

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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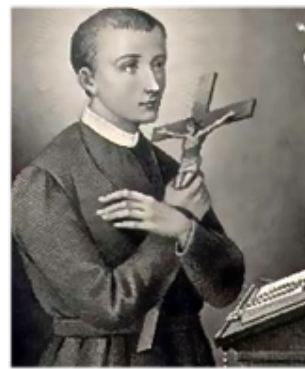
Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

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

Third Sunday of Advent - Sunday, 12th December, 2021

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; He sent Me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save us.

Choir

We invite parishioners to join the choir to sing carols at all Christmas Masses, especially for the 11:30pm Christmas Carols, on Christmas Eve. Please see Fr. Shanthaiah after Mass or please call the office to register your availability so that we can coordinate practice. Thank you in advance.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 11th - Third Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Angelo Sciacca
(First Month - Anniversary of
Death)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, December 12th - Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

Mass 8:30am Russell McLauchlan
(Remembrance)

and Fanny, Patrick & Manolito Antaran
& Cesar Caballero
(Remembrance)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Mass 5:30pm Antonette Beatrice Vettivelu
(For her health and recovery)

and Joseph Gerald Marmion
(Anniversary of Death)

and George Kandothparambil
(Anniversary of Death)

Monday, December 13th - Saint Lucy

Mass 9:15am Santina Venuto
(Recently Deceased)

and Fiore Mete
(Anniversary of Death)

Tuesday, December 14th - Saint John of the Cross

Mass 9:15am Antonio Cardamone
(Remembrance)

Wednesday, December 15th

Mass 9:15am Russell McLauchlan
(Remembrance)

Thursday, December 16th

Mass 9:15am Jerome & Harry Pinto
(Remembrance)

Friday, December 17th

8:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9:00am Benediction (**Last for the year**)

Mass 9:15am Lawrence & Theodora Pinto
(Remembrance)

Saturday, December 18th

Mass 9:15am Margaret Karmakar
(Anniversary of Death)

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, Doreen Oliver, Tina Vaca, Antonette Vettivelu, Claris

The recently deceased: Santina Venuto, Angelo Sciacca, Filippo Cordoma, Teresita Matilla

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Pablo Dela Fuente, Brian DeMonte, Antonio Cardamone, Fiore Mete, Patricia O'Shea, George Kandothparambil

Reading Roster

December 18 and 19

Sat.18th 5:30pm A. Miranda

Sun.19th 8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm J. Panicker

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:30pm G. Van Hees

9:30pm B. Collins

Midnight A. Pacifique

and C. Fernando

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:30am S. Hayman

10:30am R. Noble

(No evening Mass)

Sunday, December 26 - Holy Family

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am M. Lourdunathan

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Piety Stall

God's word 2022 and Columbian and Divine Mercy Calendars, are now available to purchase from the piety stall.

Thanksgiving Envelope

Thanksgiving envelopes for numbers 1-200 may be collected from the foyer of the church. Envelopes 200-444 will be available next weekend. We thank you most sincerely for your continued financial support of our church and the parish.

Daily Antiphons

Saint Lucy - Monday of the Third Week of Advent - December 13th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity.

Responsorial Psalm: Teach me Your ways, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord, show us Your mercy and love, and grant us Your salvation. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.

Saint John of the Cross - Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 14th 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: May I never boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, O Lord, do not delay: Forgive the sins of Your people. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me, says the Lord.

Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 15th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord will come and He will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal Himself to all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Raise your voice and the tell the Good News: the Lord our God comes in strength. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of His servants.

Thursday of the Third Week of Advent - December 16th, 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: I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

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: 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 Third Week of Advent - December 17th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to His poor.

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in His time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.

Saturday of the Third Week of Advent - December 18th, 2021:

Entrance Antiphon: Christ our king is coming, He is the Lamb foretold by John.

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in His time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Leader of ancient Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: rescue us with Your mighty power! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: His name will be called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us.

Parish Notices and Information

Confession Evening, Wednesday, 22 December

In preparation for Christmas, confessions will be heard on Wednesday, 22 December, between 6:00pm and 8:00pm.

There will be several priests available on this night.

On this night, Fr Joseph Gilbert Carlo will hold Adoration at 3pm until 4:30pm.

From 6:00pm until 6:30pm - Talk on Penitential Rite

6:00pm - 8:00pm -
Confessions will be heard.

There will not be any times for confessions from 23rd December until 28th December.

Christmas Mass Timetable

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

9:15 am - Mass (*No exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*)

5:30 pm - Family Christmas Mass

7:00pm - Maronite Mass,

9:30pm - Mass for 'unknown status'

11:30 pm - Carols

12:00 am Midnight - Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

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

10:30 am - Christmas Mass

(No evening Mass)

Sunday, December 26 -

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

Office Closure

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

What Do We Do? Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Advent

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see Luke 3:3; 5:32; 24:47).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold "turning"—away from sin (see Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30) and toward God (see Sirach 17:20–21; Hosea 6:1).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see Luke 3:8). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did:

"What should we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath (see Luke 3:7–9) but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare Luke 1:28–31). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favoured one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Saviour."

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised:
"One mightier than I is coming."