



ANNUAL REPORT

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL
JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025



“O most powerful Lady of Lebanon, who has soared like the cedars of Lebanon, you are the Glory of Jerusalem, the Mother of the Church, the Crusher of the dragon’s head, the Fortified Tower of David and the Hope of those who are drowning in temptation.”

Our Lady of Lebanon Novena

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Message FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with gratitude to the Lord that I present to you the Annual Report of Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral for 2024-2025. Each year, this report provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our parish life, the challenges we face, and the progress we have made together.

This year, much of our life as a parish has been shaped by the Jubilee Year of Hope proclaimed by the late Holy Father Pope Francis. The theme Pilgrims of Hope has been lived out through the many celebrations, parish missions, and community initiatives described in these pages. From the ordination of two new priests to the active witness of our youth, the Jubilee has been a source of renewal for our community.

We also took important steps for the future with the launch of the Parish Masterplan. The approval process for Stage One, the new underground car park and piazza, is well underway. This project reflects our parish's commitment to building for the generations to come.

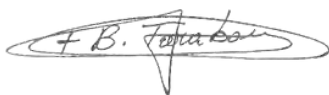
At the same time, work is progressing for the renovations of St Rita's Church in Guildford, which will serve as a Mass Centre for parishioners in that area. This will provide easier access to the sacraments and a new place of prayer and gathering for many families. We are hopeful that St Rita's Church will open in 2026.

We remain grateful for the daily life of the parish: the celebration of the sacraments, the dedication of nearly 30 committees and ministries, and the tireless work of volunteers who serve in so many ways. The success of our projects and initiatives shows the generosity and faith of our people, which allows the mission of the parish to continue.

I extend my sincere thanks to Father Danny Nouh, our dedicated clergy, the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, and all parishioners who contribute to the spiritual and practical life of this Co-Cathedral.

As we look ahead, may we continue to place our trust in God's providence and in the intercession of Our Lady of Lebanon, who guides us as we honour our past, serve the present, and prepare for the future.

In God's Love,



+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay
Maronite Bishop of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania



Message FROM OUR DEAN

Beloved Parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Parish,

As we reflect on this past year, marked by historic events within the Church and tremendous growth in our parish, I write to you with a heart filled with gratitude and, above all, with hope. In this Year of Hope, as proclaimed by the late Pope Francis, we have indeed walked as Pilgrims of Hope, trusting in God's providence and the intercession of Our Lady of Lebanon.

It has been a year of both challenge and triumph. We mourned the loss of Pope Francis, yet rejoiced in the historic election of Pope Leo XIV, the first pope whose native language is English. We celebrated the beatification of Patriarch Estephan El-Douaihy and the canonisation of the three Maronite Massabki Brothers; reminders that the saints walk with us, and that holiness is possible even in the most troubled times.

Despite all the challenges in our day to day lives, it is the hope in Our Lord that renews us and keeps driving us and our parish community. For this reason, Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral parish is a refuge of hope for thousands of people who find a home under the watchful eye of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Why? Because here they find something for everyone! No matter how old or how young, no matter where you are in your life, you will find what you are looking for on your journey of faith with nearly 30 committees and ministries looking after your spiritual, pastoral, educational and social needs.

Here at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral, we have seen miracles of hope lived daily; in the sacraments we celebrate, the prayers we raise, the ministries we serve, and the community we continue to build. This parish is more than a building. It is a home, a family, a sacred place where thousands come to find meaning, healing, purpose, and belonging.

None of this would be possible without the trust and leadership of our shepherd, His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay. It is his pastoral vision and spiritual fatherhood that have allowed us to dream boldly and act faithfully. As he reminds us: "This parish was built by your predecessors for you and your children... it will endure beyond us." With his blessing and guidance, we are building not for ourselves, but for the generations to come. This is what drives our Masterplan; a vision not simply for new structures, but for a spiritual legacy. Over the past year, we made significant progress:

- We refined the plans after parish consultation.
- We submitted the DA for Phase One: a public Piazza in front of the Cathedral, with a three-storey underground carpark for over 200 cars and ANZAC memorial.
- Future phases will include a chapel, bell tower, heritage centre, and the long-awaited renovation of our Cathedral.

This project is not just about buildings. It is about welcoming more people into our parish family, honouring our rich Maronite heritage, and providing a spiritual home for future generations.

And speaking of the future, I must highlight the inspiring commitment of our youth. Their witness is a lesson to us all: when we love something, we give, not out of obligation, but out of love. They are not just the future of our Church, they are its present heartbeat.



To every young person who serves, leads, prays, and shows up: you are the reason we are building. You are the inspiration behind every blueprint and brick. You give us hope.

I also express my heartfelt thanks to:

- The clergy of this parish, Fr Youwakim, Fr Sam, Fr John Paul, Fr Joseph, Fr Michael, Fr Sayed and Subdeacon Joseph;
- The Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, Sr Irene, Sr Margaret, Sr Constance, Sr Juliette and Sr Rita;
- Our Pastoral Council,
- Our Stewardship Committee,
- Our Parish and Eparchy staff,
- And all the volunteers and ministry leaders who serve and minister in nearly 30 committees, you are not workers, you are family.

Most importantly, I thank you, our faithful parishioners. Your generosity, prayers, and support make everything we do possible. You are the Church: living, active, and vibrant. Together, we are building something beautiful, not just for today, but for the decades to come.

This Year of Hope has taught us something vital: when Christ is the centre, no storm can shake us. When Mary, Our Lady of Lebanon, intercedes for us, we are never abandoned. When the Church gathers; young and old, seekers and saints alike; hope is reborn!

With my prayers and love for each of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Nauh".

Father Danny Nauh



ABOUT US

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral is the spiritual and cultural heart of the Maronite Catholic community in Sydney and across Australia. Established in 1968, the parish began with a bold vision: to build a church, school, hall, and presbytery for the growing Maronite migrant community. What started on a hilltop in Harris Park has since become the largest Maronite Catholic parish in the Southern Hemisphere, now serving over 40,000 parishioners.

From the moment construction began in 1970, the Church has inspired generations of faithful Maronites. It was officially opened and blessed in 1978, with its striking architectural design symbolising both the strength and spirit of the community. The adjoining Community, Youth and Pastoral Centre, opened in 2012, continues this mission of catering to the spiritual, educational, and social needs of all ages.

In recognition of its importance, the Vatican elevated Our Lady of Lebanon to the status of Co-Cathedral in 2014. It now stands as one of two cathedrals serving the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, reflecting both the size and significance of the parish within the broader Church.

The Co-Cathedral celebrates over 23 Masses each week, attracting around 10,000 attendees. It is also a centre for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and all the major sacraments and feasts of the Maronite calendar. The parish is committed to faith formation, language preservation, and community outreach.

A true hub of daily activity, the Co-Cathedral precinct includes a café, gift shop, childcare centre, residential aged care facility, and is adjacent to the Maronite College of the Holy Family, an independent co-educational school offering K–12 education.

Today, the parish is supported by nearly 30 active committees and ministry groups, rooted in faith and driven by service, Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral continues to grow as a living testament to the enduring spirit of the Maronite Church in Australia. It is a place of prayer, belonging, tradition, and hope for future generations.



Hope

YEAR OF HOPE

The Year of Hope at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral, Harris Park: Living as Pilgrims of Hope

In a world overshadowed by suffering, conflict, and fear, Pope Francis has declared 2025 as the Year of Hope, a call to courage, faith, and spiritual renewal. In his words, *“This Christmas, at the beginning of the Jubilee Year, I invite every individual, and all peoples and nations, to find the courage needed to walk through that Door, to become pilgrims of hope, to silence the sound of arms and overcome divisions!”* As Christians, we are not immune to the world’s pain, but we are called to walk through it with Christ in our hearts, becoming signs of hope for others.

At Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral in Harris Park, this invitation was received with great joy and devotion. Our parish has embraced the theme of the year, “Pilgrims of Hope,” not merely as a slogan, but as a mission to walk together in faith, to renew our spirits, and to lead others closer to Christ through prayer, service, and community.

Opening the Year: A Journey Begins

The Year of Hope was formally opened by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay with a special Mass on Sunday, 29 December 2024. This solemn celebration marked the beginning of a spiritual journey for our parish and for the entire Maronite Eparchy of Australia. Above the altar, the word “HOPE” was placed prominently as a visible reminder that each time we enter our Co-Cathedral, we are entering a space where hope is nurtured and proclaimed.

Our Co-Cathedral is one of four designated Jubilee pilgrimage churches in the Eparchy, alongside Saint Maroun’s Cathedral in Redfern, Saint Charbel’s Monastery in Punchbowl, and Our Lady of Lebanon in Melbourne. As Pope Francis reminds us, “Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event.” Through pilgrimage, we are invited to rediscover simplicity, silence, and the purpose of our faith.

Celebrating Milestones of Faith and Service

The early months of the Year of Hope were filled with grace and joy:

- On 1 February, we celebrated the ordination of two new priests, Deacon Ghassan Nakhoul and Deacon Sayed Isaac. Their “yes” to God’s call brought immense joy not only to our parish, but to the entire Eparchy. Their ordination stands as a witness to God’s enduring love and the hope that continues to be born through vocations.
- On 8 March, the Ladies of Our Lady hosted a special Mass and Morning Tea for International Women’s Day, under the theme “Woman of Hope.” This event honoured the strength, faith, and resilience of women in our community, mothers, daughters, sisters, and leaders, who serve with love and hope.
- On 27 March, the parish held 24 Hours of Adoration, offering the faithful an extended time of reflection and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. In the silence of the night and day, many hearts were renewed, and hope was rekindled.

