

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Sunday, 26th September, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: All that You have done us, O Lord, You have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against You and not obeyed Your commandments. But give glory to Your name and deal with us according to the bounty of Your mercy.

First Reading - Numbers 11:25-29

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

Responsorial Psalm: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Second Reading - James 5:1-6

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

Communion Antiphon: Remember Your word to Your servant, O Lord, by which You have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

MASS and INTENTIONS

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

Saturday Vigil Mass, September 25th

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Giovanni & Raffaelina Marotta
(Remembrance)

Sunday, September 26th

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

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Monday, September 27th

Saints Vincent De Paul

Mass Trilby Domingo
(Anniversary of Death)

Tuesday, September 28th

Wednesday, September 29th

Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

Thursday, September 30th

Saint Jerome

Mass Leonard Isaacs
(Remembrance)

Friday, October 1st

Saint Thérèse of the Child of Jesus

Saturday, October 2nd

Holy Guardian Angels

Mass Anita Pereira
(Birthday 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, & all those recently faithful departed

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Giovanni Marotta, Fitzroy and Edna DeKauwe

From Fr. Shanthaiah

Dear Parishioners,
We will live-stream Mass on Sunday September 26th, 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

Wednesday, September 29th - Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

The liturgy celebrates the feast of these three archangels who are venerated in the tradition of the Church. Michael (Who is like God?) was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Gabriel (Strength of God) announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Raphael (Medicine of God) is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Michael. St. Gabriel is observed on March 24 and St. Raphael on October 24.



LET US PRAY and REFLECT

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.

To Belong to Christ: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-sixth Sunday Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel begins with a scene that recalls a similar moment in the history of Israel, the episode recalled in today's First Reading. The seventy elders who receive God's Spirit through Moses prefigure the ministry of the Apostles.

Like Joshua in the First Reading, John makes the mistake of presuming that only a select few are inspired and entrusted to carry out God's plans. The Spirit blows where it wills (see John 3:8), and God desires to bestow His Spirit on all the people of God in every nation under heaven (see Acts 2:5, 38).

God can and will work mighty deeds through the most unexpected and unlikely people. All of us are called to perform even our most humble tasks, such as giving a cup of water, for the sake of His name and the cause of His kingdom.

John believes he is protecting the purity of the Lord's name. But, really, he's only guarding his own privilege and status. It's telling that the Apostles want to shut down the ministry of an exorcist. Authority to drive out demons and unclean spirits was one of the specific powers entrusted to the Twelve (see Mark 3:14-15; 6:7, 13).

Cleanse me from my unknown faults, we pray in today's Psalm. Often, like Joshua and John, perhaps without noticing it, we cloak our failings and fears under the guise of our desire to defend Christ or the Church. But as Jesus says today, instead of worrying about who is a real Christian and who is not, we should make sure that we ourselves are leading lives worthy of our calling as disciples (see Ephesians 1:4).

Does the advice we give, or the example of our actions, give scandal—causing others to doubt or lose faith? Do we do what we do with mixed motives instead of seeking only the Father's will? Are we living, as this Sunday's Epistle warns, for our own luxury and pleasure while neglecting our neighbours?

We need to keep meditating on His Law, as we sing in today's Psalm. We need to pray for the grace to detect our failings and to overcome them.

PARISH NOTICES

Piety Stall News

The St. Gerard's Piety Stall has just received delivery of Cardinal Pell's Journals volumes 1 & 2. If you have previously ordered these books, please contact Susan directly on mobile 0408329787 or 97950011 to arrange a day and time to collect. You may also call Susan should you wish to order Word 2022 diaries and 2022 Columbian calendars.

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.

Heart of Life Seminar for Spiritual Directors/ Pastoral Supervisors

Are You Called to be a Spiritual Director? A Pastoral Supervisor? Or a compassionate listener to others? We invite you to a Taster Session (via Zoom), on Saturday 2 October 2021 at 9.30am-11am AEST to explore whether one of these ministries may be for you. Come and experience in a facilitated group via Zoom: a) the Siloam Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors, b) the Emmaus Supervision Program, or c) Let the Heart Listen. Each of these courses is available in 2022 in-person (Covid-permitting) or via Zoom. To register for the free Taster event, please click the link on our home page at www.heartoflife.melbourne, or contact us at secretary@heartoflife.melbourne or tel (03) 9890 1101.

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.