



SAINT JOSEPH'S
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

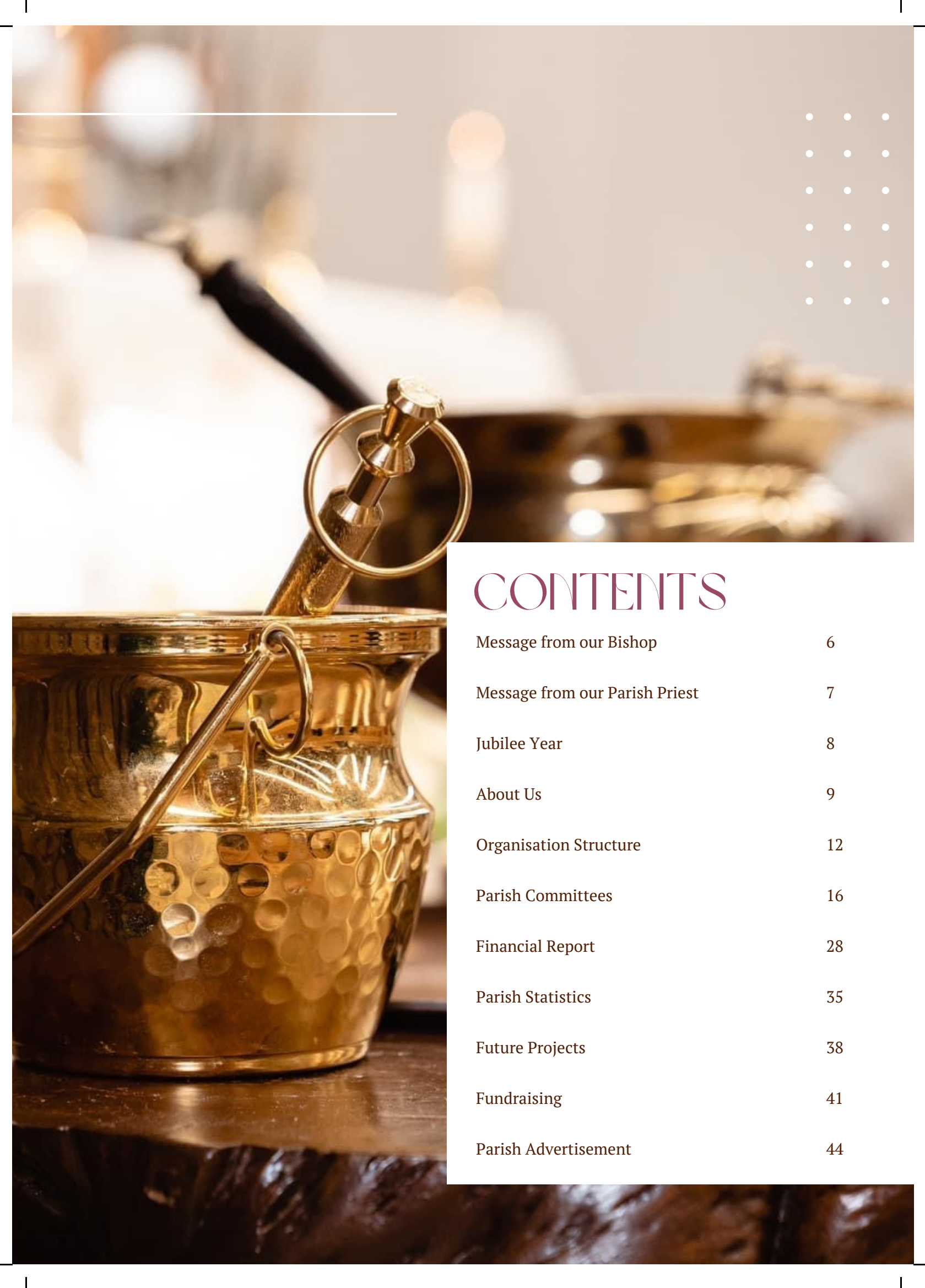
JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023



“Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.”