- On 29 March, a special Mass was celebrated for the Jubilee of Missionaries of Mercy, honouring all those engaged in acts of charity and service, especially Maronites on Mission and Heaven on Earth. These groups embody what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in today's world, bringing hope to the poor, the forgotten, and the suffering.
- On 5 April, men from across the Eparchy gathered for the Jubilee for Men, a day of conference talks and fellowship. Speakers shared messages on hope, courage, and the spiritual challenges men face today, reminding them of their irreplaceable role as leaders of faith in their homes and communities.
- On 29 May, all the Sodalities of the Eparchy united at Our Lady of Lebanon for the Jubilee of Sodalities, another wonderful moment of unity and renewal. Through prayer and celebration, the sodalities strengthened their mission and encouraged one another to continue walking as pilgrims of hope.

The Year Continues...

These events are only the beginning. The Year of Hope is still unfolding, with many more moments of grace yet to come, more gatherings, missions, celebrations, and opportunities for spiritual growth. Each step of the way, we are called to be gardeners of hope, nurturing our souls and the lives of those around us, just as the Virgin Mary nurtured the Word made flesh within her. Her life remains a model for us: simple, prayerful, courageous, and full of faith. Through her intercession, we pray to remain faithful to this pilgrimage and to bear witness to the eternal hope we have in Christ.

Pilgrims of Hope: A Call to All

As Pope Francis reminds us, *"We must become vessels of hope, working to eliminate all that leads to sin. For it is only through Christ that evil will cease."* The Year of Hope invites each one of us, not only to walk through the Holy Door as pilgrims, but to walk each day as living witnesses of hope in our families, workplaces, and communities. Let this be a true Jubilee Year for Our Lady of Lebanon, a year of pilgrimage, renewal, and courage. May every moment we spend in this sacred space, beneath the word "Hope" above the altar, remind us of our mission: to carry the light of Christ into the darkness of the world.

Let us walk as Pilgrims of Hope.





CELEBRATING THE *Saints*

Celebrating Two Historic Milestones in the Maronite Church

This year was marked by occasions of joy and spiritual renewal for the Maronite Church, as we celebrated two historic milestones: the beatification of Patriarch Estephan Douaihy and the canonisation of the Massabki Brothers. These events were joyfully commemorated within our parish at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. On 2 August 2025, the Co-Cathedral joined with the Universal Church in celebrating the beatification of Blessed Patriarch Estephan Douaihy, a towering figure in Maronite history known for his holiness, scholarship, and leadership. While the beatification ceremony took place in Bkerke, Lebanon, attended by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, our parish marked the occasion with a special Mass and celebration, joining our prayers with those of our brothers and sisters in Lebanon and around the world. It was a day of great pride and reflection for the Maronite faithful, as we honoured a patriarch who helped shape the spiritual and cultural identity of our Church.

Just weeks later, on 20 October 2024, we celebrated another historic occasion: the canonisation of the Massabki Brothers: Francis, Abdel Moati, and Raphael, who were martyred for their faith in Damascus in 1860. The canonisation Mass was held in Rome and was attended by Bishop Antoine-Charbel and Fr Danny. On 26 October, His Excellency presided over a Mass at the Co-Cathedral, giving our community the opportunity to honour the new Maronite saints. These milestones are a sign of hope, strengthening our mission to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before us with faith and trust in God.





VOCATIONS AT OLOL

Celebrating Two New Priests in the Year of Hope

At Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral in Harris Park, vocations continue to shine as beacons of hope and renewal within our Maronite Eparchy. A particularly joyful moment in 2025 unfolded on 1 February, when two beloved members of our parish were ordained to the priesthood, marking a milestone of grace for both our parish and the wider Eparchy.

On that blessed day, Deacon Ghassan Nakhoul and Deacon Sayed Issac received the Sacrament of Holy Orders from Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, transforming them into Father Ghassan-Hanna Nakhoul and Father Sayed Youssef Issac.

Bishop Tarabay, in his homily, spoke of the ordination as a reflection of the vitality and flourishing of the Maronite Church in Australia, calling it *“a source of great hope for our community.”* He also beautifully articulated how, in the spirit of the Jubilee of Hope, these new priests would lead the faithful through spiritual pilgrimage with their examples of faith and devotion.

Both newly ordained priests are married and blessed with children, an illustration of the Maronite tradition that allows married men to embrace the call to priesthood.

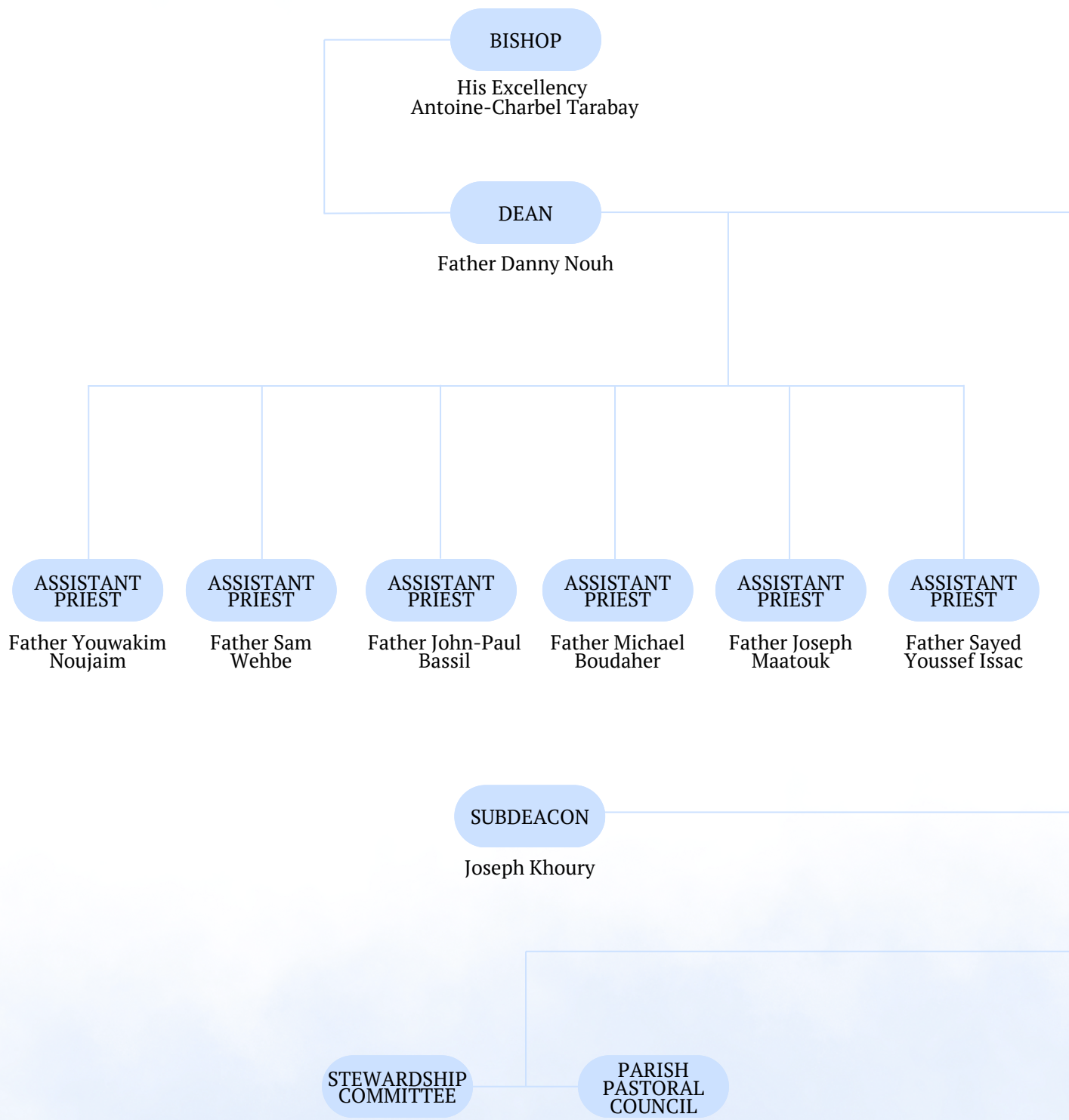
- Father Ghassan-Hanna Nakhoul previously served as a journalist, author, liturgical translator, and writer, publishing spiritual articles and a book on Patriarch Douaihy. His journey, marked by personal strength and faith, especially poignant following the recent passing of his son Ghadi who was an active member and coordinator of the Teens Committee at OLOL.
- Father Sayed Youssef Issac transitioned from a long and successful legal career as a solicitor. Throughout his discernment, he served our community as a Eucharistic Minister, Subdeacon, Deacon and as Business Manager and In-House Counsel at the Chancery.

Bishop Tarabay acknowledged their unique journeys, from lay vocations of family, professional life, and service into roles of spiritual leadership and guidance.

