

## ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

**Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni**

**Parish Phone:** 9792 4422 **Parish Email:** dandenongnorth@cam.org.au

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

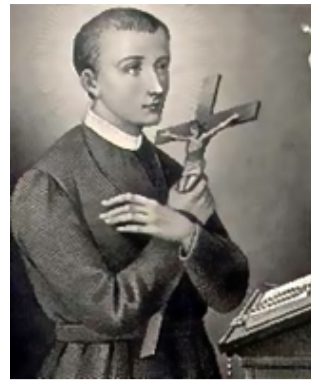
**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday - 9.00am-2.30pm

**Parish Secretary:** Sinthia Stellato

**Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer:** Sumitha Moses

**Principal of St. Gerard's Catholic School:** Mr. Paul Cowan

**School Phone:** 9791 7553 **Email:** principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au



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, Sumitha Moses.

**"Child Safety is Everyone's Responsibility"**

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

## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time — Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn Your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in You, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to You all the day long.

### **First Reading - Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

### **Second Reading - Ephesians 5: 21-32**

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.* This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: You have the words of everlasting life. **Alleluia!**

### **Gospel Reading - John 6:60-69**

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

**Communion Antiphon:** The earth is replete with the fruits of Your work, O Lord; You bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

**MASS and INTENTIONS**

**Saturday Vigil Mass, August 21st**  
**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass 5:30pm Anthony Femino  
(Remembrance)

**Sunday, August 22nd**

Mass 8:30am Louis Charles Kerver  
(Anniversary of Death)

and Elizabeth Panicker  
(Anniversary of Death)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Mass 5:30pm Sabato Leone  
(Remembrance)

**Monday, August 23rd**

Mass 9:15am Private Intention

**Tuesday, August 24th**

**Saint Bartholomew**

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to the Sacred  
Heart of Jesus and the  
Immaculate Heart of Mary

**Wednesday, August 25th**

Mass 9:15am Rochelle Dias  
(First Anniversary of Death)

**Thursday, August 26th**

Mass 9:15am Jeanne & Eugene Duhau  
(Remembrance)

**Friday, August 27th**

**Saint Monica**

Mass 9:15am Jacques Duhau  
(Remembrance)

**Saturday, August 28th**

**Saint Augustine**

Mass 9:15am William Issaef  
(Recently Deceased)

**Please remember to pray for...**

**Our sick:** Neil Biggins, Giovanna McKercher, Hercules Pillay, Kateri Byrnes, Victoria Briglia, Karen Daniells, Brian Edwards, Peter Shaw-Dennis, Rosemary Zaher, Allan Welsh, Kusum and Dinuk Wickremasinghe, Carl DeRozario, Anton Jayamaha, Joseph Irudairaj, Cedric & Deborah Rowland, Michelle Bugone

**The recently deceased:** Aliya Marie Wylie, Christopher and Joseph, Lisa Andrews, Marie Therese Villena Savanah

**Anniversaries/Remembrances:**

**Reading Roster**

**Lockdown August 5th to September 3rd.**

**September**

Sat. 4th 5:30pm P. Kroon  
Sun. 5th 8:30am M. Jose  
10:30am D. Naidoo, Jnr  
5:30pm M. Yallapa

**September**

Sat. 11th 5:30pm D. Franklin  
Sun. 12th 8:30am G. Van Hees  
10:30am M. Naidoo  
5:30pm B. Collins

**Church  
Cleaning**

**Lockdown August 5th to  
September 3rd.**

**Saturday,  
4th September,**  
Kronfeld Family &  
H. Perera

**Saturday,  
11th September,**  
Q. Roland,  
X. Fernando &  
T. Bui

**Church Closed**

We sadly entered another lockdown and the Church remains closed. This current lockdown commenced at 8:00 pm, Thursday 5th August, and has now been extended until 3rd September.

We will live-stream Mass on Sunday 22nd August at **8:30am, not the usual time of 10:30am, for this week.**

Please visit the following link to watch:

<https://fb.me/e/141CgN800>

Our Website will be consistently updated with information regarding the parish. Please visit [stgerards.org.au](http://stgerards.org.au).

Our staff will work remotely, Monday to Friday from 9.00am-2.30pm. Please phone 9792 4422 or email [dandenongnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:dandenongnorth@cam.org.au) or visit our website [stgerards.org.au](http://stgerards.org.au) for updates.

## LET US PRAY and REFLECT

### Marian Coronavirus Prayer

O Clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary, we, your children of every nation, turn to you during this pandemic. Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great. Grant that we might deposit them all at your feet, take refuge in your Immaculate Heart, and obtain peace, healing, rescue and timely help in all of our needs. You are our Mother - Pray for us to your Son, Amen.