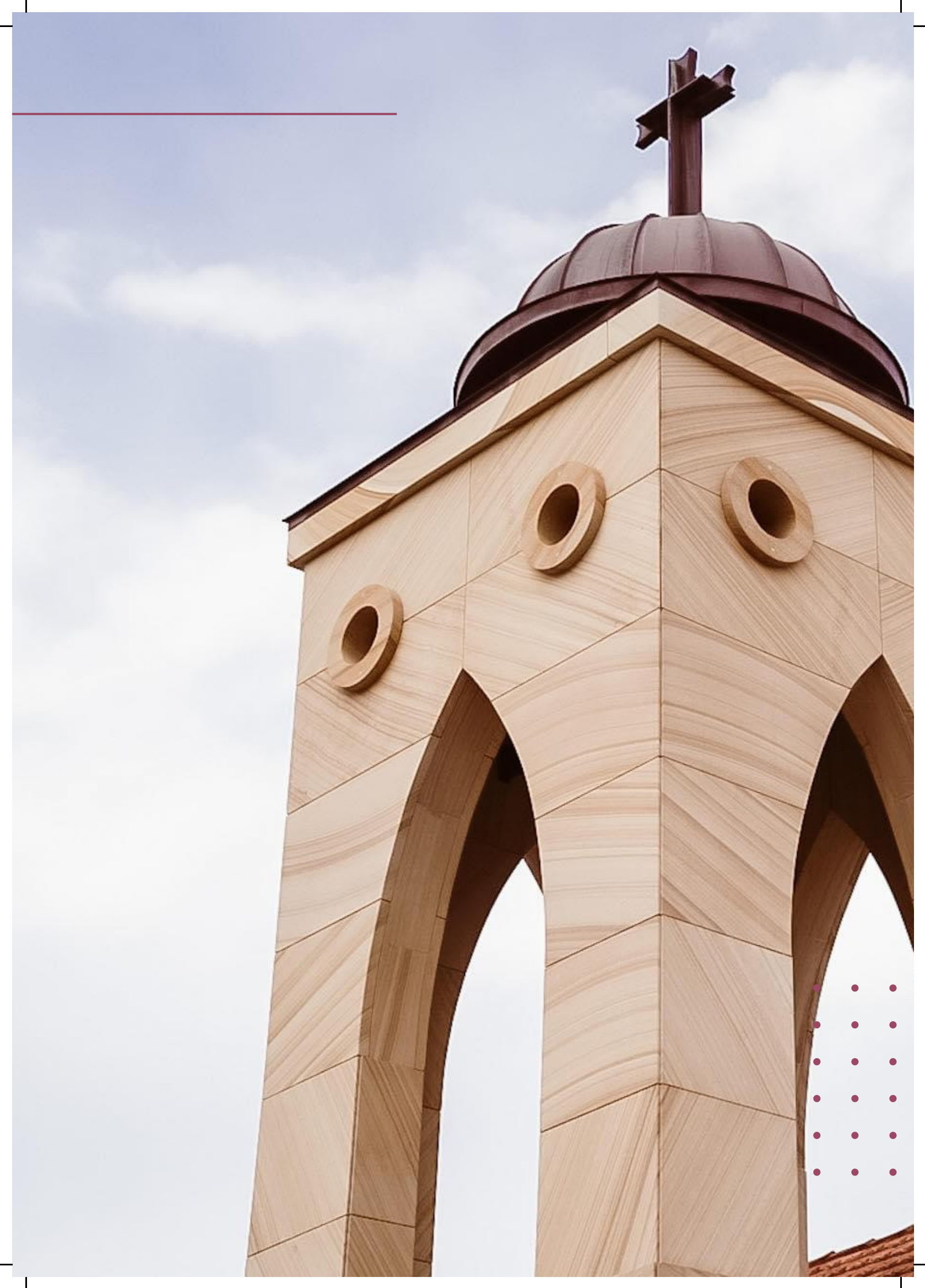
Pope Francis





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MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear Members of Saint Joseph's Parish,

With profound gratitude to the Lord, we reflect on the journey of Saint Joseph's Parish throughout the past year and are pleased to present our annual report to the community. I am also deeply appreciative of each member within the wonderful Parish of Saint Joseph. Your unwavering devotion to your Parish, whether in your roles as clergy or laity, serves as a constant source of inspiration. Throughout the year, I have been privileged to participate in numerous events within your Parish community, ranging from the joyous celebrations of your feast week to various other social and spiritual gatherings. Each of these occasions has reaffirmed the sense of unity and shared purpose that fundamentally define Saint Joseph's Parish. These gatherings have also provided us with opportunities to nurture our sense of belonging and to further strengthen our common mission.

The Parish is currently engaged in plans to expand and enhance its facilities, with the goal of establishing a comprehensive community centre. While a substantial funding commitment has been secured from the Australian Government, it is important to note that the total project cost exceeds this grant amount, with plans aimed at catering to the diverse needs of all community members. To bridge this financial gap, the Parish is actively engaged in fundraising efforts. The exceptional generosity demonstrated by our benefactors has been truly inspiring and stands as a testament to your unwavering dedication to your Parish.

In this landmark year, we also rejoice in the Golden Jubilee Year of our Maronite Eparchy of Australia in 2023, a momentous milestone that commemorates fifty years since the establishment of our Eparchy. The Maronite presence on this soil spans over 150 years, and this year provides us with an opportunity to delve into our history, honour our rich heritage, and recommit ourselves to the guiding principles and ethos that have shaped our path throughout the decades. The Golden Jubilee serves as a reminder of our shared journey, encouraging us to stand united in both spirit and purpose as we look ahead to the future.

In conclusion, I extend my most profound gratitude to every individual who forms a part of Saint Joseph's Parish. Your remarkable sense of community exemplifies the very core of a faith-centred community and Parish. May the year ahead be filled with blessings, growth, and the continued strengthening of our sense of community.

With heartfelt prayers and best wishes,
+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Like Saint Joseph was always awake, watching over Mary and Jesus and protecting them with every gaze, Saint Joseph's Parish is also awake, watching over its parishioners and visitors, and 2022-2023 has been an extremely busy year in our Parish that never goes to sleep. This report is a testimony to this Parish, which never sleeps.

Everyone has a place at Saint Joseph's and a part to play. It is a home for our children and the future generations, for our families and their families, and our seniors who started the journey when they purchased the land in 1978, and then built the current Church and facilities in 1998. Saint Joseph's is *your* home. Like you renovate your home as your family grows, as our Parish family grows, there is a great need to update the facilities at Saint Joseph's, to create new spaces for our community, and particularly for our youth to gather and live their faith. And with the same fervour and zeal with which you build your own homes, I ask you to take on the responsibility of helping us to build your second home, your Parish. Our Stewardship Committee, together with our Pastoral Council, have been working tirelessly to understand the needs of our Parish and have come up with a concept masterplan. At the heart of this is the Community and Youth Centre, which the Federal Government has pledged \$3 million towards its construction. On behalf of our community, we thank the Federal Government for seeing the importance of our vision and helping us to achieve it. Thank you also to our parishioners and benefactors who have started the journey with us. I look forward to working with you all to bring this project to fruition.

In this Golden Jubilee Year of the establishment of our Eparchy, I take this opportunity to thank Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay for his unwavering support and placing his trust in me and the team at Saint Joseph's, and to congratulate him on his 30-year anniversary for his priesthood and 10-year anniversary for his Episcopate. I thank the clergy, staff and all the committees and volunteers of this blessed Parish, who work relentlessly by my side to ensure that Saint Joseph stays awake and keeps watch over his children. Please continue to pray for us through his intercession.

