

ISSUE NO.5
MARCH 2024 - THEME:
FASTING

ANBA WANAS LIBRARY BULLETIN

In this month's issue:



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- Saint Paul the Hermit
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For kids, by kids

BOOK REVIEW



ARCHDEACON HABEEB GUIRGUIS: FOUNDER OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pope Kirillos V was assisted in modernising the church structure by many people, and one of these people was Archdeacon, Habeeb Guirguis, who was a man of vision. Habeeb Guirguis was a giant of a man who lived to the age of seventy five while dedicated to the service of the church. He was so dedicated that he even refused marriage in order to be able to spend time serving the church.

He was comprehensive and hardworking. Habeeb Guirguis was born in Cairo in 1876, he was only 4 years old when his father died while his mother brought him up on christian principles. This upbringing plays a significant part on who he became and what he did for the church in later years. Once grown up, he toured the land as a preacher on the pope's behalf, preaching and gathering money for the church. His sermons were heard everywhere and were even published in newspapers.

BOOK REVIEW



He later became the principal of a college which he contributed to in many aspects. Habeeb Guirguis turned the college into a beautiful light of the orthodox faith while protecting it from negative influences.

When realising that the foundation had to be laid in the church's kids of young age, he started developing Sunday school which we now have every week in churches all over the world!

Sunday school was founded in 1900 when Habeeb Guirgius was 24 years old. He then published many books which helped the Coptic Orthodox faith thrive. After living a holy life dedicated to the church, he died on the 22nd of August 1951, while leaving behind these strong foundations of Sunday school.

By Candy Abdelsayed
Year 8



ST PAUL THE HERMIT



By Angelina Meawad Yr 3

Saint Paul was born in Alexandria and had a brother whose name was Peter. After their father passed away Peter took a bigger share of the inheritance and Paul's feelings were hurt.

They went to the governor to judge between them. On their way they passed the funeral of a very rich man, and he left all his belongings behind and was buried in one garment. St Paul thought to himself "Why am I worried about all this money when I shall leave the world naked?" St Paul told Peter that he didn't want any of the money and instead went to a grave out of the city and stayed there three days. St Paul prayed to God and asked Him what he should do.

ST PAUL THE HERMIT

God sent an angel to walk with him into the inner wilderness. He would get half a loaf of bread everyday delivered by a raven and his clothes were made out of palm trees. He stayed there for 70 years.

God sent an Angel to St Anthony to tell him there is a holy man in the inner wilderness. St Anthony visited St Paul and when he returned a second time St Paul had passed away, his soul had been carried to Heaven by the angels. St Anthony was helped by two lions who dug the hole into which St Paul was buried. The Lord hid St Paul's grave so no one could find him. St Anthony carried back St Paul's old clothing and it performed many miracles including raising a person from the dead! That is how holy St Paul was, that it spread to his clothes. May his blessing be with us all. Amen

FIRESIDE CHAT



Q&A with Father Elijah by Juliette Mina

Question 1: What does fasting do for our relationship with God ?

Fasting helps us to focus on heaven. When we eat yummy food we feel sluggish, heavy and want to sleep. When we eat simple food, not too much we feel light. We can pray, we can read, we can do matanias and strengthen our spirit.

Question 2: What should we do when people around us are not fasting?

There will be times when you are surrounded by yummy food you cannot eat and the smell of burgers is so tempting. IT'S HARD! But one way to think about this is that it is your chance to SHOW GOD how much you love Him. Going to church and Sunday school might be easy but this can be your chance to show God you want to do something hard for Him.

FIRESIDE CHAT



Question 3: This Lent what should we focus on when it comes to fasting?

1. Food is one important part of it. If you are in year 1, you might fast during Holy Week, in year 2 the last two weeks.
2. Talk to your confession Father to also find out how you can use the Lent fast to deepen your spiritual relationship with God. For example:
 - focus on memorising Psalms
 - or fast from screens
 - serve your family more
 - read the Bible

SO I TURNED TO THE
LORD GOD AND
PLEADED WITH HIM IN
PRAYER AND PETITION,
IN FASTING.
DANIEL 9:3



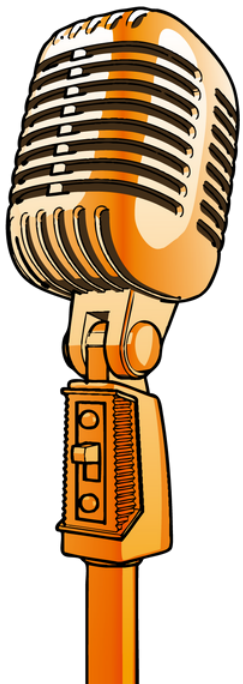
CONGRATS

WE'RE SO IMPRESSED!



We had so much fun reviewing the creative entries at the St Wanas library for the summer competition. From yummy Queen Esther cakes and sweet singing, to pop up Red Sea Crossings for the Israelites - you kids are SOOO creative!

Keep an eye out for the competition in the upcoming school holidays and be sure to join in the fun next time! God bless.



CONTACT US

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Do you want to write a book review or a Saint story? Or conduct an interview? Come to the St Wanas Library today!

Drop by and borrow some books. Remember: if you can tell a servant about three library books you read, you get a prize!