

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

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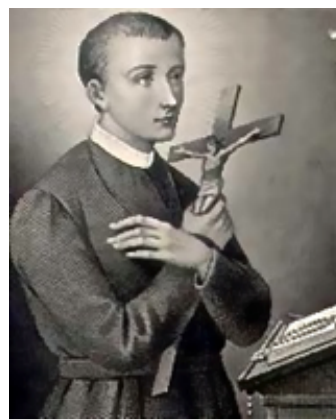
Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

Principal of St. Gerard's Catholic School: Mr. Paul Cowan

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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/>

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) — Sunday, 16th January, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before You, O God, and shall sing to You, shall sing to Your name, O Most High!

First Reading - Isaiah 62: 1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

Responsorial Psalm: Proclaim His marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

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

Gospel Reading - John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water', and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.' This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 15th, 2022

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of Hermione & Karen Daniells

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, January 16th -

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Alfio Placido, Carmela Tomaselli, Domenico & Rosa Pappalardo
(Remembrance)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm Fanny, Patrick and Manolito Antaran & Cesar Caballero
(Remembrance)

Monday, January 17th - Saint Anthony

Mass 9:15am Family offering - Daniell's Family

Tuesday, January 18th

Mass 9:15am For the souls of the Daniel's & Anthony family faithful departed

Wednesday, January 19th

Mass 9:15am Alfio Placido, Carmela Tomaselli, Domenico & Rosa Pappalardo
(Remembrance)

Thursday, January 20th

Mass 9:15am Grenville Francis
(Birthday Remembrance)

Friday, January 21st - Saint Agnes

Mass 9:15am Anthony Denis Domingo
(Birthday Remembrance)

Saturday, January 22nd

Mass 9:15am Alfio Placido, Carmela Tomaselli, Domenico & Rosa Pappalardo
(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, Antonette Vettivelu, Claris, Suzette Savrimoothoo

The recently deceased: Pasquale Isabella, Raymond Arthur, Beverly Deabe

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Irene Lyonette

Reading Roster

January

Sat. 22nd 5:30pm D. Franklin

Sun. 23rd 8:30am M. Noble

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

January

Sat. 29th 5:30pm P. Kroon

Sun. 30th 8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am D. Naidoo, Jn

5:30pm J. Abraham

Church Cleaning

Saturday 22nd January, 2022

Legion of Mary

Saturday 29th January, 2022

Gonsalves Family, M. Ferdinands, L. Harper

Parish News & Notices

We have advertised to fill the position of Parish Organist at St. Gerard's. Further details of this and other positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at hadmin@cam.org.au

And....

We are looking for committed volunteers to help at the piety stall once a month. If you are interested in offering your services please contact 0408 329 787 or 9795 0011. The piety stall is run by St Vincent De Paul and all proceeds go towards the poor and vulnerable in our community. EFTPOS is now also available!

And....

Adoration will resume in February. We will advise the dates in the next bulletin. Thank you.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, January 17 to Saturday, January 22 - Year C

Monday of the second week in Ordinary Time - January 17th, 2022 - Saint Anthony

Entrance Antiphon: The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar, planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: If you would be perfect, go, sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow Me, says the Lord.

Tuesday of the second week in Ordinary Time - January 18th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before You, O God, and shall sing to You, shall sing to Your name, O Most High!

Responsorial Psalm: I have found David, My servant.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Wednesday of the second week in Ordinary Time - January 19th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before You, O God, and shall sing to You, shall sing to Your name, O Most High!

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed be the Lord, my Rock!

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Thursday of the second week in Ordinary Time - January 20th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before You, O God, and shall sing to You, shall sing to Your name, O Most High!

Responsorial Psalm: In God I trust; I shall not fear.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death and brought us life through His gospel. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Friday of the second week in Ordinary Time - January 21st, 2022 - Saint Agnes

Entrance Antiphon: Blessed is the Virgin who by denying herself and taking up her cross imitated the Lord, the spouse of virgins and prince of martyrs.

Responsorial Psalm: Have mercy on me, God, have mercy.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to Himself; and the Good News of reconciliation He has entrusted to us. *Alleluia!*

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

Saturday of the second week in Ordinary Time - January 22nd, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before You, O God, and shall sing to You, shall sing to Your name, O Most High!