Father Danny Nough





JUBILEE YEAR

"For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you."

Leviticus 25:12

In 2023, our Eparchy is celebrating its Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years of Maronites in Australia, under the theme *The Maronites in Australia: A Journey of Holiness and Openness*.

The emblem for the Golden Jubilee embodies the essence of our faith and spirituality, and reflects the journey of the Maronites across the seas to this vast land. At the centre are three persons, a symbol of the Holy Trinity, on a sailing ship forging forward, representing the Maronite people, who are always open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The colours are those of our Lebanese flag, symbolising the sacrifice of our people, with the addition of blue to represent Our Mother, who accompanies the Maronites on all our journeys, especially across the oceans.

To mark this momentous occasion, the relics of five Saints — Saints Maroun, Charbel, Rafka, Nemetallah and Mary MacKillop — visited our Parish, and the entire Eparchy will gather with our Patriarch, Cardinal Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi, for a special Golden Jubilee Mass at Homebush on September 24, and a dinner at Rosehill Gardens on September 21.





ABOUT US

SAINT JOSEPH'S MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

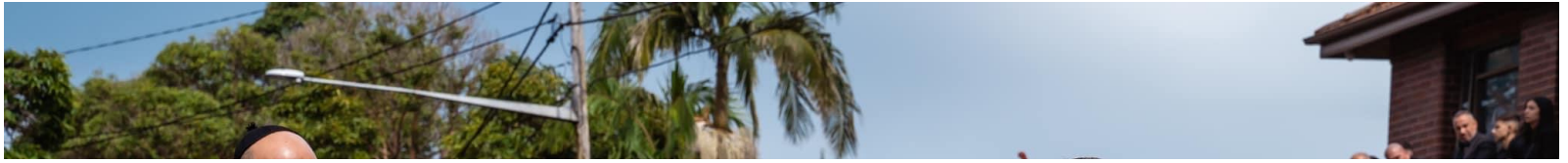
“Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.” - St John Paul II

For over 40 years, Saint Joseph’s Maronite Catholic Church has been home to thousands of Maronite families in and around Croydon. A Church that once belonged to the Baptist denomination, it was sold to the Maronite Catholic community and consecrated by His Grace, Archbishop Abdo Khalife, on December 19, 1978. For the next ten years, the Church served around 300 Maronite Catholic families.

By the early 1990s, a bigger Church was needed to cater for the growing parish. During building, Divine Liturgy was celebrated downstairs until the top part of the Church was completed and opened by His Excellency, Bishop Joseph Hitti in 1998.

In 2000, the Parish expanded with the purchase of a number of surrounding houses, and new rooms were established in the downstairs hall to serve youth and children. By 2005, the Parish was serving several thousand members, had a number of Priests, a Deacon and various committees. A childcare centre opened in 2022, and the Parish continued to expand and implement new initiatives.

Today, the Parish is home to thousands of parishioners. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit and guidance of Saint Joseph, Foster Father to Our Lord Jesus, Spouse to Our Mother Mary and Patron of Workers and the Universal Church, we strive to protect families and help people contribute to the wider community.



OUR CLERGY

Father Danny Nouh

Parish Priest

Father Loubnan Tarabay

Assistant Priest

Father Eli Yammine

Assistant Priest

Deacon Mekhael Gebrael

Deacon

Subdeacon Wade Ayoub

Subdeacon







ORGANISATION STRUCTURE





ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

BISHOP

His Excellency Antoine-Charbel Tarabay

PARISH PRIEST

Father Danny Nough

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Loubnan Tarabay

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Eli Yammine

DEACON

Deacon Mekhael Gebrael

SUB-DEACON

Wade Ayoub

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Henri Richa

PARISH SECRETARY

Annie El-Kazzi

GIFT SHOP AND ADMIN

Christopher Ibrahim

DATA ENTRY ASSISTANT

Alex Azzi

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Finance, Fundraising, Grants, Maintenance, Projects,
Legal and Insurance, Operations, Human Resources,
Safeguarding and WHS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



ORGANISATION
STRUCTURE
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

SODALITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ARABIC SCHOOL

YOUTH COMMITTEE

FERSEN AL ADRA

MEDIA COMMITTEE

MARONITE FLAME TEENS

SENIORS COMMITTEE

CHARITIES

LADIES COMMITTEE

HOLY COMMUNION COMMITTEE

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

LILIES OF ST JOSEPH

FAITH & LIGHT COMMITTEE

MEN'S GROUP

MARIAN APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT (MAM)

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

CATHOLIC ADULT FAITH FORMATION (CAFF)