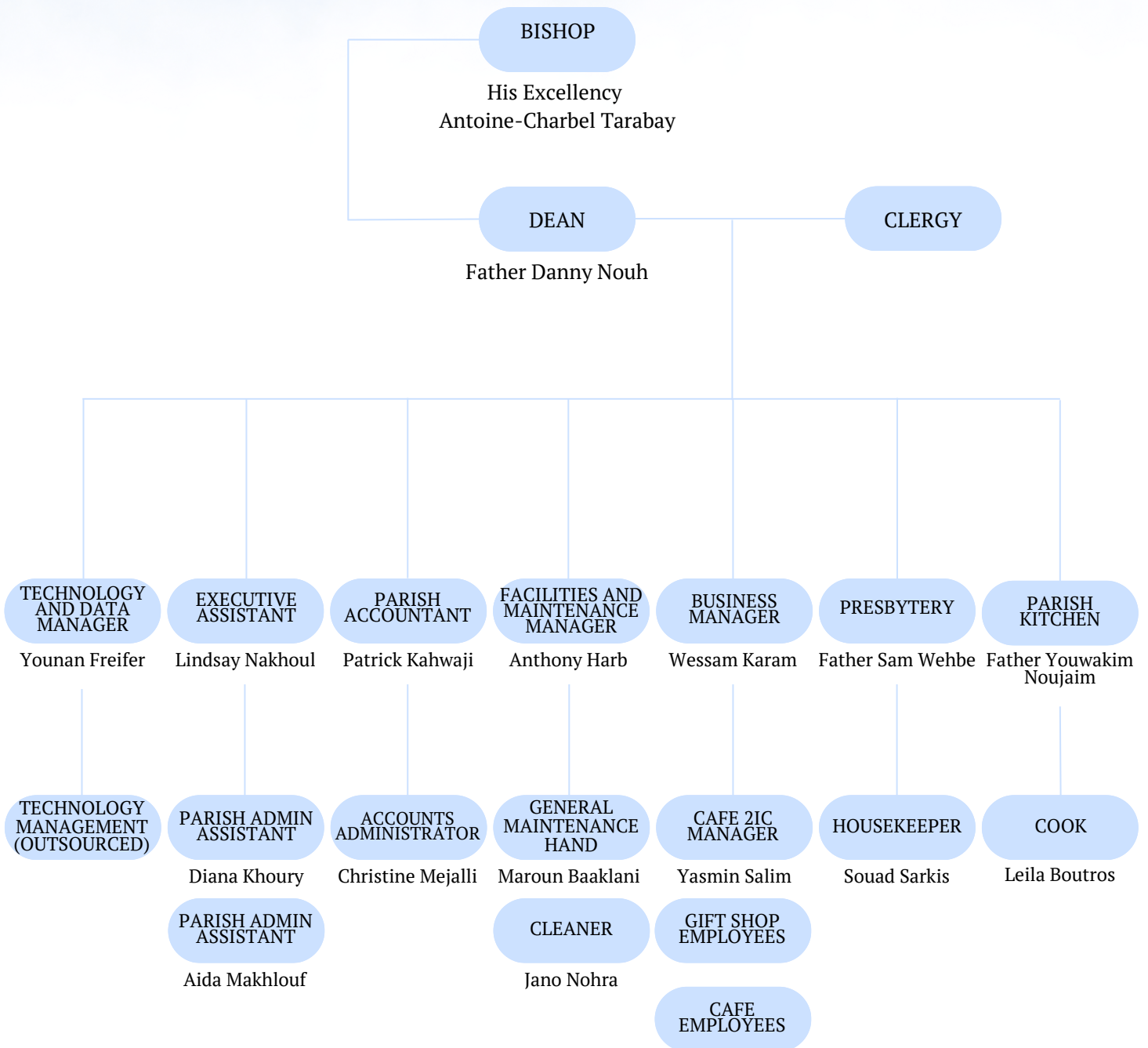
Their ordination is a powerful sign of God’s ongoing call, particularly in an era marked by uncertainty and need for spiritual renewal. Their courage, led by faith and strengthened by family, offers a shining example to all.



Parish CLERGY



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE





ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MEDIA COMMITTEE

SODALITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ROSES OF SAINT RITA

SENIORS COMMITTEE

EVENTS COMMITTEE

FAMILY COMMITTEE

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

MARIAN APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT (MAM)

HEAVEN ON EARTH

MARONITE YOUTH COMMITTEE (MYO)

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

FERSEN AL ADRA

HOLY COMMUNION COMMITTEE

MARONITE FLAME TEENS / COME ALIVE

VOCATIONS GROUP

FAMILY OF THE DIVINE WORD

ROSARY / PRAYER GROUP

THE LIVING WORD

PARISH CHOIRS

ARABIC SCHOOL LANGUAGE

ALTAR SERVERS

LADIES OF OUR LADY

FAITH AND LIGHT

ROAD TO EMMAUS

MEN'S MINISTRY



Parish COMMITTEES



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This past year has been one of renewal and faithful progress at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. The Stewardship Committee has remained committed to our role as caretakers of the parish's temporal and material responsibilities, supporting the mission of our Bishop and clergy. Operationally, we have strengthened the foundations of parish life by enhancing procedures for financial reporting and administration. Our Gift Shop and Five Loaves Café continue to thrive as welcoming spaces that embody our mission of hospitality and community service.

A major milestone was the approval of the Development Application (DA) for the installation of a new statue of Our Lady atop the Cathedral steeple, a striking symbol of Marian devotion that will soon grace our skyline. We eagerly anticipate announcing the date for the statue's installation and blessing. We have also submitted the DA for Stage One of our broader Master Plan: an underground car park beneath the Cathedral forecourt. This project will provide much-needed parking for nearly 200 vehicles and will transform the existing space into a serene, prayerful forecourt, an open-air sanctuary designed to encourage reflection and peace. Security upgrades funded by a generous grant from the NSW Government are being implemented. With over 100 new cameras, boom gates, and access control systems now installed, our parish precinct is safer and more secure for all who visit.

Our commitment to stewardship was also reflected in the outstanding success of our recent Gala Dinner. Attended by over 500 parishioners and guests. The evening raised \$352,000 in support of our mission. We especially celebrate the presence of our youth, whom Fr Danny honoured as the bright future of our Church.

We thank all who continue to support our work through prayer, generosity, and service. With trust in Our Lady's intercession, we remain steadfast in our mission to preserve our heritage, build for the future, and serve our growing parish with love and faith.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Our Lady of Lebanon Pastoral Council has truly shone this past year, pouring our hearts into creating a vibrant and spiritually rich home for every single person in our parish family.

Our big goal?

To live and share Christ's love and values, always keeping an ear open for what our wonderful community needs and dreams of.

This year, we've really focused on taking parish life up a notch! We've worked hand-in-glove with our incredible clergy to understand and respond to the spiritual journey of our diverse family. That means everything from making our church services even more uplifting to running fantastic learning programs for all ages and finding fresh ways to get everyone more involved.

One of our proudest achievements has been our ongoing push to reach out and support our wider community. We want our parish to be a true beacon of hope and practical help for anyone who needs it. We've been actively listening to your thoughts and feedback, always striving to create a warm, welcoming space where everyone feels truly connected and valued. Plus, the Council plays a key role in guiding all the amazing committees and groups within the parish, making sure we're all pulling together towards our shared spiritual goals.

A huge, heartfelt thank you to every volunteer and parishioner. Your tireless dedication is what truly makes Our Lady of Lebanon such a blessed and dynamic spiritual home!



SODALITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This year in the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Sodality played an active role in the life of our parish, especially during Lent and Easter. Our goal has been to grow spiritually and bring our parish community closer together.

The spiritual and community activities consisted of participating in the Stations of the Cross every week; members gathering regularly for moments of reflection and silent prayer; monthly Rosary and Mass in honour of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima; weekly prayers in Arabic and English; community-based activities such as making sweets and bread.

Our focus event was the six weeks of Lenten lunches. The Sodality hosted Lenten Lunches for up to 200 people each week. These lunches were made by Sodality members and parishioners and all generously donated.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended the lunches, we raised significant funds. These funds were donated to important causes in Lebanon including an orphanage, a nursing home, medicines and medical supplies and some funds given directly to struggling families. This amounted to \$15,000.

The Sodality works together with other parish committees such as the Fersen and the Youth groups. These inter-generational activities help keep all age groups connected in our parish family.

We give thanks for a blessed year, and we look forward to continuing our mission of service, prayer, and unity in the coming year.







SENIORS COMMITTEE

The Seniors Committee at Our Lady of Lebanon organises a lunch for the elderly every second Thursday of the month, including special celebrations for occasions such as Mother's Day and Father's Day and the major feasts.

Each gathering begins with Mass, followed by lunch in the Seniors' Room, often accompanied by entertainment and engaging activities.

As part of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, three of our dedicated volunteers: Mrs. Samia El Sabbagh, Mr. Hani El Akoury, and Mrs. Matilda Sassine, were honoured with the Medallion of Hope in recognition of their outstanding service and commitment to both the parish and the Seniors Committee.

Our major annual functions include Christmas, Easter, and the Feast of the Assumption. These events are celebrated with a festive gathering in the parish hall, typically drawing a crowd of around 200 attendees.

This year, we enjoyed an excursion to Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Wollongong, where we celebrated Mass with Fr Joseph Maatouk, followed by a lovely lunch and a scenic visit to Kiama on 19 June 2025.

Our annual retreat was also a highlight this year, held at Our Lady of Lebanon and led by Fr Sam and Fr Ghassan, a spiritually enriching experience for all who attended.



FAMILY OF THE DIVINE WORD

The Family of the Divine Word (FDW) held its weekly bible study reflections in Arabic every Tuesday evening throughout the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, under the theme of “Covenant’s Faithful Kingdom’s Pilgrims.” The program was built around the main theme of the Catholic Church for the Jubilee Year, “Pilgrims of Hope.” The topics were based on biblical references from both the Old and New Testaments, and the theme was approached from four distinct perspectives: faithfulness and covenant, holiness and hope, pilgrimage and the journey of faith, and how to live the Kingdom of God in our daily lives.

