

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: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Sunday, 19th September, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to Me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading - Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

The godless say to themselves: 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. 'Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading - James 3:16 - 4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down Your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping Your statutes.

MASS and INTENTIONS

****Please note that during lockdown, Fr Shanthaiah will offer the Masses privately for the allocated intention.****

Saturday Vigil Mass, September 18th

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Jerry Rodrigues
(Remembrance)

Sunday, September 19th

Live-stream of Mass may be watched [HERE](#)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Monday, September 20th

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-Gōn, Paul Chōng Ha-Sang and Companions

Mass For Holy Souls

Tuesday, September 21st

Saint Matthew

Mass Private Intention

Wednesday, September 22nd

Mass Daisy Hart
(Anniversary of Death)

and

Hyacinth Ludwick
(Anniversary of Death)

Thursday, September 23rd

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

Mass Edith Shaw
(Remembrance)

Friday, September 24th

Mass Fr. William Van Kooy
(Remembrance)

Saturday, September 25th

Mass Giovanni & Raffaelina
Marotta
(Remembrance)

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: Ryan Anthony D'Orta-Ekenaike, Michael Gomes, Jogi Reddy & all those recently faithful departed

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Giovanni Marotta

From Fr. Shanthaiah

Dear Parishioners,

We will live-stream Mass on Sunday September 19th, at 10:30am. Please click [HERE](#) to watch this Mass.

Our staff will work remotely, Monday to Friday from 9.00am-2.30pm. Please phone 9792 4422 or email

dandenongnorth@cam.org.au or visit our website stgerards.org.au for news and updates.

Please stay safe and healthy and be assured that we will continue to pray for you all.

God bless you, from Fr Shanthaiah and staff of St. Gerard's.

To Donate

We have received requests regarding donations to our Parish.

Here are the details, should you wish to contribute.

We thank you for your generosity and support.

For Parish/Thanksgiving

Account Name: St. Gerard's Church

BSB: 083 347 Account Number: 53812 1322

For Presbytery/Priests

Account Name: St. Gerard's Presbytery

BSB: 083 347 Account: 669 675878

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.

Servant of All: Scott Hahn reflects on the Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In today's First Reading, it's like we have our ears pressed to the wall and can hear the murderous grumblings of the elders, chief priests, and scribes—who last week Jesus predicted would torture and kill Him (see Mark 8:31; 10:33–34).

The liturgy invites us to see this passage from the Book of Wisdom as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion. We hear His enemies complain that "the Just One" has challenged their authority, reproached them for breaking the law of Moses, for betraying their training as leaders and teachers.

And we hear chilling words that foreshadow how they will mock Him as He hangs on the Cross: "For if the Just One be the Son of God, He will . . . deliver Him . . ." (compare Matthew 27:41–43).

Today's Gospel and Psalm give us the flip side of the First Reading. In both, we hear of Jesus' sufferings from His point of view. Though His enemies surround Him, He offers Himself freely in sacrifice, trusting that God will sustain Him.

But the Apostles today don't understand this second announcement of Christ's Passion. They begin arguing over issues of succession—over who among them is greatest, who will be chosen to lead after Christ is killed. Again they are thinking not as God but as human beings (see Mark 8:33). And again Jesus teaches the Twelve—the chosen leaders of His Church—that they must lead by imitating His example of love and self-sacrifice. They must be "servants of all," especially the weak and the helpless—symbolised by the child He embraces and places in their midst.

This is a lesson for us, too. We must have the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself to come among us (see Philippians 2:5–11). We must freely offer ourselves, making everything we do a sacrifice in praise of His name. As James says in today's Epistle, we must seek wisdom from above, desiring humility, not glory, and in all things be gentle and full of mercy.

PARISH NOTICES

The Way of the Gospel - Parish Mission

I am delighted to share with you, "The Way of the Gospel" with plans for our Parish to take the Good News to everyone, and the invitation to join with a group of other parishes to form a family of parishes, a Mission. It has been suggested that St. Gerard's, together with the parishes of Noble Park North and Springvale North, work together in this Mission.

In his pastoral letter, the Archbishop has explained this project as follows:

The Way of the Gospel—the path of missionary discipleship—has always been adapted by every generation to fit the local circumstances. How this is arranged has varied according to time and place. How might our local communities of faith continue to address the missionary call of the Gospel into the future? How might we invite people into the fullness of the Gospel of life, and do so with a sense of vibrancy and vitality? 'It is a renewal of this vision for today that I want to explore with you over the coming months and years, so that we might walk together towards a more energised purpose for our local Church in the light of Pentecost. This will be a journey that will take time and effort, and we will need to take it together.' —Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

In April and May 2021, Archbishop Comensoli met with the clergy and lay leaders of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to begin this conversation. These initial meetings had one purpose in mind: to open up the question as to how our local Church in Melbourne might best be organised into the future, such that: The mission of the Gospel is at the heart of our life, worship and outreach; Local faith communities are arranged to allow for them to flourish, and; Our faith communities be effectively resourced—spiritually, ministerially and materially.

At this stage we are sharing this information with you, to invite your interest in volunteering your time, to join a "Mission Group" serving St. Gerard's. Please feel free to email us to provide your details in regards to joining the Mission Group as a volunteer to serve St. Gerard's and, once the restrictions ease, we will advise you of the dates the meetings will occur to discuss this project further.

We ask you to please include a daily prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance and hope for our parish community and all the parishes of the Archdiocese: *"Loving God, your Holy Spirit gave the disciples new eyes, new ears and a fresh heart to form the family of the Church and to proclaim the Kingdom of God. We ask the same for your family of St. Gerard's Parish and in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, as we begin a new conversation about our common mission for the years ahead. Through Jesus we pray. Response: Come Holy Spirit.*

For a copy of this document, please email your request to dandenongnorth@cam.org.au. And to read more about Take the Way of the Gospel, please visit: www.melbournecatholic.org/mission.

We thank you for your time and may God bless you all - Fr Shanthaiah Marneni.

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Education of Catechists

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia: One Million Children Praying the Rosary*: ACN invites you to join the prayer campaign 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary' for unity and peace in the world on the 18th of October. Be part of this prayer campaign and join many others!

Register and learn more at www.aidtochurch.org/one-million-children

Australian Catholic University - Centre for Liturgy

On 18 October 2021 (10-11:30am AEDT) the ACU Centre for Liturgy will have the privilege of hosting Fr Bruce Morrill, SJ, who will give our next online public lecture (via Zoom) exploring the vital connection between ethics and our physical enactment of liturgy. The lecture is entitled "Ritual bodies as 'Reasonable Worship': Putting Liturgy in Proper Ethical Perspective". Liturgy as ritual worship is meant to empower Christians to be 'living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God' (Rom 12:1). Liturgy and ethics are integrally related in a sound interpretation of Christian tradition but the theological rhetoric of sacrifice, holiness, royal priesthood, and more, can be puzzling, if not provocative, for 21st century Catholics. This lecture proposes that acceptance of the disruptive challenge of this language will illuminate rather than obscure the connection between liturgy and ethical living. Fr. Morrill holds the Edward A. Malloy Chair in Roman Catholic Studies at Vanderbilt University, where he is Professor of Theology in the Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion. More information about this lecture, can be found on our News, Resources and Events page [here](#). Registration to attend can be done by following this [link](#).