

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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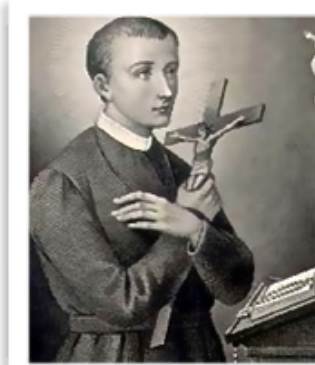
Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

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.
"Child Safety is Everyone's Responsibility"
<https://www.stgerards.org.au/child-safety-professional-standards/>

Second Sunday of Advent - Sunday, 5th December, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of Your heart.

First Reading - Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading - Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Bl'd Mary

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 8:15am each **Friday** followed by Benediction at 9am, then Mass. This will continue each week or unless otherwise specified. Masses in honour of The Immaculate Conception of Bl. Mary and in honour of St. Joseph will be on Wednesday, 8th December:

9:15 am - Mass, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

6:00 pm Adoration

7:00pm Mass - Concluding the year of Dedication to St. Joseph.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 4th - Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Lynette & Vivian Whetton
Thanksgiving to St. Gerard

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, December 5th - Second Sunday of Advent

8:30am Mass is 'Status unknown' please.

10:30am & 5:30pm for the fully vaccinated. Thank you.

Mass 8:30am Thomas Lobo
(Anniversary of Death)

and Giuseppina Zaia
(Anniversary of Death)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Mass 5:30pm Sabato Leone
(Remembrance)

Monday, December 6th

Mass 9:15 am Noel and Doris Bocks
(Remembrance)

Tuesday, December 7th - Saint Ambrose

Mass 9:15 am Guillermo, Zenaidu & Cora
(Remembrance)

Wednesday, December 8th - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass 9:15 am Jacob Abraham
(Anniversary of Death)

6:00pm Adoration followed by
Mass 7:00 pm Giovanna Sabato
(Birthday Remembrance)

Thursday, December 9th

Mass 9:15am Salvatore Puleio
(Anniversary of Death)

and Rosario & Peter Pinto
(Remembrance)

Friday, December 10th

8:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9:00am Benediction

Mass 9:15am Anton Adolphus
(Birthday Remembrance)

and Brian DeMonte
(Remembrance)

Saturday, December 11th

Mass 9:15am Victor & Lily Pinto
(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, Simone Valadon, Angelo Sciacca, Doreen Oliver, Tina Vaca, Santa Venuto, Fr. Praveen, Zinda Fernes

The recently deceased: Marie-Claire Sybil Reincastle, Moses Marneni, Alexander Joachim

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Sassine Oueiss, Antonio Cardamone, Thomas Lobo, Giuseppina Zaia, Sabato Leone

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.

Reading Roster

December

Sat. 11th 5:30pm P. Kroon
Sun. 12th 8:30am G. Van Hees
10:30am J. Panicker
5:30pm J. Abraham

December

Sat. 18th 5:30pm A. Miranda
Sun. 19th 8:30am I. Mulipola
10:30am S. Moses
5:30pm J. Panicker

Church Cleaning

Saturday 11th December, 2021

Kronfeld family & H. Perera

Saturday 18th December, 2021

Q. Roland, X. Fernando, T. Bui

Daily Antiphons

Monday of the Second Week of Advent - December 6th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear.

Responsorial Psalm: Our God will come to save us!

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Behold, the king will come, the Lord of earth: and He will set us free. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before You with a blameless heart.

Saint Ambrose - Tuesday, December 7th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord our God comes in strength.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The day of the Lord is near: He comes to save us. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - December 8th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Responsorial Psalm: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvellous deeds.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

Thursday of the Second Week of Advent - December 9th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: You, O Lord, are close, and all Your ways are truth. From of old I have known of Your decrees, for You are eternal.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.

Friday of the Second Week of Advent - December 10th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit His people with peace, and He will bestow on them eternal life.

Responsorial Psalm: Those who follow You, Lord, will have the light of life.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Lord will come, go out to meet Him! He is the prince of peace. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with His glorified body.

Saturday of the Second Week of Advent - December 11th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: Come and show us Your face, O Lord, who are seated upon the Cherubim, and we will be saved.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am coming soon and My recompense is with Me, says the Lord, to bestow a reward according to the deeds of each.

Parish Notices and Information

Working Bee

The parish working bee will be held on Saturday, 11 December, between 10am and 12pm. Please notify either Fr Shanthaiah or the office of your availability. We thank you in anticipation of your help and time.

Confession and Mass

Confession Evening - Wednesday, 22 December

In preparation for Christmas, confessions will be heard on Wednesday, 22 December, between 6:00pm and 7:30pm. There will be several priests available on this night. There will not be any times for confessions from 23rd December until 28th December.

Christmas Mass Timetable

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

9:15am - Mass

5:30pm - Family Christmas Mass

7:00pm - Maronite Mass,

9:30pm - Mass for 'unknown status'

11:30pm - Carols

12:00am Midnight - Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:30am - Christmas Mass for 'unknown status'

10:30am - Christmas Mass

(No evening Mass)

Sunday, December 26 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass held at - 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:30pm

Office Closure

The office will close on Thursday, December 23, 2021 and will re-open on Monday, January 3, 2022.

The Road Home: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday of Advent

Today's Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.

It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1–4, 11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also Acts 28:28).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."