This year’s annual retreat was held at St Rafqa, Austral, with Sisters Rita Bou Raffoul and Juliette Abi Khalil. In addition, FDW planned two spiritual and social days, one at the Maronite Marian Monastery in Goulburn with Fr John Paul Bassil, and one at Our Lady of Mercy, Berrima.

FDW had its own experience with the spirit of hope on more than one occasion this year. In April, Vice President Charlotte Doro was awarded the Medallion of Hope for her outstanding services to the FDW committee and the Church. In February, FDW’s Chaplain Deacon Ghassan Nakhoul was ordained to the priesthood by His Excellency Antoine-Charbel Tarabay.

HEAVEN ON EARTH

Heaven on Earth Missions Charity is a fully registered not-for-profit organisation dedicated to serving the most vulnerable members of our community - and beyond - by providing nourishment, support, and hope to those in need.

Through our Homeless Feeds program, we provide warm meals and essential items three times a week to the homeless and those experiencing hardship. We also support struggling families by supplying essential household goods such as fridges, beds, and white goods, helping to restore stability and dignity in their daily lives.

Our mission extends overseas through aid trips to Lebanon and Fiji, where we deliver financial assistance, resources, and hands-on support to families, schools, and nursing homes.

At the heart of Heaven on Earth Missions is a commitment to creating a haven of compassion and kindness - a place where every person feels seen, valued, and supported. Our mission is to bridge the gap between hardship and hope, fostering a community where everyone has access to the care and resources they need to thrive.

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.” (Proverbs 19:17)







THE LIVING WORD

Over the past year, the Living Word Committee has continued its mission to deepen the faith and spiritual understanding of our community through regular formation talks. We welcomed a diverse range of speakers who brought depth and perspective to topics ranging from Scripture and Church teaching to living a life centred on Christ. Over the year, we have welcomed the writings of the likes of St Ephrem the Syriac, St Jacob of Serugh, and St Isaac the Syriac, to ensure that we are ever connected to our Syriac and Maronite tradition. Our Lenten series was an example of this, as it focused on Old Testament prophecies of the Passion of Christ; a typological approach, similar to that of our Syriac Fathers.

One of the highlights of this past year was the compilation and release of a parish-wide prayer book, a project that was born out of a shared desire to nurture both personal and communal prayer life. The book features a rich collection of Maronite prayers, including our Christmas Novena, and the Fridays of Lent Evening Prayers and Adoration of the Cross, along with our beloved Catholic prayers from the Universal Church.

The response from the parish was overwhelmingly positive; many have shared how the prayer book has become a daily companion in their spiritual routines. It has helped unify our community in prayer, especially during liturgical seasons and parish events, and has been particularly impactful for those seeking to reconnect with their Maronite roots. With hope and renewed purpose, we look forward to the year ahead, trusting that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts and draw our community ever closer to Him.

MARONITE FLAME TEENS

This past year has been incredible for the Maronite Flame Teens, filled with growth, faith, and fellowship. We were blessed to welcome over 200 teens on Registration Day — a true testament to the hunger our young people have for faith, friendship, and growing in their spiritual journeys.

Throughout the year, we hosted several successful events, including our Mid-Year Party and Christmas Party, both of which brought our teens together for joyful moments of connection and celebration. A particularly significant moment was the passing of our dear brother, Ghadi Nakhoul. In his honour, the ministry held a Memorial Lesson, offering a space for prayer, reflection, and unity as we remembered an extraordinary, devoted, and beloved Coordinator. The support we received from the entire Maronite community during this time was a testament to the strength of faith and family, as we carried one another in prayer and love.

One of the most profound experiences was our Teens Camp, which proved to be a truly fruitful and life-changing experience for the teens. Through prayer, talks, activities, and spiritual bonding, our teens strengthened their faith, formed friendships, and deepened their relationship with God. Each teen is placed into a team with the winner taking home the Ghadi Nakhoul Trophy.

A huge thank you to all our leaders, parents, clergy, and the Maronite community for your constant support, prayers, and encouragement this year. Your love and dedication have made a lasting impact on our teens and helped foster their spiritual journey. We thank God for the blessings of this year and look forward to continuing this mission of faith and love.



FAMILY COMMITTEE

Rooted in the Maronite Catholic faith and inspired by the Holy Family of Nazareth, the Family Committee works to nurture the spiritual, social, and community life of families in the parish. Its mission is to support couples and families in deepening their faith as a family unit—especially important in today’s world where the family is the foundation of society and Church life.

A key event in 2024 was the Married Couples Spiritual Day held on 11 November at St Joseph’s Centre, Baulkham Hills. With the theme “Marriage: A Call to Holiness,” twenty-two couples took part in a powerful day of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. Highlights included talks such as “Filling Our Tanks with God’s Wine” and the symbolic “Washing of Feet” ceremony, representing humility and Christ-like service within marriage. The retreat ended with a moving celebration of the Divine Liturgy, and couples left inspired to love more deeply and grow together in faith.

Other initiatives were also undertaken to support family life throughout the year. The Renewal of Marriage Vows in July saw couples—married from 5 to 60 years—renew their promises in a joyful celebration. Events like the Mother–Daughter Brunch, Father’s Day Bacon & Egg Breakfast, Men’s & Women’s Faith Formation Monthly Meetings and Family Fun Day create opportunities for connection, laughter, and shared faith experiences.

Through all these efforts, the Family Committee fosters a vibrant and faith-filled environment where families can grow stronger together. In supporting marriage, parenting, and spiritual formation, the committee plays a vital role in building a resilient and loving parish community.







FERSEN AL ADRA

Fersen Al Adra is the fourth and youngest branch of the Marian Family Sodality, dedicated to the spiritual formation of children. Our mission is to guide them in knowing, living, and loving their Maronite Catholic faith, inspired by the example of Mary, the Mother of God.

Over the past year, Fersen Al Adra has made notable progress in expanding its reach and deepening its impact. With over 200 children enrolled and 28 active leaders, we have been blessed with the opportunity to extend God's love to even more young hearts. Our dedicated team has worked diligently to enhance existing initiatives while introducing new programs to further our mission.

Among the key events and initiatives organized this year were Fersen Fun Day, Fersen Diocesan Day, our monthly Fersen Masses, Mary's home visits during May, the Palm Sunday procession, and special workshops for Mother's and Father's Day, as well as the celebration of St. Barbara's Feast Day.

We also introduced intergenerational activities in collaboration with the Sodality, including sajj and ame7 making. Additionally, we strengthened our global network by participating in international initiatives with Fersen groups from Lebanon, Belgium, France, England, Kuwait, and Cyprus.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build upon this foundation, continuing to serve the next generation with renewed passion and unwavering commitment. We are sincerely grateful for the support and collaboration that have enabled our growth and success, and we look forward to another fruitful year ahead.

ARABIC SCHOOL

The Our Lady of Lebanon Arabic School is proudly a member of the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools Inc. It is recognised for delivering quality education in Arabic language, culture, and heritage, focusing on the core skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The school uses both traditional and interactive learning approaches, in collaboration with NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority).

Twelve qualified teachers support students from Kindergarten to Year 12, offering classes on Saturday mornings during school terms. There are eight classes in total, ranging from beginner to advanced levels, ensuring that each student learns at a pace suited to their ability.

Students are given opportunities to showcase their Arabic language skills through various parish and multicultural events, including singing, dancing, and drama performances.

In addition to the children's program, adult Arabic classes are also offered on Tuesday nights.

Our parish strongly encourages all students to take pride in their Lebanese heritage and to use the Arabic language confidently within their families, among friends, and throughout their community—both here in Australia and abroad.





OLOL YOUTH

The Maronite Youth Organisation (MYO) has a mission dedicated to fostering and strengthening the faith, commitment and fellowship of the youth of Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. Knowing that the youth are the future of the parish, the MYO is committed to developing an environment where their spiritual needs are supported and nourished.

As a result of various fundraising initiatives and due to the support of dedicated parishioners, the MYO were capable of organising and subsidising a pre-Lenten retreat in February 2025 for 120 youth at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, with the theme “My soul yearns and hopes for the Lord”. Youth members have demonstrated a yearning and eagerness to learn and grow in their spirituality and knowledge of the faith and, most importantly, of God. The retreat served as an opportunity for the youth to grow spiritually and in fellowship by sharing in the experience of getting-away from their usually busy and distracted lives and focusing on their relationship with Our Lord through Mass, prayer, practical faith talks led by Fr Charbel Dib, adoration, and discussion and other engaging group activities. The weekend renewed and inspired hope in all hearts.

Theology Under the Stars is a vibrant youth-led initiative that brings together young members of our Maronite Catholic community on the last Wednesday night of each month for meaningful dialogue under the night sky. Rooted in faith and fellowship, this monthly gathering explores theological and ethical topics relevant to today’s world, encouraging open discussion, critical thinking, and spiritual growth. Guided by Church teachings and inspired by the voices of our youth, Theology Under the Stars fosters a welcoming space where questions are embraced, friendships are formed, and faith is deepened. It’s more than a discussion—it’s a journey of discovery, led by our parish’s next generation.

Other notable initiatives include post Sunday youth Mass dinners, Wednesday night youth Mass, Tuesday night book club discussions, Fiat and Exodus challenges, aged care centre and hospital visits, World’s Greatest Shave, and other various social and charitable gatherings and outings throughout the year, as well as the MYO’s major fundraiser, the Youth Night Markets.





MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's Ministry is one of the newest committees established at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. It was formed to inspire and empower men to live out their Catholic faith with integrity, courage, and a spirit of service—especially in a world that often lacks authentic Catholic masculinity.