CHOIRS

FAMILY OF THE DIVINE WORD

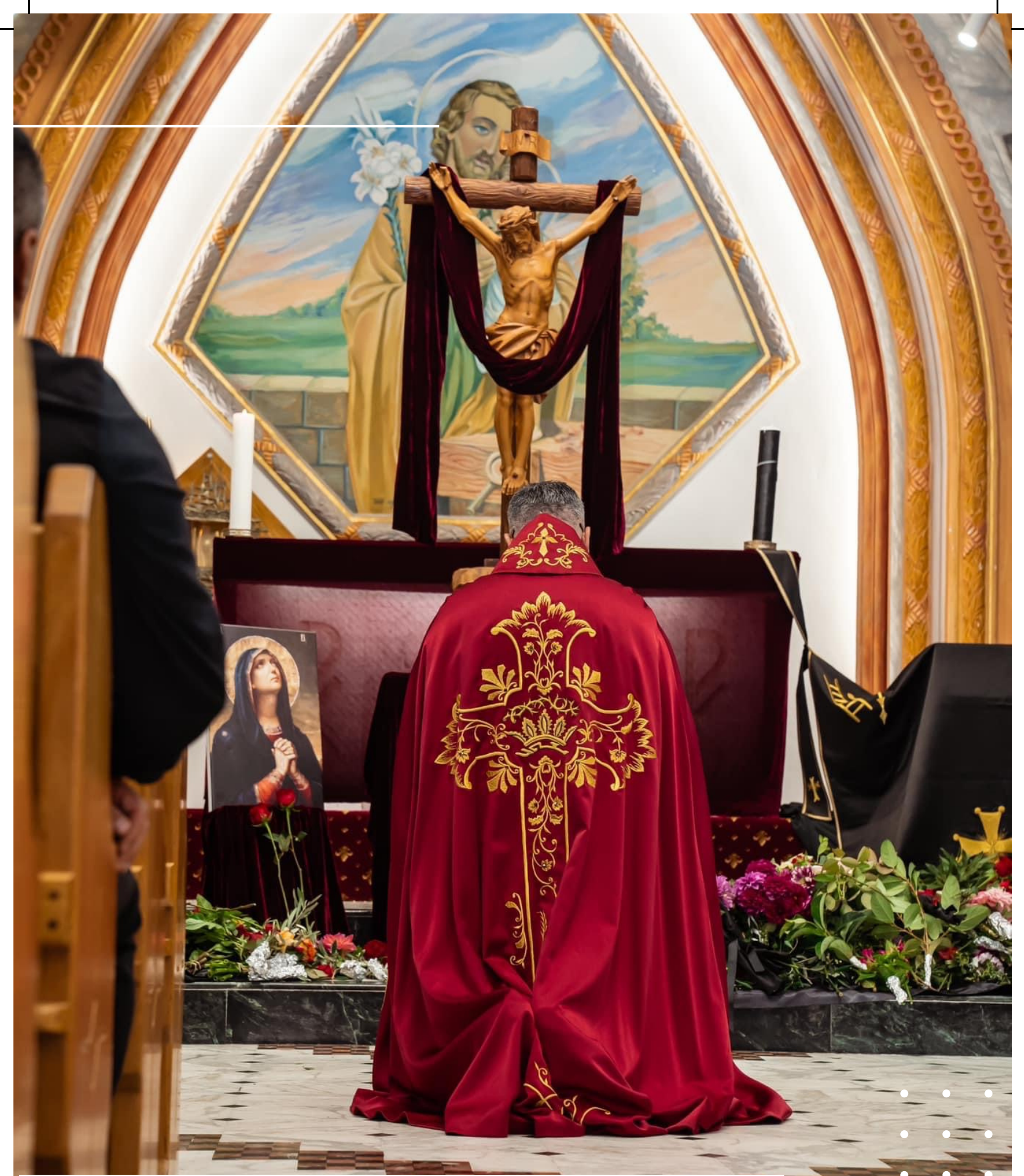
ALTAR SERVERS

FAMILY COMMITTEE

EVENTS COMMITTEE







PARISH COMMITTEES



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Over the past year, Saint Joseph's Stewardship Committee has worked tirelessly with a vision centred around improving the Parish's longevity and growth for the benefit of future generations. Through enhanced financial management, legal guidance, structural development and embracing new technologies, the Committee has successfully laid a solid foundation for the Parish's continued progress. Additionally, by fostering improved cooperation among other committees, the Stewardship Committee has laid a solid groundwork for Saint Joseph's continued commitment to preserving our Maronite heritage, while building a thriving community for generations to come.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council is comprised of members from all the committees who assist the clergy with the day-to-day running of the Parish. At their monthly meetings, the Council organises events, share updates on previous Parish activities, and workshop ways to support the various committees who are serving our growing Parish family.

Their Christmas 2022 festival was a huge success, as was the inaugural family dinner night held during the 2023 Saint Joseph's feast week, which raised over \$100,000.





SODALITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

With Mary as their model, the Sodality works to deepen their faith and live it more fully. They hold rosary evenings, weekly prayer and Divine Liturgy, pray their special office before Sunday 8am Mass, and lead daily rosary before 9am and 6pm Masses.

Over the last year, the Sodality has overseen visits to Berrima and other shrines, and run monthly tea and coffee mornings after Sunday 8am Mass.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

This committee strives to strengthen the Maronite faith of our youth, and enhance the spiritual and social aspects of Parish life. With an understanding of the challenges faced by our young parishioners, they aim to support their needs and nourish spirituality.

The Youth, Media, Teens, Fersen and CAFF committees held a combined leadership retreat in October 2022, and a spiritual retreat with Our Lady of Lebanon in February 2023. They also organised a walk from Saint Joseph to Saint Charbel in July 2022, *From Bethlem to Annaya*, and the annual Youth dinner dance in April 2023 raised over \$90,000.





