقربان ونتمتع بحضور يسوع معنا كل يوم خميس الساعة ٧:٠٠ مساءً بعد قداس الساعة ٦:٠٠



كل يوم جمعة في زمن الصوم

الساعة ٣:٠٠ - ٥:٠٠ 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. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَأَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَثَتْ 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 أَسْتَجِيقُ بَعْدُ أَنْ أُدْعَى 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 أَسْتَجِيقُ بَعْدُ أَنْ أُدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحُلَّةَ الْفَاحِشَةَ وَالْبِسُوهُ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَتُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَادْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لِأَنَّ 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 الْعِلْمَانِ 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 أَكَلْتُ 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