Open to all men—regardless of age or where they are on their spiritual journey—the Men's Ministry offers a welcoming space to build genuine friendships rooted in shared faith, values, and morals. It's a safe and supportive environment where men can be themselves, ask questions, and grow in their relationship with Christ.

Together, we seek to become strong, faithful leaders in our families, communities, and beyond. Through monthly gatherings focused on faith, formation, and fraternity, we grow through prayer, fellowship, and service.

Our activities include BBQs, guest talks, outreach initiatives such as feeding the poor and serving the homeless, visiting those in need, and annual retreats.

Our biblical motto, *“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17)*, reflects our mission to build each other up in faith and brotherhood.

MEDIA COMMITTEE

The Media Committee, made up of members from all parish groups, is dedicated to evangelising and fostering connection with parishioners by using both traditional and social media. Through these platforms, we share the richness of the Maronite Catholic faith, encourage spiritual growth, and help build a vibrant, Christ-centred community.

The committee oversees the live streaming of Masses, video production, photography, flyer design, website content, and weekly announcements. We ensure consistent branding across all parish communications and keep the community informed via regularly updated social media channels and the parish WhatsApp group —ensuring everyone stays connected, even those not active on social media.

Most recently, the committee has been working on a full redesign of the parish website, making it more user-friendly, visually engaging, and better equipped to serve the needs of our parish community. Our digital outreach continues to grow, with over 33,000 followers on Facebook, 10,300 on Instagram, 8,500 YouTube subscribers, and an average of 9,600 unique website visitors per month.





ROAD TO EMMAUS

The Road to Emmaus: Walking together in friendship

The Road to Emmaus group (RTE) was created in 2023 for single Catholics, aged 35-50, in our Maronite Eparchy. With a mission to establish new friendships with like-minded people, we aim to provide a welcoming space for single Catholics navigating life and faith together, walking in faith, building meaningful connections and a stronger sense of community, and supporting each other spiritually and socially.

Our current membership of 150 men and women comes from multiple churches across the Eparchy. The RTE committee organises an official event on the first Saturday of every month, either a social activity or spiritual event. In 2025, these have included walks, brunches, bowling, movies, mini-golf and dinners, a pre-Lenten evening led by Father Danny Nouh, and Lenten Lectio Divina evenings led by our chaplain, Father John-Paul Bassil.

Are you a single Catholic aged 35-50? Join us on the Road to Emmaus and express your interest via email: roadtoemmaus@lol.org.au.





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FAITH AND LIGHT

The Faith & Light Committee at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral is a dedicated team of volunteers serving individuals of all ages with special needs or a disability (special abilities).

Rooted in Christian love and compassion, our mission is to embrace these individuals, along with their families, carers, and friends, and welcome them fully into the life of our parish community.

Our work is centred on friendship, faith, and fellowship. We aim to:

- Be a faithful friend to those with special abilities.
- Deepen their connection with Christ and His Church.
- Create inclusive opportunities for social interaction and group activities.

Through our commitment, we strive to bring the love and light of Christ and Our Lady into the lives of those we serve—nurturing joy, belonging, and spiritual growth for all.





CHOIR

“Glorify the Lord all you people! Worship Him with gladness and come with songs of joy.” - Traditional Maronite Hymn

The Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral Choir plays a vital role in the spiritual life of our parish. Its primary mission is to lead the congregation in prayer through the chanting of Syriac Maronite hymns during the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical celebrations. The Maronite Rite is deeply rooted in ancient traditions, enriched by sacred chants, psalms, and hymns that trace back to the early foundations of Christianity. By performing these traditional melodies alongside more contemporary yet liturgically inspired compositions, the choir allows parishioners to engage with their spiritual heritage in a profound and prayerful way.

At OLOL Co-Cathedral, we are blessed with five Sunday choirs: the 8:00am Arabic Choir, 9:30am Family Choir, 11:00am Arabic and English Choir, 5:00pm Choir, and the 7:00pm Youth Choir. Each group comprises dedicated and talented singers and musicians who generously offer their time and gifts in service to the Church, ultimately glorifying God—the true focus of our ministry.

On special feast days and parish events, the choirs unite to lead the community in prayerful celebration, uplifting the Maronite Liturgy with reverence and joy. As our parish continues to grow, the choir remains a cherished opportunity for individuals to deepen their faith, cultivate their musical abilities, and actively participate in a vibrant community of worship. A highlight for the Choir from 2024 was our Youth Spiritual Concert for the Feast of the Assumption. Our Youth Choir members joined together to venerate Our Lady through traditional Syriac, Arabic and English Marian Chants, uplifting praise and glory to our Blessed Mother.



EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events Committee has had the privilege of coordinating and supporting a number of significant liturgical and community events over the past year, all with the aim of enriching the spiritual life of our parish and fostering unity among parishioners.

Some of our parish events include:

- Hosanna Sunday Mass Celebrations
- Passion Week Services
- Processions marking the conclusion of the Months of May and October, as well as Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Feast of the Assumption Celebrations
- Christmas Carols

These events are at the heart of our parish life, bringing together individuals and families in a spirit of reverence, celebration, and community. Each occasion provides a meaningful opportunity for parishioners to participate more deeply in the liturgical life of the Church. Beyond the coordination of parish-wide events, the Events Committee also provides valuable resources and logistical support to other parish committees, contributing to the smooth execution of various initiatives across the church calendar.

A particular highlight was the 2024 Christmas Carols, during which the Events Committee worked closely with multiple vendors to host a successful food truck evening. Additionally, the team collaborated with parish committees to help facilitate our parish's first-ever major Christmas play, marking a new chapter in our community's creative and spiritual outreach. The Events Committee remains committed to its mission of serving the parish through thoughtful planning, teamwork, and faithful service. We continually seek new ideas and warmly welcome the involvement of our parishioners. If you have a suggestion or would like to donate your time or resources to support parish events, please contact us at events@olol.org.au.



HOLY COMMUNION

In 2025, our parish was blessed to welcome and guide 108 children through the First Holy Communion sacramental program. The program consisted of 12 weekly lessons, each 1 hour and 15 minutes in duration, held on Wednesday afternoons from 5:00pm to 6:15pm.

As a parish, we are proud to gather children from across our surrounding suburbs and the wider diocese, representing at least 18 different schools—including Catholic, selective, private, and state schools. Our program welcomes children who are Maronite, Roman Catholic, and even Orthodox, all eager to learn and grow in their understanding of the Maronite sacramental life, with a special emphasis on the true presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Sacraments Received

- Confirmation – 4 children
- Reconciliation – 108 children
- First Holy Eucharist – 108 children

Each child received a Certificate of Completion, a Holy Bible, Scapular, and Rosary beads, presented in a gift box as a keepsake of their sacred milestone.

Corpus Christi Participation

We were especially blessed to have 44 First Holy Communion children also take part in our Corpus Christi celebrations, attending in their white gowns. They participated reverently in Adoration and the Eucharistic procession, a powerful witness to their deepening love for Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We look forward to welcoming another large group of children in 2026 and hope for an even greater level of participation. We plan to involve the children once again in the Corpus Christi celebrations, and to introduce Eucharistic Adoration prior to receiving their First Holy Communion, helping them further appreciate the sacred mystery of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist.





LADIES OF OUR LADY

Ladies of Our Lady: A Ministry of Faith, Fellowship, and Hope

In 2025, during the Year of Hope, a new chapter began for the women of Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral Parish with the official establishment of the Ladies of Our Lady Committee. This ministry was formed to nurture the spiritual, emotional, and communal needs of the women in our parish—providing a space for prayer, reflection, and support.

The committee was officially launched on 8 March, during the Jubilee of Women, which coincided with International Women’s Day. A special Mass was celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, followed by a beautiful morning tea that brought women of all ages together in celebration of their faith, dignity, and role within the Church. The event carried the theme “Women of Hope”, affirming the unique and irreplaceable witness of women as bearers of love and light in their families and community.

Throughout the year, the Ladies of Our Lady organised several events:

- In May, a Mother’s Day Lunch was held at Bayti in Parramatta, drawing over 120 women for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and celebration. It was a joyful gathering honouring the gift of motherhood and the selfless love of mothers in our parish community.
- During Lent, the women were invited into deeper reflection and prayer through Lenten Reflection Days led by Sister Irene Boughosn. These gatherings provided time for silence, spiritual teaching, and meaningful conversation, helping participants grow closer to Christ during the sacred season.

The Ladies of Our Lady have quickly become a vibrant part of parish life, creating a space where women can walk together in faith, share their experiences, and support one another. Their presence and contribution are a living witness to the grace and strength that women bring to the Church and to the world. We look forward to seeing this ministry continue to flourish, guided by the example and intercession of Our Lady, the first disciple and the ultimate woman of hope.

MARIAN APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT (MAM)

The Marian Apostolic Movement (MAM) is a vibrant and growing community of adults gathering fortnightly for prayer, spiritual reflection, and intellectual enrichment. Grounded in the love of Christ and devotion to Our Lady, MAM offers a space for young adults to deepen their faith and grow in fellowship and participate in the life of the parish.

Since the beginning of the year, we have re-established our leadership committee and reignited the year with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — a powerful way to centre our mission on Christ. Each session includes a structured talk or testimony, aimed at building faith, answering life's complex questions, and forming well-rounded Christian leaders.

The 2025 calendar included highlights such as testimonies from George Rizkallah and upcoming testimony from Georgie Mark Ishac, theological talks by Madonna Iskandar, and a moving reflection on Pope John Paul II. Guest speakers add great value, including Robert Haddad, who will be joining us in November 2025 for an inspiring talk on the Second Coming, and Dr Charbel Bejjani who will explore medical bioethics from a Catholic perspective.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our annual summer retreat in December 2025/January 2026— a time for deeper prayer, renewal, and community bonding. We also anticipate more powerful guest sessions that tackle modern-day challenges with the wisdom of Church teaching.