MEDIA COMMITTEE

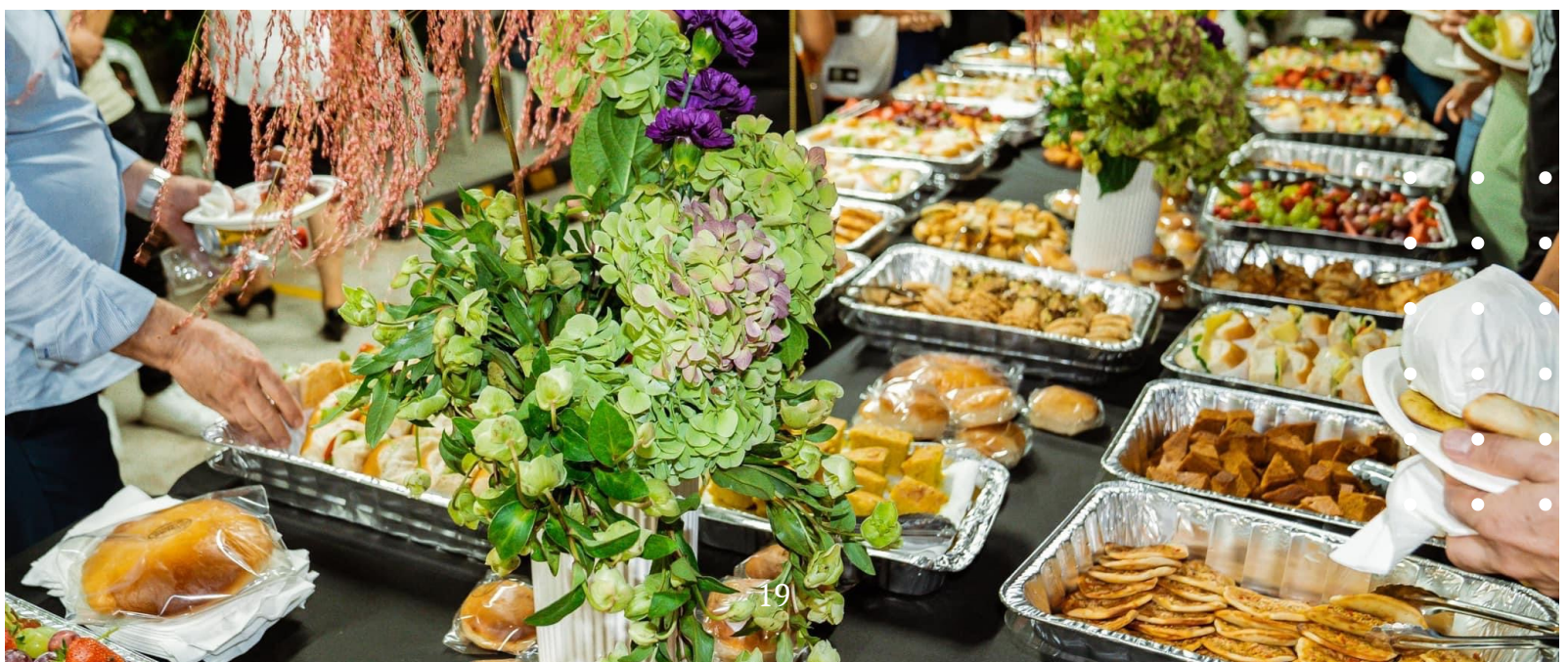
Our Media Committee aims to provide and promote Maronite Catholic values online. From organising Parish photography, videos and flyers, to website building, the work is constant and rewarding. In 2023, the team oversaw the Parish logo redesign, the continual updating of the Parish's social media feeds, and established a community WhatsApp group to ensure those not on social media are kept informed on Parish news and upcoming events.

SENIORS COMMITTEE

This committee meets monthly and stays in touch with its 55 members via a WhatsApp group. Over the last year, they organised bus trips, movie nights, held a Christmas party with the other seniors committees from various Maronite parishes, and invited all Maronite seniors committees to a gathering to mark Saint Joseph's feast. They also celebrated Mother's Day in May and Grandparents Day in July, with a morning tea at the Parish.

LADIES COMMITTEE

Working closely with the clergy, this committee is geared towards active service within our community and is involved in nearly every event at the Parish. In 2023, these women oversaw the sweets, *hrissi* and catering on offer during the celebrations for Saint Joseph's feast week and other major feast days of the Maronite liturgical calendar, and baked the *mneish* for the monthly breakfast served to parishioners following Sunday morning Mass services.





LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

This committee promotes the full and active participation of the faithful in liturgical celebrations. Among their duties: preparing for liturgical events, sacraments and para-liturgical services, providing and preparing Priests' vestments and Altar Servers' robes, overseeing Church décor including altar linens, icons and presentations for Mass, running choir and altar service rehearsals, and organising ushers and lectors for major celebrations.

FAITH AND LIGHT COMMITTEE

This committee is part of an international movement that brings together those with special needs, their families, carers and friends, to express compassion and community. They pray and celebrate the Divine Liturgy together, organise tailored activities and games, host events to encourage and build friendships, and undertake home visits for special occasions.

This year, the committee restarted home visits and gatherings for those with special needs and their families, with Priests bringing the Eucharist into their homes.





MARIAN APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT

The MAM strive to follow the example of Mary in her obedience, service and humility. Their weekly meetings include Bible discussions, conversation around current social issues, and learning more about Catholic Church teachings and our Maronite traditions. This year saw the establishment of the Lectio Divina on the first Monday of every month, and a renewal of their commitment to Our Lady and the MAM on Pentecost Sunday.

CATHOLIC ADULT FAITH FORMATION

This committee works to keep our Parish adults faithful to the Gospel, Maronite traditions and teachings of the Church, and to develop a personal relationship with God, respond to His call to holiness, and enable an ongoing conversion to Jesus in holiness of life. CAFF held a retreat in 2022, in addition to running both single and multi-part courses throughout the year, diving deeper on issues of faith, the Bible and the lives of the Saints. Guest speakers included Milad Khalil, who discussed the theology of the body, and Deacon Harold.





FAMILY OF THE DIVINE WORD

This committee is centred around the Gospel and weekly, clergy-led Arabic Bible study sessions to foster spiritual growth and understanding of the Old and New Testaments.

Their Wednesday evening sessions hosted guest speakers, including those from other Maronite parishes and other churches, and they organised overnight spiritual retreats for committee members, their family and friends.

FAMILY COMMITTEE

Promoting family values among parents and the spiritual, social and communal aspects of families, the married couples in this committee work to foster positive relationships with Parish children, youth and teens.

