

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9.00am-2.00pm

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Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

Website: www.stgerards.org.au **Facebook:** facebook.com/saintgerardparish

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Welcome to St. Gerard's parish, where we foster the wellbeing and safety of all children and adults at risk. Since we take the safety of our young and vulnerable parishioners seriously, we have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to abuse. All our parishioners have the right to feel safe and welcome. If you have any concerns, please contact the Safeguarding Officer.

"Child Safety is Everyone's Responsibility"

<https://www.stgerards.org.au/child-safety-professional-standards/>

Readings for Mass (Year B) - May 16, 2021 - The Ascension of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw Him go, alleluia.

First Reading - Acts 1: 1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm: God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 4:1-13

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all. Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men. When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people My gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Stewardship Collection: Covering church and parish expenses.

Presbytery Collection: For the domestic needs of the priests and for the support of retired clergy.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

**Please collect your thanksgiving envelopes from the foyer of the Church.
We thank you most sincerely for your generosity and support of St. Gerard's.**

The Good News: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Ascension of the Lord

In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see Hebrews 4:14-15).

Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" (see, for example, Hebrews 10:32) because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinisation of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the first Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

Junior Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary celebrates 100 years this year. A huge celebration is planned in September in Dandenong for this region. We therefore appeal to all young people of St. Gerard's to enrol in the Monday Junior Praesidium held between 4pm & 5pm in the Library room, so that we can be well represented. Please contact Jenny for more information on 0413 663 886.

Chaplaincy Appeal 2021

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and a financial donation to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call 9287 5513.

Our Lady Help of Christians - Rosary every hour on the hour

On Monday, 24th May, in honour of the feast day of Our Lady Help of Christians, the Rosary will be said every hour on the hour from 10:00am until 4:00pm.

We invite all the parishioners to participate on this special day.



Piety Stall

The Cardinal Pell Volume 2 Journal, is available to purchase from the piety stall for the price of \$39.95. The piety stall is open over the weekend when there is Mass - Saturday evening and Sunday.

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

O Glorious Patriarch and Patron of the Church! O Virgin Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God! O Guardian and Virginal Father of the Word Incarnate! In the presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose you this day to be my father, my guardian, and my protector.

O great St. Joseph, whom God has made the Head of the Holy Family, accept me, I beseech you, though utterly unworthy, to be a member of your "Holy House." Present me to your Immaculate Spouse; ask her also to adopt me as her child: With her, pray that I may constantly think of Jesus, and serve Him faithfully to the end of my life. O Terror of Demons, increase in me virtue, protect me from the evil one, and help me not to offend God in any way.

O my spiritual father, I hereby consecrate myself to you. In faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary, I place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. To you, after Jesus and Mary, I consecrate my body and soul, with all their faculties, my spiritual growth, my home, and all my affairs and undertakings. Forsake me not, but adopt me as a servant and child of the Holy Family. Watch over me at all times, but especially at the hour of my death. Console and strengthen me with the presence of Jesus and Mary so that, with you, I may praise and adore the Holy Trinity for all eternity. Amen.



MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil Mass, May 15th
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mass 5:30pm Clifford, Emerald &
Christopher Rodrigo
(Remembrance)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, May 16th - Ascension of the
Lord - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mass 8:30am Noel & Doris Bocks
(Remembrance)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm Abraham Oravumkarayil
(Remembrance)

Monday, May 17th

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving - Health &
Wellbeing - Spriggs Family

Tuesday, May 18th

Mass 9:15am Charles Lovett
(Repose of his soul)

and Peter Shannahan
(Birthday Remembrance)

Wednesday, May 19th

Mass 9:15am Birthday Thanksgiving -
Melanie Hayman

Thursday, May 20th

Mass 9:15am Private Intention

Friday, May 21st

Mass 9:15am Nicole Pitchen
(Birthday Remembrance)

10:00am Adoration until 12:00 Noon

Saturday, May 22nd

Mass 9:15am Sheila White
(Remembrance)

Please remember to pray for...

