

St George Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2012



But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

Galatians 6:4

The church in this month:

El-Nayrouz Coptic
New Year 1729.
(1st Tut 1729 –
11/09/2012)

Feast of the Cross.
(17-19th Tut 1729 –
27-29/09/2012)

The Feast of The Cross Fr Matthew Attia



On Thursday, 27th September 2012 our Church will celebrate the Feast of the Cross. Our Lord Jesus Christ, having endured the shame, the curse and the disgrace of the Cross on our behalf became The Worthy, Slain Lamb who is worshipped by all creation proclaiming, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12). The Church chants the following hymn on the Feast of the Cross, "He who lifted Himself up as an acceptable sacrifice on the Cross for the salvation of our race. He was accepted by His good Father on the evening of Golgotha." Let us examine each of the features attributed to our Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified for our salvation and redemption.

1. **Power:** The Cross speaks of defeat. The powers of the world moved to crush Christ and to do away with Him, but, in reality, "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:15). As the Apostle St. Paul said, "But we preach Christ crucified. To the Jews a stumbling block, to the Greeks foolishness...but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18-34). St. Athanasius the Apostolic says, "Christ gave us a weapon that goes through fire, air and water and nothing obstructs it. It is the irresistible power of God."

2. **Riches:** The Cross is the ultimate expression of poverty. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who never owned a home of His own and had few, if any, possessions, was in the end stripped of everything, even His clothes as He ascended to the Cross. Yet the poverty of Christ crucified was to enrich our lives beyond imagination, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9).

In the Fraction of the Son we pray, "He was tied with ropes to free us from the bonds and fetters of our sins, He was humbled to exalt us, He was hungered to feed us, He thirsted to give us living water, He was raised on the Cross to cover us with the garments of righteousness and His side was opened and we entered to dwell on Him eternally."

3. **Wisdom:** The Cross is the height of folly. No-one in his right mind would have put himself in a position to be crucified. The sophisticated world had devised it as a way of disposing of the foolish. Yet, in truth, the crucified Christ was, "The wisdom of God, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:24-25).

4. **Strength:** The Cross epitomizes weakness. The powers of the world combined to subject Christ to total helplessness and defenselessness. He, "was crucified in weakness." Yet, in reality, it was God's power at work, for, to those whom God has called, Christ crucified is the power of God, and "The weakness of God is stronger than human strength." (1 Corinthians 1:25).

5. **Honour:** The Cross represents shame. It is designed to degrade and humiliate its victims. It held Christ up to the mockery of the crowds and the ridicule of the Chief Priests and Pharisees. Yet, paradoxically, the Cross was both His throne and the way to His Resurrection from the dead, His Ascension into Heaven. Thus we hear St. Paul rightly say, "God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11).

6. **Glory:** The Cross was a place of dark disgrace. It was hard to find any glory at Calvary. Yet shining through the gloom came the irrepressible glimmer of glory. St. John testified that, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14). St. Paul rightly says, "But God forbid that I should glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Galatians 6:14).

7. **Blessing:** The Cross stood for a curse. People who ended up nailed to the crosses were to be blamed, not blessed. The Law said that, "anyone that is hanged is accursed of God." (Deuteronomy 21:23). But God had so arranged it that, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us." (Galatians 3:13). So now Christ has become the object of our praise.

On the Feast of the Cross the Church chants the following doxology:

Hail to the Cross, the sign of triumph, that is given to Christians for strength.

Hail to the Cross, the tree in the Paradise, that its perfumed branches give life to everybody.

Hail to the Cross, the sign of salvation, that Constantine saw shining in the heaven.

Hail to the Cross, that Helena the Empress, searched for unceasingly until she found it with the nails.

Hail to the Cross, that God was crucified on, and stretched out His hands to attract everybody to Him.

Let us joyfully celebrate the Feast of the Cross and partake of the sacrifice of the Lamb with a humble and contrite heart and let us carry the Cross as Christ taught us, "If anyone desires to come after Me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24).

Please remember us in your prayers

St George Services

Sunday

Early Liturgy	6:30-8:30am
English Liturgy	8:00-11:00am
Arabic Liturgy	8:30-11:30am
Sunday School	11:00-12:30pm
Servants Meeting	12:50-1:30pm

Tuesday

Liturgy	5:00-7:00am
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Wednesday

Liturgy	9:00-11:30pm
Prayer Meeting	7:00-8:00pm

Friday

Liturgy	9:00-11:30pm
Teens Meeting	7:30-9:00pm
Youth Meeting	8:30-10:00pm

* Ladies Meeting on the first Friday of every month at 7pm

Saturday

English Liturgy	8:00-10:30am
Vespers	7:00-8:30pm
English Vespers	7:00-8:00pm
Midnight Praises	8:30-10:30pm

(Confession: Wed, Fri and Sat nights by appointment)

St George Accounts

General Account

(Receipts issued from this account **are not** tax deductible)

Account Name: St George
Coptic Orthodox Church
BSB: 062199

Account Number: 0090 3651

Building Fund Account

(Receipts issued from this account **are** tax deductible)

Account Name: St George
School Building Fund
BSB: 062199

Account Number: 1008 7359

May our Lord accept your donations bless your lives and everything you do.

Did you know? The Coptic year is the extension of the ancient Egyptian civil year, retaining its subdivision into the three seasons, four months each. The three seasons are commemorated by special prayers in the Coptic Liturgy. This calendar is still in use all over Egypt by farmers to keep track of the various agricultural seasons. The Coptic calendar has 13 months, 12 of 30 days each and one intercalary month at the end of the year of 5 days in length, except in leap years when the month is 6 days.

<u>Thout</u>	The Ancient Egyptian God of Wisdom	<u>Paremhat</u>	The month of Amenhotep I
<u>Paopi</u>	The one of Karnak	<u>Parmouti</u>	The Egyptian Renenutet
<u>Hathor</u>	The Ancient Egyptian Goddess of Beauty and Love	<u>Pashons</u>	A god of the moon, or of the Theban trinity and the son of <u>Amun-Ra</u> and <u>Mut</u> .
<u>Koiak</u>	A name of the Ancient Egyptian sacred Apis Bull	<u>Paoni</u>	The month of the Valley Festival
<u>Tobi</u>	A form of the Ancient Egyptian God <u>Amun Ra</u>	<u>Epip</u>	The third month of the Season of Harvest
<u>Meshir</u>	The Ancient Egyptian God genius of wind	<u>Mesori</u>	Birth of the Sun
<u>Pi Kogi Enavot</u>	The Little Month		