Over the last year, they ran a family rosary every Friday during October, hosted a Christmas movie night, held a marriage renewal Mass in January, oversaw a Lenten program including weekly reflections and Friday afternoon Stations of the Cross catered to families and young children, and organised family brunches after Sunday morning Masses, including one to mark the World Day of Families in May.





ARABIC SCHOOL

Saint Joseph's Community Language Centre is a government-recognised centre for Arabic learning, with four qualified teachers catering for both primary and high school students. The Centre encourages students to have pride in their Lebanese culture and to use Arabic to communicate with their family, Parish and community.

Friday classes are divided into four levels, from beginner to advanced. Students learn Arabic speaking, reading and writing through activities such as singing, drama performance and interactive learning programs within the classroom.

FERSEN AL ADRA

This group helps develop the spiritual formation of our Parish children, so that they come to know, live and love their Maronite Catholic faith. They look to the example of the Mother of God, and make a promise to Mary to live this commitment faithfully.

The committee organised monthly Fersen Masses, fundraisers (the children made and sold cupcakes) and special gifts for parishioners, like Mother's Day and Father's Day gift bags. The committee also participated in the Diocesan Fersen Day, when all the Eparchy's Fersen children came together at Saint George in Thornleigh for a fun day.





MARONITE FLAME TEENS

Eight volunteers hold classes every Saturday afternoon for around 80 Parish high school students. They also organise social events throughout the year including a bonfire, retreat for spiritual growth and social interaction, WhatsApp group for the teens and their parents, and a *hafle* for the feast day of Saint Joseph.

Over the year, sessions were predominantly based on the Maronite seasons and Liturgical Cycle, with a focus on Gospel readings and discussions around the Mass and rosary. Each session featured question time to encourage teens to think more deeply about subjects.

CHARITIES

Although our Maronites on Mission weekly food run in Villawood ended in February 2023 due to a council decision, the MOM continue to provide monthly home visits and spend time with those in our community with disabilities.

The 2023 winter appeal collected warm clothing for the homeless, which was distributed by the youth of Saint Joseph, and we also had members of our Parish participate in missionary work in the Philippines.





HOLY COMMUNION COMMITTEE

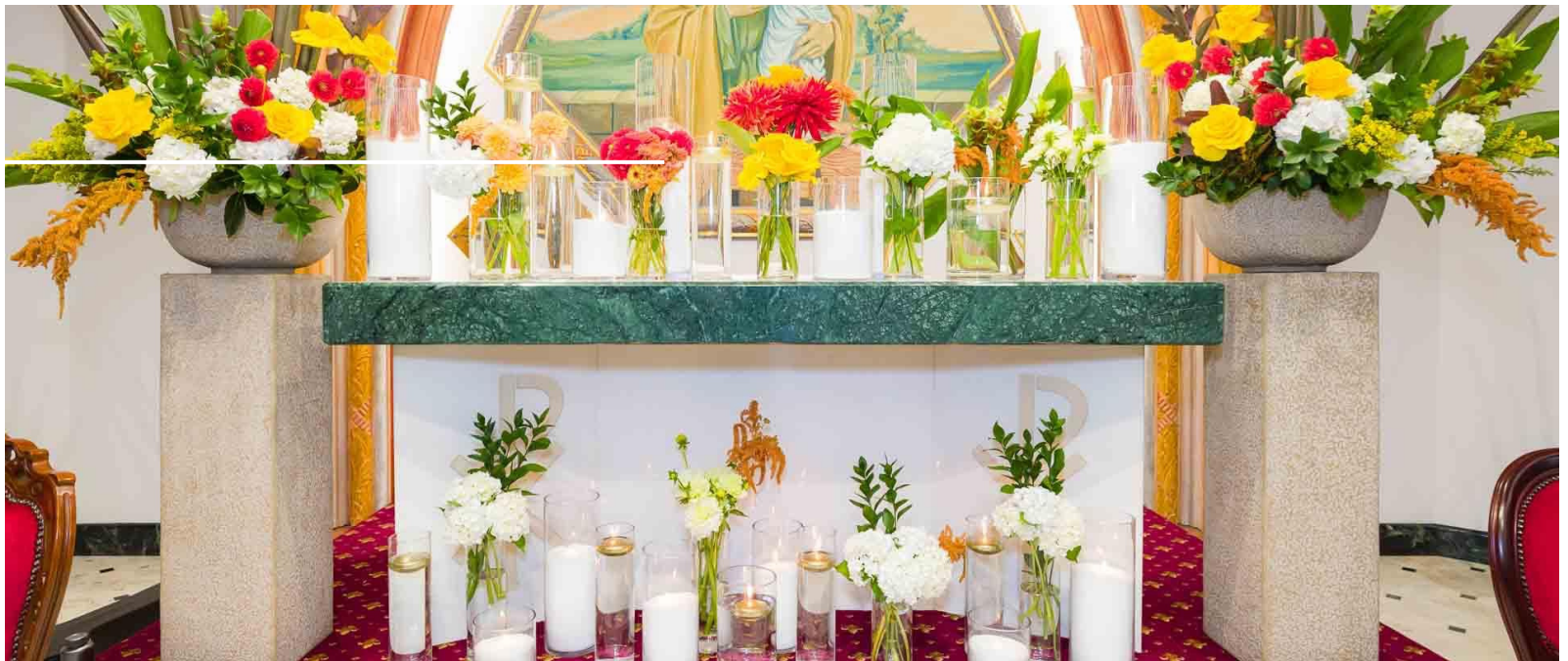
Every year, the children of Saint Joseph make their First Communion in September, at a special Mass celebrated by the Bishop.

In 2022, there were close to 50 children enrolled. From June to October, the children met on Thursday nights for a five-week course on the sacrament of Reconciliation, and an eight-week course on the sacrament of the Eucharist. Parents were also instructed and formed over three sessions, to familiarise them with the program and help them foster faith in their children.