Our sick: Neil Biggins, Giovanna McKercher, Hercules Pillay, Kateri Byrnes, Victoria Briglia, William Issaeff, Karen Daniells, Annemarie Bonica, Brian Edwards, Francesca Antonucci, Alex Severino, Kees Van Strijp, Debbie Juchno, Solomon, Jude Aldons, Patrick Scanlon, Zac Planko, Sergio Dib, Kurt Nguk Yan, Rosemary Zaher, Elisa, Jacqueline & Priscilla Harrattia, Blanche Bowers, Francis Archer, Irene Young, Doris Mifsud, Fred Beiruty, Dulcie Loyal Selleck, Mary Perera, Sherwin D'Santos, Deborah & Cedric Rowland, Giuseppe Astone, George Borg, Jacqui Carr

The recently deceased: Frank Messina

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Olive Anthony, Vicky Wylie, Devasia Devasia, Sr. Abhaya, Pennamm Moopan, Antonio Mete, Philomena Thivlles, Peter Shannahan

Please note:

If you are unable to read or clean on your allocated date, please contact another person to take your place. Should you require a cleaning or reader's roster, please call or email the office for a copy.

We thank you for your help and cooperation.

Reading Roster

Saturday, May 15th

5:30pm S. Moses

Sunday, May 16th

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am M. Lourdunathan

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, May 22nd

5:30pm B. Collins

Sunday, May 23rd

8:30am V. Noble

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm J. Abraham

Saturday, May 29th

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, May 30th

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am D. Naidoo, Sn

5:30pm J. Panicker

Church Cleaning

Saturday, May 22,

Gonsalves family,
M. Ferdinands & L. Harper

Saturday, May 29,

Kronfeld Family & H. Perera

First Holy Communions at St. Gerard's

Please be aware that First Holy Communion Masses will be held on Saturday, 5th June, at 5:30pm and Sunday, 6th June, during the 10:30am Mass.

Due to Government restrictions, we ask that when possible, parishioners attend the 8:30am and 5:30pm Sunday Masses for this weekend, to allow more families the ability to attend the First Holy Communion celebrations.

We thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Mandatory Sign in to attend St. Gerard's Church

Dear Parishioners,

We ask your assistance and diligence to sign in preferably via the QR code or by writing your name on the sign up sheet, when you attend Mass or prayer at St. Gerard's. The Archdiocese of Melbourne strongly encourages us to remember to always sign in whenever we attend a venue outside our homes and the Church is included in this. If we do not adhere to these rules, the fines are huge for the parish, so we ask your help in ensuring we adhere to these rules. God bless and stay safe,

Fr Shanthaiah.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, May 17 to Saturday, May 22, 2021

Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter - Monday, May 17

Entrance Antiphon: You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you will be My witnesses, even to the ends of the earth, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come to you again, and your heart will rejoice, alleluia.

Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Easter - May 18

Entrance Antiphon: I am the first and the last, I was dead and am now alive. Behold, I am alive for ever and ever, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Father will send you the Holy Spirit, says the Lord, to be with you for ever. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of all I have told you, says the Lord, alleluia.

Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter - May 19

Entrance Antiphon: All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send you, the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness to Me, and you also will bear witness, says the Lord, alleluia.

Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter - May 20

Entrance Antiphon: With boldness let us approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace as a timely help, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May all be one as You are, Father, and I in You; let the world believe that You sent Me, says the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: I tell you the truth, it is for your good that I go; for if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you, says the Lord, alleluia.

Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter - May 21

Entrance Antiphon: Christ loved us and washed us clean of our sins by His Blood, and made us into a kingdom, priests for His God and Father, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has set His throne in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and remind you of all I have said to you. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: When the Spirit of truth comes, He will teach you all truth, says the Lord, alleluia.

Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter - May 22

Entrance Antiphon: The disciples devoted themselves with one accord to prayer with the women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and His brethren, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: The just will gaze on Your face, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I will send you the Spirit of truth, says the Lord; He will lead you to the whole truth. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: The Holy Spirit will glorify Me, for He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you, says the Lord, alleluia.