We thank God for the spiritual growth witnessed this year and pray that MAM continues to be a beacon of light for young adults seeking purpose, truth, and hope.





LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

The Liturgical Committee plays a vital role in fostering the spiritual life of the parish by carefully preparing aspects of the Church's liturgical celebrations.

Working closely with the Dean and the priests in harmony with the Maronite liturgical calendar, the committee helps plan and coordinate the liturgical year, ensuring that the Divine Liturgies, feast days, and sacred seasons such as the Season of the Glorious Birth, Great Lent, Glorious Resurrection, Pentecost and the Exaltation of the Holy Cross are celebrated with reverence and meaning.

This includes preparing the proper readings from the Lectionary, coordinating the unique Maronite prayers and hymns, and arranging the sacred space with appropriate liturgical colours and symbols.

The Committee also organises processions and prayer services rooted in the Maronite tradition, such as the Rite of the Lamp or evening prayers, which enrich the prayer life of the community. By ensuring that the liturgy is well-prepared, the committee allows the faithful to participate more fully, consciously, and actively in the liturgical life of the Maronite Church.

Ultimately, the work of the Liturgical Committee helps create a sacred atmosphere where the faithful encounter Christ in the mysteries, prayers, and traditions of the Maronite rite.

Through thoughtful preparation, the committee enables the parish to grow in holiness and deeper communion with God and one another.





Parish STATISTICS



IN THE YEAR 2024-2025

Maronites residing in the Parish	Est. 40,000
Baptism & Chrismation	275
First Holy Communion	108(Parish) 81 (MCHF)
Chrismation only	7
Marriages	53
Deaths	120



FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR THE 2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

The parish delivered a robust financial performance in FY2025, aligning closely with our forecasts despite reporting a net income deficit of \$91,825. Revenue increased to \$6,856,941, which was a positive development; however, this was accompanied by a notable rise in expenses to \$6,948,766.

A portion of both the revenue (\$727,508) and expense (\$377,708) increases can be attributed to the integration of various committees and St Rita's into our new accounting system. These were previously accounted for on the balance sheet but are now fully incorporated and consolidated into the income statement.

An abnormal expense was incurred during the year due to the mandatory re-cladding of the PCYC building. In compliance with updated building regulations, we undertook the removal of non-compliant cladding, installation of new materials and covered all related costs—amounting to over \$700,000 for the year.

There was also a rise in expenditure on Church and Liturgical supplies, including items such as altar dressings, vestments, and other essential church items.

Salary expense increased by 21% year-on-year, driven by a restructure in staffing, an increase in headcount and a comprehensive payroll review.

The parish's security system was also significantly upgraded during the year to provide more comprehensive video surveillance in order to protect both the parish property as well as the community.

On a positive note, the Parish Café had a record-breaking year, with a significant increase in turnover. Similarly, the Gift Shop performed strongly, maintaining its position in an increasingly competitive market.

In July 2024, the parish finalised the acquisition of the property at 306 Woodville Road, Guildford—St Rita's Maronite Catholic Church—at a purchase price of \$3 million plus stamp duty.

As a result of these developments during FY2025:

- Cash balances decreased by \$220,213.
- Land holdings increased by \$2,835,765.
- Capital expenditure of \$75,000 for two new Parish motor vehicles.
- Net loans rose by \$2,637,494, primarily due to the St Rita's Church property acquisition.
- This includes a \$362,506 reduction in the loan balances, from the regular monthly repayments of \$81,485.

At the start of the financial year, the parish successfully migrated to Xero, a cloud-based accounting platform. All associated Parish committees have now been fully onboarded, marking the first time the Parish's finances have been fully consolidated within a single system.

Patrick Kahwaji
PRK CONSULTING, Chartered Accountants.

INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME	2025	2024
Plate collections	1,068,352	785,025
Donations	325,246	283,673
Functions & fundraising	905,154	601,133
Gift Shop sales	831,485	844,666
Cafe sales	2,126,722	1,973,769
Rental income	638,109	664,182
Hall & salon income	119,518	125,423
Committee contributions	411,970	13,807
St Rita's pledges & donations	315,538	0
Government grants	49,500	0
Interest received	17,848	3,070
Other income	47,499	26,322
TOTAL INCOME	6,856,941	5,321,069

EXPENSE STATEMENT

EXPENSES	2025	2024
Administration expenses	209,468	157,600
Cleaning expenses	161,953	155,658
Café expenses	944,296	891,413
Church & Liturgical supplies	127,877	25,909
Committee expenses	327,655	0
Depreciation	119,497	120,647
Diocesan expenses	171,103	159,180
Gift Shop supplies	363,860	355,717
Holy Communion expenses	10,478	33,362
Insurance	161,235	99,359
Interest expense	556,111	368,993
Motor vehicle expenses	40,321	40,940
Other expenses	191,228	151,158
Parish fundraising & function expenses	250,937	124,823
Presbytery supplies	76,339	74,943
Repairs & maintenance	118,922	76,171
Repairs & maintenance - PCYC cladding	706,434	0
Salaries & allowances (Parish, Gift Shop & Café)	1,584,014	1,306,300
Security	49,276	13,216
Superannuation	167,078	131,174
Stipends & supplements	406,418	364,018
St Rita expenses	50,053	0
Utilities (electricity, telephone, water & gas)	154,212	109,851
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,948,766	4,760,432
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(91,825)	560,637

BANK BALANCES


BANK ACCOUNT	2025	2024
DDF Main 2080	83,575	302,803
DDF B&F 4693	2,172	2,155
DDF Projects 5748	546,043	275,612
BOS 1079912	43,949	43,006
DDF Liturgical 6617	14,430	6,657
DDF Gift Shop 4887	174,615	166,365
DDF Cafe 5660	190,271	185,728
DDF Men's Ministry 7733	669	0
DDF Faith and Light 3762	8,037	9,193
DDF HOE 4105	7,763	5,571
DDF Language 3296	79,974	72,163
DDF Sodality 3405	131,960	121,912
DDF Teens 4293	20,208	2,882
DDF Fersan 3325	17,128	18,981
DDF Youth 2470	30,877	33,254
DDF Ladies 7660	63,970	50,502
DDF Seniors 7219	1,354	4,133
DDF Family 7653	12,781	8,687
DDF Road to Emmaus 7736	947	0
DDF St Rita's 7652	167,934	509,269
	1,598,657	1,818,871

LAND AND BUILDINGS VALUES

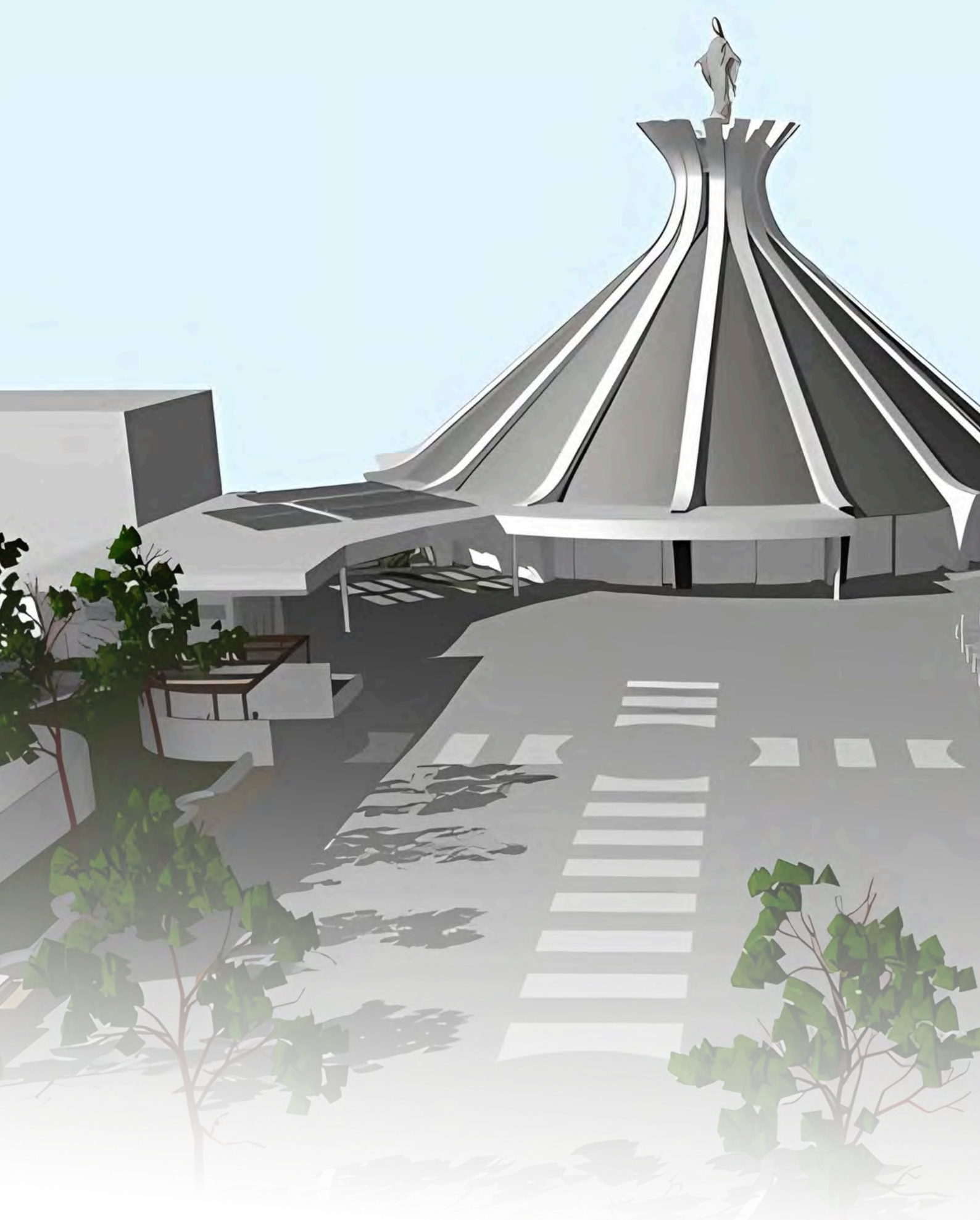


LAND AND BUILDINGS	2025	2024
Land - 40 to 46 Alice St (at valn)	14,699,440	14,699,440
L&B-306 Woodville Rd, Guildford (deposit)	3,165,765	330,000
L&B - 58 Alice St (at valn)	3,100,000	3,100,000
Buildings - Church, Hall & CC (at valn)	16,187,000	16,187,000
Buildings - Carpark (at valn)	4,490,000	4,490,000
Buildings - PCYC (at valn)	6,175,000	6,175,000
Buildings - Ancillary (at valn)	361,000	361,000
	48,178,205	45,342,440