LILIES OF SAINT JOSEPH

One of the newer committees in our Parish, the Lilies have tripled their membership in just one year. A prayer group devoted to Saint Joseph, they meet monthly to celebrate Mass together and discuss ways to support the Parish, and upkeep of the Church. Their work encompasses initiating projects and activities for Parish women, uplifting the needy through social activities, and running personal enrichment programs. They produced rosary bracelets for feast week celebrations in March, and held their first Mother's Day cruise in May, with all proceeds going toward the upkeep of the Church altar including candles, candelabras, altar cloths and general housekeeping.





MEN'S GROUP

A new committee in the Parish, this formation group meets on the last Wednesday of every month, and offers a space where men can come together to connect with like-minded males and grow in their relationship with God, their family and the Church. The group is comprised of both single and married men, and looks to Saint Joseph for guidance on how to be a faith-filled and faithful man in today's world.

Over the last year, the group has held numerous testimony talks, offering insights and discussions on how to live as a moral and righteous man — like Saint Joseph — and what it means to be a Catholic man today.

SAFEGUARDING

We are delighted to announce the establishment of a dedicated Safeguarding Committee within our Parish, focused on ensuring the highest standards of safeguarding for our parishioners, especially children, the elderly and the vulnerable. This committee has been formed in strict accordance with the recommendations set forth by the Royal Commission and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. By proactively addressing safeguarding concerns, we aim to create a safe and nurturing environment for all parishioners. The Committee's vigilant oversight, implementation of robust policies and ongoing training will foster trust, provide accountability, and ultimately benefit our entire Parish.







FINANCIAL REPORT



FINANCIAL REPORT

PROFIT AND LOSS

INCOME	FY2023 REPORTED Enter figures as +	FY2022 REPORTED Enter figures as +
Plate collections	491,302	335,284
Donations income	291,163	371,252
Gift shop sales	154,228	80,726
Functions & fundraising income	1,018,537	466,963
Government grants & incentives	2,198	50,500
Other income	381,584	91,643
Rental income	310,172	141,339
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,649,184	\$1,537,707

FINANCIAL REPORT

PROFIT AND LOSS

EXPENSES	FY2022 REPORTED Enter figures as +	FY2021 REPORTED Enter figures as +
Cost of sales	89,226	37,462
Administrative expenses	182,760	102,441
Diocesan expenses	87,250	62,203
Donations expenses	72,173	204,823
Insurance	55,726	38,654
Interest expenses	263,106	90,932
Office expenses	196,066	168,697
Other expenses	64,735	144,386
Property maintenance & utilities	171,483	79,738
Salaries & wages	222,169	164,102
Stipends & Priest supplement	139,862	115,061
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,544,556	\$1,208,498
NET SURPLUS	\$1,114,390	\$314,388





FINANCIAL REPORT

BANK BALANCES

ACCOUNT NAME	FY2022 REPORTED Balances as at 30 June 2023
Maronite Flame	13,563.91
Church Main	78,091.36
Gift Shop	56,831.10
Youth Account	99,329.67
Sodality of Immaculate Conception	18,499.31
Fersen Al Adra	11,329.37
Liturgical Committee	37,266.90
Arabic School	6,983.87
Ladies Committee	36,087.26
Senior's Account	280.09
Family Committee	2,979.82
TOTAL CASH AT BANK	\$361,242.66



FINANCIAL REPORT

LAND AND BUILDINGS VALUES

	FY2023 \$ DR	FY2022 \$ DR
Childcare Centre	5,761,117	5,761, 117
5 Acton Street	1,704,810	1,704,810
Church (7-9 Acton Street)	3,149,561	3,149,561
Priest residence (11 Acton Street)	1,743,513	1,743,513
Church carpark (6 Wychbury Avenue)	981,596	981,596
8 Wychbury Avenue	956,045	956,045
10 Wychbury Avenue	946,800	946,800
12 Wychbury Avenue	950,000	950,000
2 Alexandra Avenue	2,350,000	0
4 Alexandra Avenue	1,800,000	1,800,000
TOTAL LAND & BUILDINGS	\$20,343,442	\$17, 993,442



