

# ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

**Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni**

**Parish Phone: 9792 4422 Parish Email: dandenongnorth@cam.org.au**

**Website: www.stgerards.org.au Facebook: facebook.com/saintgerardparish**

**Address: 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175**

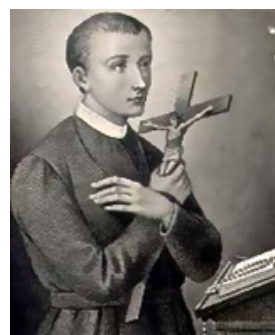
**Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm**

**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 in Ordinary Time (Year C) — Sunday, 23rd January, 2022**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

### **First Reading - Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10**

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people, said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

### **Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything? Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.' What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** The Lord sent Me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. **Alleluia!**

### **Gospel Reading - Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21**

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

**Communion Antiphon:** Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

**Daily Antiphons - Monday, January 24 to Saturday, January 29 - Year C**

**Monday of the third week in Ordinary Time - January 24th, 2022 - Saint Francis De Sales**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I will look after My sheep, says the Lord, and I will appoint a shepherd to pasture them, and I, the Lord, will be their God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** My faithfulness and love shall be with Him.

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

**Communion Antiphon:** It was not you who chose Me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

**Tuesday of the third week in Ordinary Time - January 25th, 2022 - The Conversion of St. Paul**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I know the one in whom I have believed and I am sure that He, the just judge, the mighty, will keep safe what is my due until that day.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will last. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** I live by faith in the Son of God, who has loved me and given Himself up for me.

**Wednesday of the third week in Ordinary Time - January 26th, 2022 - Australia Day**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples, among the nations sing psalms to You, for Your mercy reaches to the heavens, and Your truth to the skies.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord speaks of peace to His people.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Bless the Lord, my soul, and never forget all His benefits.

**Thursday of the third week in Ordinary Time - January 27th, 2022**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

**Responsorial Psalm:** God will give Him the throne of David, His father.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

**Friday of the third week in Ordinary Time - January 28th, 2022 - Saint Thomas Aquinas**

**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:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Blessed are You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. *Alleluia!*

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

**Saturday of the third week in Ordinary Time - January 29th, 2022**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Create a clean heart in me, O God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* God loved the world so much, He gave us His only Son, that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### Saturday, January 22nd, 2022

#### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Keith Bradshaw  
(Remembrance)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### Sunday, January 23rd -

#### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Helen Pennant  
(Remembrance)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo  
Baptism Welcome Rite

12:00pm Baptism Congratulations to baby  
Joshua Dennis and family

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

### Monday, January 24th - Saint Francis de Sales

Mass 9:15am Foday Shekie Sillah, Marie Sesay,  
Baraka Sillah, Nikoya Conteh  
(Remembrance)

### Tuesday, January 25th - The Conversion of St. Paul

Mass 9:15am Private Intention of Donat Family  
  
and Francis & Trini - Thanksgiving for  
their 25th Wedding Anniversary

### Wednesday, January 26th - Australia Day

#### (Public Holiday - Office closed)

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

### Thursday, January 27th

Mass 9:15am Joseph Hamid Sillah  
(Thanksgiving)

### Friday, January 28th - Saint Thomas Aquinas

Mass 9:15am Pasquale Isabella  
(First Month, Anniversary of Death)

### Saturday, January 29th

Mass 9:15am Private Intentions of Parishioners

## 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:** Raymond Arthur, Beverly Deabe, Pasquale Isabella, Luana Palermo, Elisabetta Cannatelli, Yolande Weerasinghe

**Anniversaries/Remembrances:** Charles Daniel, Victor Abel

## Reading Roster

### January

Sat. 29th 5:30pm	P. Kroon
Sun. 30th 8:30am	G. Markezic
10:30am	D. Naidoo, Jn
5:30pm	J. Abraham

### February

Sat. 5th 5:30pm	A. Miranda
Sun. 6th 8:30am	V. Noble
10:30am	S. Moses
5:30pm	J. Panicker

## Church Cleaning

### Saturday 29th January, 2022

Gonsalves Family, M. Ferdinands, L. Harper

### Saturday 5th February, 2022

Kronfeld Family & H. Perera

## Parish News

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 contact Human Resources at

[hadmin@cam.org.au](mailto:hadmin@cam.org.au)

and...

Please remember that Wednesday, 26th January, is Australia Day and the office will be closed for this public holiday.

and...

Adoration will recommence on Friday, 4th February beginning at 8:10am until 9am.  
Mass will then be held at 9:15am.

## **New Day Dawns: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The meaning of today's liturgy is subtle and many-layered.

We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading.

Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15–17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3–4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6); and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16–17, 21 and Nehemiah 8:2–6, 8–10).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10).

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him.

## **The story of the Conversion of St. Paul**

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "... entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Saviour.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.

