

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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Website: www.stgerards.org.au Facebook: [facebook.com/saintgerardparish](https://www.facebook.com/saintgerardparish)

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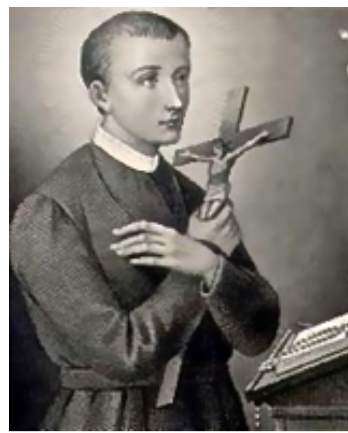
Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

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/>

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Sunday, 19th December, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading - Micha 5:1-4

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

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

Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: *You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'* Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may His will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Emmanuel.

Donation of Gifts for children

We are collecting gifts for children on behalf of St. Vincent de Paul. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Please wrap your gifts and mark them as being either for a girl or boy and the age group.

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 18th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm For Holy Souls
and Pancrazio, Giuseppina, Rocco, Vincenzo
and Salvatore Dell'Aguila
Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, December 19th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Thanksgiving for blessings
and Russell Mc Lauchlan
(Remembrance)
Mass 10:30am Pro Populo
Mass 3:30pm French Community
Mass 5:30pm Ivor De Kauwe
(Remembrance)

Monday, December 20th

Mass 9:15am Eliza Monteiro
(Remembrance)
and Rafael Vaca
(20th Anniversary of Death)

Tuesday, December 21st

Mass 9:15am Joseph Almeida
(Anniversary of Death)
and Teresita Matilla
(Recently Deceased)

Wednesday, December 22nd

Mass 9:15am John Daniels
(Anniversary of Death)
3:00pm-4:30pm Adoration
6:00pm Confessions until 8:00pm

Thursday, December 23rd

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving & protection for Selway,
Fawlez, Michel & Donat Families

Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Mass 9:15am Donald Collins
(Anniversary of Death)
and Pierre Michel
(Birthday Remembrance)
5:30 pm Family Christmas Mass
7:00pm Maronite Mass
9:30pm Mass
11:30pm Carols
12:00am Midnight - Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 25th - Christmas Day

8:30am Mass
10:30am Mass

(No evening Mass)

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, Carmen Smith

The recently deceased: Santina Venuto, Alexander Joachim, Angelo Sciacca, Filippo Cordoma

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Joseph Almeida, Domenico Lidonnici, Donald Collins, Giovanna Sabato

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

Christmas Lights Displays featuring Nativities

You are invited to view St Gerard's parishioner, Andrew Vaccaro's Christmas Lights Display, which features a beautiful Nativity as its centrepiece. Where: Ring Court, Dandenong North (you'll know the house!!) When: Saturday, December 18, 2021 to Saturday, January 1st, 2022. Times: Mon-Wed: 8:45PM to 11:00PM, Thur-Sun: 8:45PM to 12:00AM. Please feel free to go on the lawn and look around- just take it slow and watch for any cables! Andrew encourages parishioners to come up and introduce themselves, as he wishes to get to meet and know as many people within the wider community as possible.

Daily Antiphons

Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 20th, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: A branch shall sprout from the root of Jesse, and the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth, and all flesh will see the salvation of God.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: free the prisoners of darkness! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The Angel said to Mary: Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent - Tuesday, December 21st, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord and Ruler will be coming soon, and His name will be called Emmanuel, because He will be God-with-us.

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones; sing a new song to Him.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Emmanuel, God's presence among us, our King, our Judge: save us, Lord our God! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are you who have believed, that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 22nd, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: O Gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let Him enter, the king of glory!

Responsorial Psalm: My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, King of all nations, source of your Church's unity and faith: save all people, Your own creation! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 23rd, 2021

Entrance Antiphon: A child shall be born for us, and He will be called God, the Almighty; every tribe of the earth shall be blest in Him.

Responsorial Psalm: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, King of all nations, source of Your Church's unity and faith: save all people, Your own creation! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears My voice and opens the door to Me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me.

Friday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 24th, 2021: Morning Mass

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son into the World.

Responsorial Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: shine on those lost in the darkness of death! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited His people and redeemed them.



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

11:30 pm - Carols

12:00 am Midnight - Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:30 am - Christmas Mass

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.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

There has been a delay in delivery of the Thanksgiving envelopes.

This is beyond our control. As soon as we receive these, they will be made available for collection.

We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Reminder:

Exposition will conclude on 17th December and will not be held on Friday 24th December.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will recommence in February.

Piety Stall

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

Thank you to Volunteers

We wish to thank the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to come and clean, garden and cook for the parish. Your generosity of time and help is greatly appreciated.

A Mother's Greeting: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer:

He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see Ruth 4:11-17; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:1; Matthew 2:6).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11-12).

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see Isaiah 9:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23-25, 30; 37:35). He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh" (see also Psalm 2:7). He is also our "high priest," from the mould of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Psalm 110:4; Genesis 14:18-20). All this is recognised by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognises that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.