### Daily Prayers for Healing of Body, Mind and Soul

My Most Loving Father, You have promised, "I am the God who heals you." (Exodus 15:26) I place in Your loving care, my sick body, worried mind, my emotional wounds and sinful nature. I believe that only You have the power to heal me completely. Loving Father, I trust in Your love for me, help me to love You more. Help me to increase my faith in You. I surrender to You (mention your illness or emotional hurt). Cleanse me with the precious blood of Jesus, purify me and set me free from anger, resentment, hatred, unresolved hurts and greed. Help me to remember that the power of the Holy Trinity dwells within me and all power to forgive and overcome sin is in me. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and Your peace. Amen.

Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, please protect us.

Lord Jesus, heal me. Heal in me whatever You see needs healing. Heal me of whatever might separate me from You. Heal my memory, heal my heart, heal my emotions, heal my spirit, heal my body, heal my soul. Lay Your hands gently upon me and heal me through Your love for me. Amen.

### 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.

### A Choice to Make: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Mass readings conclude a four-week meditation on the Eucharist.

The Twelve Apostles in today's Gospel are asked to make a choice—either to believe and accept the New Covenant He offers in His Body and Blood or return to their former ways of life. Their choice is prefigured by the decision Joshua asks the Twelve Tribes to make in today's First Reading.

Joshua gathers them at Shechem—where God first appeared to their father Abraham promising to make his descendants a great nation in a new land (see Genesis 12:1–9). And he issues a blunt challenge: either renew their covenant with God or serve the alien gods of the surrounding nations.

We too are being asked today to decide whom we will serve. For four weeks we have been presented in the liturgy with the mystery of the Eucharist—a daily miracle far greater than those performed by God in bringing the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. He has promised us a new homeland and eternal life, offering us bread from heaven to strengthen us on our journey. He has told us that unless we eat His Flesh and drink His Blood we will have no life in us.

It is a hard saying, as many murmur in today's Gospel. Yet He has given us the words of eternal life. We must believe, as Peter says today, that He is the Holy One of God, who handed Himself over for us, who gave His flesh for the life of the world.

As we hear in today's Epistle, Jesus did this that we might be sanctified, made holy, through the water and word of Baptism by which we enter into His new covenant. Through the Eucharist, He nourishes and cherishes us, making us His own flesh and blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Let us renew our covenant today, approaching the altar with confidence that, as we sing in today's Psalm, the Lord will redeem the lives of His servants.

## PARISH NOTICES

### **Major earthquake hits Haiti**

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless. The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal. Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

### **NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK. August 23-29**

#### **Tracking Fertility: Tracking Health**

Would you like to discover a way of tracking your cycles and understand a method of family planning in which both members of the couple share this awesome responsibility? This knowledge is something every woman should have and every man can learn! The Billings Ovulation Method® is based on sound science and has been proven an effective Method to achieve or postpone a pregnancy and to monitor reproductive health. More info can be found on our website: <https://billings.life/en/> OR Contact Billings LIFE via email: [enquiries@thebillingsovulationmethod.org](mailto:enquiries@thebillingsovulationmethod.org) for a teacher nearest to you. An information session about the Billings Ovulation Method® will be held on Monday 23rd August @ 7.30pm - 8.30pm AEST.

To register please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-webinar-tracking-fertility-tracking-health-tickets-163000285241>

Further information about natural fertility awareness can be found at the Billings LIFE website:

<https://billings.life/en/>

### **First Holy Communion Candidates**

Sadly, the sacrament of First Holy Communion scheduled for Friday 20th and Saturday 21st August has once again been postponed. We will inform you of the revised date as soon as possible.

### **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.

This experience gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details.

We have two options: An on-line/virtual weekend: 10 -12 September 2021 or a non -residential weekend: 16 - 17 October 2021 in west Gippsland.

(Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

### **The Future of Catholicism in Australia: Forum 2**

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform invites Australian Catholics to the second in a series of convocations via Zoom on Thursday 26 August 2021, 7:30pm-9:00pm. This forum will bring together diverse but complementary perspectives on the current state and future prospects for our church in Australia. The Convocation will be opened by Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann. Guest speakers will be: Dr Jessie Rogers, Ms Debra Zanella, Mr Robert Fitzgerald and Prof Emer John Warhurst

As we look forward to the first assembly of the Plenary Council, 3-10 October 2021, we focus more closely on the outcomes to be expected. Pope Francis has stressed the engagement of all Catholics, beginning with local communities, as integral to plenary councils and to the universal Synod on Synodality in 2023. The aim of this convocation is to emphasise the importance of a successful Plenary Council for all Catholics in Australia. We will be highlighting the matters that Catholics want addressed and resolved. The voices of the people, the sense of the faith of the faithful, must be heard in free and open discussion, particularly on matters such as the Church's governance, and the inclusion and engagement of all Catholics.

For further information contact Kevin Liston via E. [auscathcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:auscathcoalition@gmail.com)

Ph. +61 411 197 829 or [www.acccr.com.au](http://www.acccr.com.au)