Responsorial Psalm: Let us see Your face, Lord, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of Your Son. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

In the Wedding: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Think of these first weeks after Christmas as a season of “epiphanies.” The liturgy is showing us who Jesus is and what He has revealed about our relationship with God. Last week and the week before, the imagery was royal and filial—Jesus is the newborn king of the Jews who makes us coheirs of Israel’s promise, beloved children of God. Last week in the liturgy we went to a baptism. This week we’re at a wedding. We’re being shown another dimension of our relationship with God. If we’re sons and daughters of God, it’s because we’ve married into the family. Have you ever wondered why the Bible begins and ends with a wedding—Adam and Eve’s in the garden and the marriage supper of the Lamb (compare Genesis 2:23–24 and Revelation 19:9; 21:9; 22:17)? Throughout the Bible, marriage is the symbol of the covenant relationship God desires with His chosen people. He is the groom, humanity His beloved and sought after bride. We see this reflected beautifully in today’s First Reading. When Israel breaks the covenant, she is compared to an unfaithful spouse (see Jeremiah 2:20–36; 3:1–13). But God promises to take her back, to “espouse” her to Him forever in an everlasting covenant (see Hosea 2:18–22). That’s why in today’s Gospel Jesus performs His first public “sign” at a wedding feast. Jesus is the divine bridegroom (see John 3:29), calling us to His royal wedding feast (see Matthew 22:1–14). By His New Covenant, He will become “one flesh” with all humanity in the Church (see Ephesians 5:21–33). By our baptism, each of us has been betrothed to Christ as a bride to a husband (see 2 Corinthians 11:2). The new wine that Jesus pours out at today’s feast is the gift of the Holy Spirit given to His bride and body, as today’s Epistle says. This is the “salvation” announced to the “families of nations” in today’s Psalm.

St. Anthony the Abbott - Feast day 17th January

St. Anthony’s whole life was not one of observing, but of becoming. When his parents died when he was eighteen he inherited their three hundred acres of land and the responsibility for a young sister. One day in church, he heard read Matthew 19:21: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Not content to sit still and meditate and reflect on Jesus' words he walked out the door of the church right away and gave away all his property except what he and his sister needed to live on. On hearing Matthew 6:34, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today," he gave away everything else, entrusted his sister to a convent, and went outside the village to live a life of praying, fasting, and manual labour. It wasn't enough to listen to words, he had to become what Jesus said. Every time he heard of a holy person he would travel to see that person. But he wasn't looking for words of wisdom, he was looking to become. So if he admired a person's constancy in prayer or courtesy or patience, he would imitate it.

Anthony knew how difficult this was. Throughout his life he argued and literally wrestled with the devil. His first temptations to leave his ascetic life were arguments we would find hard to resist - anxiety about his sister, longings for his relatives, thoughts of how he could have used his property for good purposes, desire for power and money. When Anthony was able to resist him, the devil then tried flattery, telling Anthony how powerful Anthony was to beat him. Anthony relied on Jesus' name to rid himself of the devil. It wasn't the last time, though. One time, his bout with the devil left him so beaten, his friends thought he was dead and carried him to church. Anthony had a hard time accepting this. After one particular difficult struggle, he saw a light appearing in the tomb he lived in. Knowing it was God, Anthony called out, "Where were you when I needed you?" God answered, "I was here. I was watching your struggle. Because you didn't give in, I will stay with you and protect you forever." With that kind of assurance and approval from God, many people would have settled in, content with where they were. But Anthony's reaction was to get up and look for the next challenge - moving out into the desert. Anthony always told those who came to visit him that the key to the ascetic life was perseverance, not to think proudly, "We've lived an ascetic life for a long time" but treat each day as if it were the beginning. To many, perseverance is simply not giving up, hanging in there. But to Anthony perseverance meant waking up each day with the same zeal as the first day. It wasn't enough that he had given up all his property one day. What was he going to do the next day? Once he had survived close to town, he moved into the tombs a little farther away. After that he moved out into the desert. No one had braved the desert before. He lived sealed in a room for twenty years, while his friends provided bread. People came to talk to him, to be healed by him, but he refused to come out. Finally they broke the door down. Anthony emerged, not angry, but calm. Some who spoke to him were healed physically, many were comforted by his words, and others stayed to learn from him. Those who stayed formed what we think of as the first monastic community, though it is not what we would think of religious life today. All the monks lived separately, coming together only for worship and to hear Anthony speak. But after awhile, too many people were coming to seek Anthony out. He became afraid that he would get too proud or that people would worship him instead of God. So he took off in the middle of the night, thinking to go to a different part of Egypt where he was unknown. Then he heard a voice telling him that the only way to be alone was to go into the desert. He found some Saracens who took him deep into the desert to a mountain oasis. They fed him until his friends found him again.

Anthony died when he was one hundred and five years old. A life of solitude, fasting, and manual labour in the service of God had left him a healthy, vigorous man until very late in life. And he never stopped challenging himself to go one step beyond in his faith. Saint Athanasius, who knew Anthony and wrote his biography, said, "Anthony was not known for his writings nor for his worldly wisdom, nor for any art, but simply for his reverence toward God." We may wonder nowadays at what we can learn from someone who lived in the desert, wore skins, ate bread, and slept on the ground. We may wonder how we can become like him. We can become Anthony by living his life of radical faith and complete commitment to God.

In His Footsteps: Fast for one day, if possible, as St. Anthony did, eating only bread and only after the sun sets. Pray as you do that God will show you how dependent you are on God for your strength. Take the next challenge instead of just sitting still.