BORROWINGS



LOANS	2025	2024	MONTHLY REPAYMENTS
Community Centre loan	3,069,265	3,257,162	37,726
Units (58 Alice St) loan	990,010	1,061,490	15,521
St Rita's loan	2,896,872	0	28,238
	6,956,146	4,318,652	81,485



Parish PROJECTS

MASTER PLAN



As part of our ongoing commitment to improving accessibility and enhancing infrastructure, the proposed three-level underground car park has reached a key milestone. Development plans for the project have been formally lodged with the local council and are currently under review.

A critical component of the approval process involves assessing underground water conditions to ensure the structural integrity and long-term sustainability of the development. Council has commissioned a comprehensive three-month groundwater testing program, which commenced earlier this year. This testing will provide essential data on water table levels, soil stability, and potential environmental impacts. The results will guide both the engineering design and the conditions of final development consent.

While this additional step extends the anticipated approval timeline, it reflects best-practice planning and risk management. Once groundwater testing is complete and results are reviewed, the council is expected to finalise its determination on the development application. In the meantime, our project management team has already started to engage with third party authorities to minimise any future delays in establishing a development site.

This underground car park remains a strategic priority, designed to significantly improve parking capacity, ease congestion, and better support the community's growing needs. We remain confident that this project will deliver long-term value and a high-quality outcome for all stakeholders and we thank the team at Design Corp Architects for the wonderful work that they are doing in bringing this master plan to life.

CLADDING PROJECT



The Stewardship is pleased to inform you that the remediation works for the replacement of combustible cladding at the Community Youth and Pastoral Centre has been successfully completed.

The remediation project was carried out to the Community Youth and Pastoral Centre in compliance with the defect rectification order issued by Parramatta Council on 22 July 2020. The scope of the project included the full removal and replacement of all non-compliant cladding materials with compliant Vitracore G2 Aluminium panels in a range of colours, enhancing both safety and visual appeal to the building. The rectification ensures the building now meets all relevant fire safety and regulatory standards to the facade cladding, providing peace of mind to the parish and the community.

The total cost of the project, inclusive of all contractual obligations and approved variations, amounted to \$728,133 + GST. To date, all the payment claims to the cladding contractor have been paid in full.

This project faced numerous challenges, including navigating complex compliance issues and coordinating management of trades across multiple disciplines. Through perseverance and collaboration, we successfully delivered this important safety upgrade and obtained formal revocation of the order by council.

We extend our sincere thanks to all stakeholders who supported this initiative and contributed to its successful delivery. In particular, we acknowledge the valuable contribution and donation of the services of Mr Nehme Moujalli from Incode Solutions for his expert fire engineering services, and Mr George Dahrie from Noviiion Engineering for his diligent engineering oversight and project management. Finally, we would like to thank all the contractors and parishioners who donated their services for this project.

Your ongoing support and commitment to the safety of our parish facilities is deeply appreciated.



SAINT RITA MASS CENTRE



SAINT RITA MASS CENTRE

Saint Rita Mass Centre, Guildford – A Beacon of Hope in Western Sydney

Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral is delighted to announce the upcoming opening—expected at Christmas 2025—of the Saint Rita Mass Centre in Guildford. This new parish outpost, housed at the former Mormon church on 306 Woodville Road.

The Mass Centre, under the care of our cathedral clergy, will offer daily Mass and pastoral ministry to locals who may find travel to Harris Park difficult. As Fr Danny Nouh shared, “In Lebanon, churches are in the middle of villages... our aim is to have churches that are local, accessible and personal,” reflecting Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay’s vision for deeper outreach into growing western suburbs.

Throughout this year, beginning with the feast of St Rita, the parish has held prayer days on the 22nd of each month, alongside a novena before St Rita’s feast, fostering devotion and spiritual preparation for the Centre’s inauguration. In support of this emerging mission, the Roses of Saint Rita Committee was formed to lead the work of prayer, outreach, and preparation on site.

As we anticipate the opening in early 2026, the Saint Rita Mass Centre stands as a loving, prayerful extension of our parish’s mission—bringing Christ’s presence closer to home for many.



THE ROSES OF SAINT RITA

The Roses of Saint Rita was formed in December 2024 with the mission of prayerfully supporting the establishment of the new Saint Rita Maronite Mass Centre in Guildford.

Our first spiritual gathering—a morning of prayer and zieh—was held on the grounds of the Mass Centre on 22 February 2025. Since then, we have continued to come together in prayer on the 22nd of each month, offering our intentions through the intercession of Saint Rita.

In preparation for her feast, we hosted a nightly novena on the church grounds, drawing over 150 faithful each evening. These prayerful gatherings led up to a beautiful and joyful celebration on May 22 at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral.

To thank our volunteers and supporters, we held an appreciation dinner on April 29, a chance to come together in gratitude and fellowship.

We are deeply grateful for the blessings we have received so far, and we look forward with hope and faith to the continued growth of this new parish and the spiritual home we are building together under the patronage of Saint Rita.



PARISH BUSINESSES



OLOL GIFT SHOP

The Our Lady of Lebanon (OLOL) Parish Gift Shop continues to grow as one of Sydney's premier destinations for Catholic religious items. Renowned for its extensive and thoughtfully curated selection, the shop offers a wide range of products that cater to all budgets, featuring both exclusive and everyday items that support the faith journeys of parishioners and the broader community.

The product range includes indoor and outdoor statues, rosaries, devotional gifts, Arabic and English faith books, Bibles, apparel, veils, incense, candles, and a signature jewellery line unique to OLOL. In the last year, the Gift Shop has expanded its reach and capacity to fulfil special orders for significant sacramental and life events such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

A key focus is on curating the right range to meet customer needs, ensuring excellent service, and providing value for money. The introduction of new categories such as Parish-branded apparel has helped diversify the offering while strengthening Parish identity and engagement.

The Gift Shop's growth and expansion has also been supported by its strong online presence. Through its digital storefront at www.giftshop.olol.org.au and active engagement on social media platforms, the team has made it easier than ever for customers to browse and purchase from the comfort of their homes.

This ongoing success is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the team and volunteers who continue to serve the Parish with excellence. Looking ahead, the Gift Shop will focus on expanding its product lines, enhancing value, and continuing to grow its physical and digital presence, ensuring it remains a trusted and inspiring retail experience for the local Maronite Community.



FIVE LOAVES CAFÉ

Over the past three years, Five Loaves Café has continued to grow and evolve into a welcoming, community-centered space. In this last year, the café built on previous achievements with improvements to daily operations, stronger community connections, and a growing contribution to the Cathedral's wider mission.

A highlight of the year was the introduction of a refreshed menu, featuring well-loved, high-quality food that appealed to both parishioners and the wider public. This update, along with new furniture and upgraded kitchen equipment, enhanced the overall dining experience and helped increase both customer satisfaction and café activity.

Alongside these developments, the café began offering in-house catering services. Though still in the early stages, this new direction shows great promise and is expected to become a major focus for growth in the year to come.

Beyond its day-to-day operations, Five Loaves Café continues to make a meaningful impact in the community. Through support for parish events and involvement in outreach programs, the café has strengthened its role as a warm, inclusive space and a valued part of the Cathedral's social outreach. Internally, a number of team-focused initiatives have helped lift morale and engagement, recognising that the café's success is built on the dedication of its staff.

The café delivered its strongest financial result to date. This outcome has made it possible to reinvest more into Cathedral programs and further support the café's long-term sustainability.

Looking ahead, Five Loaves Café will continue to grow its catering services, refresh its in-store experience, and deepen its community involvement—ensuring it remains an important and much-loved part of Cathedral life for years to come.



CATERING

Mercy Meals | Sympathies | Baptisms | Holy Communions
Birthday Parties | Graduations | Engagements | Pre-Weddings



02 8898 1550
5loavescafe.com.au

info@5loavescafe.com.au
4/40-46 Alice Street, Harris Park



Parish PARTNERS

MARONITECARE

Over the past year, MaroniteCare has strengthened its support for individuals and families through programs grounded in Maronite spirituality, guided by compassion, dignity, and a commitment to community wellbeing.