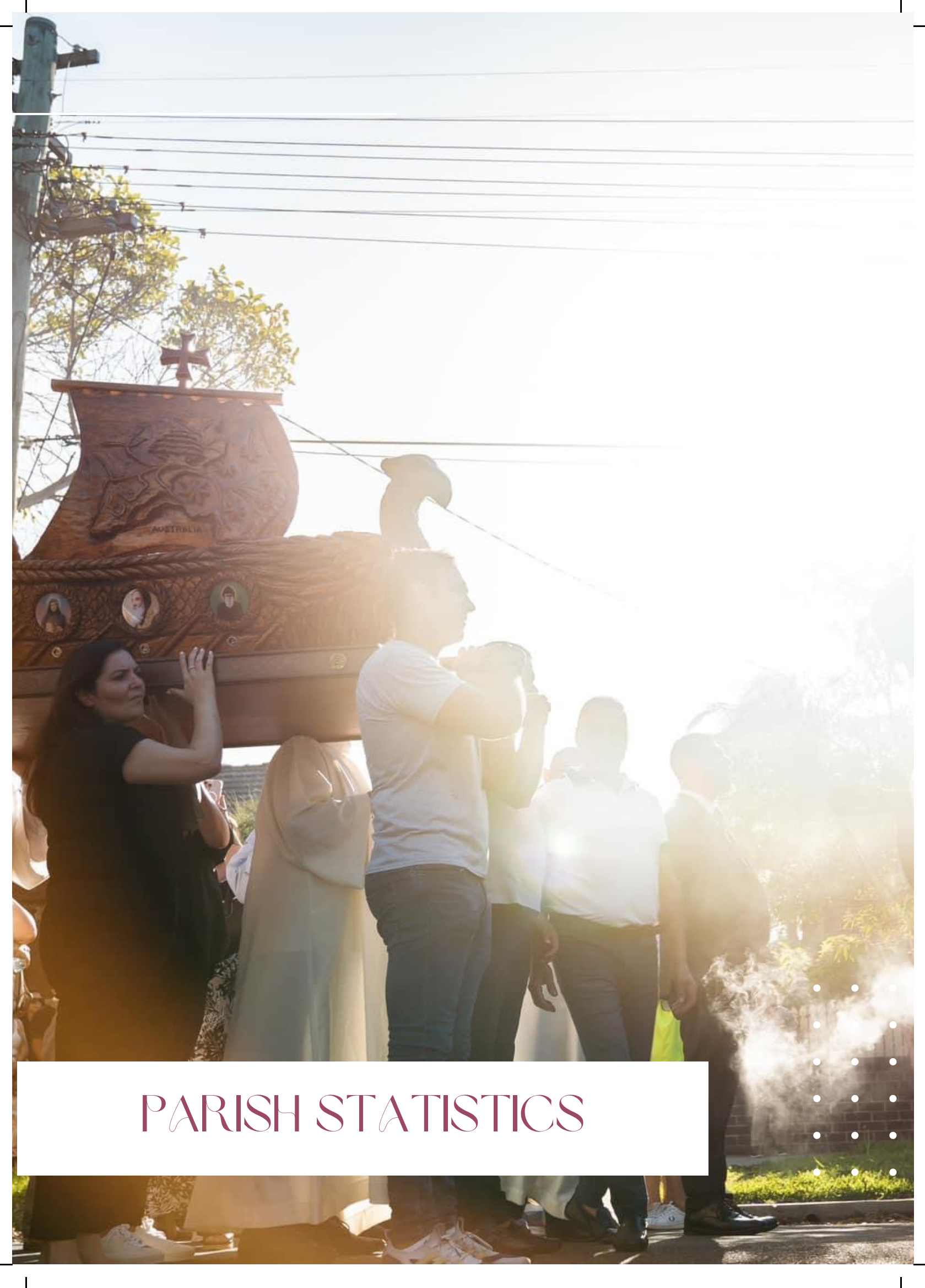


FINANCIAL REPORT

BORROWINGS

LOAN DETAILS	BALANCES AS AT 30 JUNE 2023	BALANCES AS AT 30 JUNE 2022	AVG MONTHLY REPAYMENT
Bank of Sydney Loan A/C #1193721 (4 Alexandria Avenue)			
Closing balance	1,627,781	1,652,976	11,163
Bank of Sydney Loan A/C #112085 (5 Acton Street)			
Closing balance	1,344,269	1,369,920	9,633
Loan to Bank of Sydney for child care			
Closing balance	292,482	1,268,062	10,000
Peppers loan (2 Alexandria Avenue)			
Closing balance	2,206,522		13,644
TOTAL	\$5,471,054	\$4,290,958	\$44,441





PARISH STATISTICS



PARISH STATISTICS

IN THE YEAR 2022-2023

Maronites residing in the Parish	Est. 20,000
Baptisms	210
First Holy Communions	46
Marriages	91
Deaths	31





FUTURE PROJECTS





FUTURE PROJECTS

Over the last year, we have made significant progress on the Saint Joseph Youth and Community Centre.

Burwood Council has generously agreed that we can lodge a DA without first lodging a planning proposal, and we anticipate that this exemption has erased approximately two years off the project start date.

Now, with God's grace and the continued support of our parishioners, we are working toward a start date of mid-2024.

In addition to moving ahead with the Youth and Community Centre, we are also planning some alterations and additions to the Church itself, including:

- Building an active Church-front on Wychbury Avenue that will incorporate a foyer
- Installing lead light windows along the wall behind the altar (Wychbury Avenue side of the Church)
- Installing a dome on the Church roof







FUNDRAISING



FUNDRAISING

In 2022, the Stewardship Committee hosted the first Annual Fundraiser Gala and oversaw the auction of a Porsche, which collectively raised over \$850,000. In addition to this event, the Parish has hosted several other fundraisers including the Christmas Festival, an Easter raffle, and Saint Joseph's Feast Week activities.

The Parish is now preparing for the 2023 Annual Fundraiser Gala at Montage, where prizes include a BMW car, a SeaDoo jet ski and a diamond necklace.

Monies raised via the various fundraising opportunities have been used to reduce the overall debt of the Parish, undertake crucial maintenance of Parish grounds, and commence the legal and administrative process of building the Saint Joseph's Youth and Community Centre.

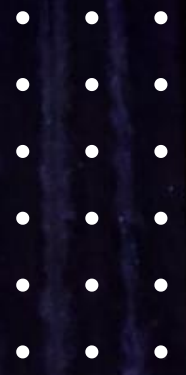
Saint Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church is blessed to have a generous and committed community of parishioners who work tirelessly to support the Parish in every way possible. The fundraising activities of the Parish are a crucial aspect of ensuring the longevity and growth of Saint Joseph's for future generations.







PARISH ADVERTISEMENT





GIFT SHOP

The Saint Joseph Gift Shop has expanded exponentially over the last 12 months, both in size and stock. We now have a dedicated stock room in the basement car park, and a new POS system to keep better track of inventory and run a comprehensive stocktake every three to six months.

Alongside the religious icons and statues, the shop now offers religious apparel, which have become particularly popular with our youth. During Holy Week 2023, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, the Gift Shop raised \$40,000.

DASHING DUCKS

croydon@dashingducks.com.au
(02) 7251 3390



Dashing Ducks
Pre-school









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