A key highlight this year was the opening of the Teresa's Centre at St John Paul II Parish, Ryde, in May 2025. The Centre provides a safe, supportive space for women experiencing unexpected pregnancies or post-abortion grief, offering care, dignity, and hope.

We sincerely thank Dr Marie Rose Mouwad for her vision and leadership in establishing the Centre, and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of its advisory board and volunteers, who will guide and run the Centre to serve the community with excellence.

MaroniteCare's counselling service has continued to provide professional and pastoral support to individuals and families facing grief, trauma, relationship difficulties, and other challenges, remaining a cornerstone of our work. Our collaboration with Montessori Care further extends support through tailored in-home aged care and disability services, promoting independence and belonging.

With the support of Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, the Chancery, staff, volunteers, and the Maronite community, MaroniteCare continues to foster a welcoming culture where every person feels valued, supported, and connected.

In Christ

Barbara Perry
Chair MaroniteCare



MARONITE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY FAMILY (MCHF)

Congratulations on another wonderfully blessed year. Maronite College has enjoyed its working relationship with the Parish over the year and together we hope to continue to support one another in our growth.

Over the year we have collaborated on a number of events that have helped to spread the Good News of Christ.

The Parish priests continue to provide chaplaincy and pastoral initiatives to the MCHF College community including daily Masses in our College Chapel and at OLOL Co-Cathedral, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and addressing students on pastoral matters on Friday mornings.

The annual month of May, Our Lady visit, once again adorned the College grounds, with many parishioners praying the rosary there as they made their procession around Harris Park.

I am proud to state that there are numerous students of MCHF who are also enrolled into the Saturday classes for Fersen and Teens. A number of our staff also assist as leaders of the Fersen and Teens committees.

The Fersen held a sports day for over 100 children, and they appreciated the use of the College grounds and hall to run the event. We were happy to offer the much-needed space to make the day a success.

Leaders of our College were invited to assist with the Parish ANZAC Mass, and they were very willing to volunteer their time to welcome, usher and assist on this special occasion.





During the Parish Annual Feast Week of the Assumption, our students and teachers volunteer their time in assisting. We also have our MCHF drummers who are very excited to perform at the Souk night and are a highlight of the event. The College is appreciative of the opportunities the Parish provides for us to showcase our students' talents.

One of the major events for our students was the regular Wednesday afternoon visits to the Parish nursing home where students spent valuable time with the elderly. It was an opportunity to chat, to hear stories, and on occasions to sing and make musical entertainment.

The elderly looked forward each week to seeing our students, and friendships have been formed over the duration of the visits. It was and continues to be a very special experience for all involved.

Of course, the Sisters continue to support the Parish on a weekly basis with their involvement in the many committees and their presence at sacramental celebrations.

May we continue to work together under the guidance of the Holy Family, to further the mission of God and enlighten the lives of parishioners, staff and students.

Sr Margaret Ghosn
Executive Principal

OUR LADY MERCY PLACE AGED CARE CENTRE

At Our Lady Mercy Place Aged Care Centre, the presence of Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral is felt deeply in the daily lives of our beloved seniors. Each Saturday afternoon, the clergy of the Co-Cathedral celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the chapel, bringing comfort, peace, and spiritual nourishment to residents. Throughout the week, Holy Communion is reverently distributed to those who are unable to attend, ensuring no one is left without the grace of the Eucharist.

Many residents, health permitting, begin their mornings with daily Mass at the Cathedral, finding strength and solace in their faith. Afterwards, it is not uncommon to find them enjoying a coffee at 5 Loaves Café, often surrounded by family, sharing stories and laughter in a warm and welcoming environment.

Our parish committees play an essential role in bridging generations. The Youth, Teens, and Fersen committees regularly visit the centre, offering companionship, joyful conversation, and intergenerational connection. These visits are a source of great happiness for the residents, who eagerly await their presence.

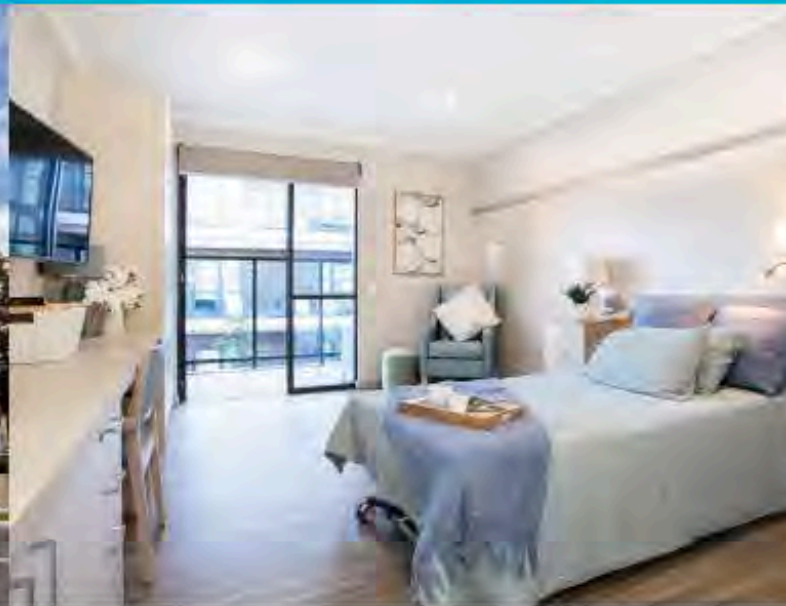
The Seniors Committee also plays a vital role, hosting a special gathering every second Thursday. These days begin with Mass, followed by a shared lunch and a variety of activities that foster community, joy, and engagement.

This partnership between Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral and Our Lady Mercy Place is one of compassion, faith, and shared humanity. Together, we strive to give our seniors not only the spiritual care they deserve but also a continued sense of purpose, dignity, and love. Through prayer, presence, and service, we honour their lives and ensure they remain cherished members of our parish family.



Our Lady Mercy Place Harris Park

Residential Aged Care



Bringing its healthy ageing approach to Harris Park, Mercy Health is committed to caring for the whole person — body, mind and soul — in a home where residents can feel safe, comfortable and valued.

Our Lady Mercy Place Harris Park offers all levels of care. We have qualified and experienced staff around the clock and we tailor your care to your needs and preferences.

Located at 128A Alfred Street, Harris Park, this purpose-built facility has:

- 86 single rooms
- café
- chapel
- hairdresser
- on-site wellness centre
- activities room

Contact our team now to discuss accommodation options for you or your loved one.

Phone: 1300 164 833 or email MPenquiries@mercy.com.au

YOUNG ACADEMICS

Early Learning Centre



The perfect place for your child to

GROW

LEARN

EXPLORE

**ENQUIRE
TODAY**





TRIBUTES TO STAFF AND
VOLUNTEERS NO LONGER
WITH US

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GHADI NAKHOUL



In the early hours of 14 November 2024, we lost Ghadi in a tragic accident on Old Windsor Road. Ghadi Nakhoul was a man whose life was marked by a deep love for God and an unwavering commitment to evangelisation. He was a devoted son, cherished brother and loyal friend, roles he embraced with courage and purpose. Despite the demands of his career as a project manager and his responsibilities to family and friends, Ghadi consistently placed God at the centre of his life.

His work in the Teens ministry was more than a service; for Ghadi, it was a sacred calling. Ghadi viewed his involvement as a path to sanctity, and this conviction shone through in both his words and actions. Ghadi's passion for the mission of forming and accompanying young people was evident to all who knew him.

On many occasions, Ghadi would forgo rest or decline social invitations to dedicate himself to planning or setting up ministry events. Ghadi gave generously of his time, energy and heart, never seeking recognition, only the glory of God.

Ghadi's love for evangelisation took root early and became visible during his university years. As a student, Ghadi boldly bore witness to the faith, both on the streets and as coordinator of the USYD Catholic Society. This missionary spirit continued to grow as Ghadi made it his personal mission to support Our Lady of Lebanon's teens and youth, forming and guiding them, and helping them encounter Christ.

Ghadi glorified God through his works, striving always to grow in holiness so he could better serve others. Ghadi lived the truth that one cannot give what one does not possess. Through his interior life, personal sacrifices and joyful witness, Ghadi offered others a glimpse of the love of God that radiated from his soul.

We entrust our dear brother Ghadi to the mercy and love of the Lord, praying with confidence that he is now in heaven, continuing to intercede for us as he so often prayed for us during his life. May Ghadi's legacy of faith, humility and tireless service continue to inspire all who were blessed to know him.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF NEJIA TANNOUS



On 10 April, Nejia Tannous traveled to Lebanon to celebrate Easter with her sisters, especially with Sr. Celine, who had come from Brazil. She spent those final days doing what she loved - being with her family, giving joy, living her faith. But on Palm Sunday, she suffered a sudden brain hemorrhage. She passed away on Holy Thursday, 17 April, a day that marks the beginning of the Lord's Passion - a fitting day for someone who carried her own cross so faithfully.

We fondly remember Nejia, who, for over 17 years, served our parish not just as the cook for the Bishop, priests, and staff - but as a sister, a mother, and a cherished friend.

Nejia's kitchen was more than a place of food preparation; it was a sacred space of love and service. Every meal Nejia prepared was an offering, crafted not only with her hands but with her heart. In feeding others, she mirrored Christ Himself, who nourished the multitudes with both bread and love.

Her beautiful smile and rosy cheeks could brighten even the heaviest day. She brought warmth, joy, and a deep sense of home to all who knew her. Though she is no longer with us, her spirit lives on in every corner of the parish. We, the clergy and staff, miss her deeply - but we remember her fondly and give thanks for the gift she was to our lives.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.



Our Lady of Lebanon
Co-Cathedral

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