

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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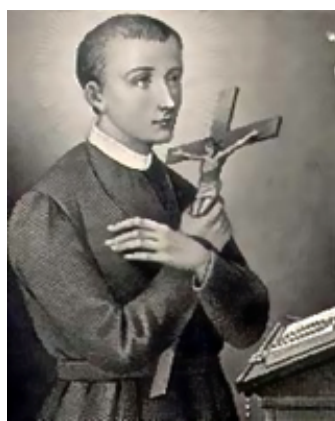
Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

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/>

The Baptism of the Lord — Sunday, 9th January, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I: He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Communion Antiphon: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 8th, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

Mass 5:30pm Cedric & Benedicta Monteiro
(Thanksgiving 25th Wedding Anniversary)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, January 9th - The Baptism of the Lord

Mass 8:30am Bernard Saw
(Anniversary of Death)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community

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

Monday, January 10th

Mass 9:15am Zarah Adaniel
(Birthday Thanksgiving)

Tuesday, January 11th

Mass 9:15am Frank & Sandy Hayman
(Thanksgiving - 30th Wedding Anniversary)

Wednesday, January 12th

Mass 9:15am Celia Foenander
(Anniversary of Death)

and Raymond Arthur
(Recently Deceased)

Thursday, January 13th

Mass 9:15am All the sick in the Olive, Frank and
Anthony Families

Friday, January 14th

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving - Hermione Daniell's
& Family

Saturday, January 15th

Mass 9:15am Sonia & Thomas Francis
(Thanksgiving - 25th Wedding Anniversary)

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. 15th 5:30pm	C. Fernando
Sun. 16th 8:30am	I. Mulipola
10:30am	M. Lourdunathan
5:30pm	J. Panicker

January

Sat. 22nd 5:30pm	D. Franklin
Sun. 23rd 8:30am	M. Noble
10:30am	A. Pacifique
5:30pm	M. Yallapa

Church Cleaning

Saturday 15th January, 2022

Moses & Family, Vincent, Mary & Rebecca

Saturday 22nd January, 2022

Legion of Mary

Parish Notices

Dear Parishioners,

We have advertised to fill the position of Parish Organist here 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

Please note that the Parish office will be closed from Thursday December 23rd, 2021 and will re-open on Monday, January 10th, 2022.

The staff and I wish to thank you all for your support and kindness throughout the year.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may God bless you all.

Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni, Parish Priest.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, January 10 to Saturday, January 15 - Year C

Monday of the First week in Ordinary Time - January 10th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

Responsorial Psalm: To You, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Kingdom of God is near: repent and believe the Good News! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

Tuesday of the First week in Ordinary Time - January 11th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Receive this message not as human words, but as truly the word of God. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

Wednesday of the First week in Ordinary Time - January 12th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

Responsorial Psalm: Here am I, Lord; I come to do Your will.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* My sheep listen to My voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow Me. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

Thursday of the First week in Ordinary Time - January 13th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

Responsorial Psalm: Save us, Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Communion Antiphon: With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

Friday of the First week in Ordinary Time - January 14th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited His people. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

Saturday of the First week in Ordinary Time - January 15th, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, Your strength gives joy to the king.

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

Communion Antiphon: With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

The Anointing: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolised by the Magi, have been made “coheirs” to the blessings promised to Israel.

This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new “exodus”—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see Genesis 22:2; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him “a covenant of the people,” the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, “anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power.”

The word messiah means “one anointed” with God's Spirit. King David was “the anointed of the God of Jacob” (see 2 Samuel 23:1–17; Psalm 18:51; 132:10, 17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see Isaiah 11:1–2; Daniel 9:25).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see Luke 1:32–33).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as a fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom — a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.

Inspired by the Baptism of Fire: 9th January 2022

(This date) marks a turning point in the liturgical year when we move out of the Christmas festive season into Ordinary Time.

We mark that turning point with the gospel account of a major turning point in Jesus' life and in salvation history. It comes with the Baptism of Our Lord. For Jesus, his baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry.

For salvation history, his baptism heralds the coming of a new age, a new era. Gone now is the era of the Old Testament, when the people of Israel, guided by the Law and the prophets, waited with great hope and expectation for the coming of the Messiah and the liberation that he would bring. He was come now.

Jesus, however, wasn't the saviour they were expecting. For a while, John the Baptist looked like the one.

But John had no doubts. He recognised Jesus as the Lamb of God, and proclaimed that “He (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Jesus' baptism culminates with the appearance of the Holy Spirit, descending on Jesus “in bodily shape, like a dove” and a voice from heaven proclaiming: “You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.”

The references to the Holy Spirit remind us of two other significant moments in salvation history. Firstly, in the story of creation in Genesis 1, the Holy Spirit hovered over the earth when it was formless void and shrouded in darkness, and heaven and earth were then completed with all their vast array.

Secondly, in the story of Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9), it is a dove which brings the good news of the end of the Flood, a new start, a new creation. This then is to say that to be baptised with the Holy Spirit is to make a new start, to be renewed and re-created. It means a major turning point in our lives.

But John the Baptist proclaims that the baptism which Jesus brings is not only with the Holy Spirit but with fire. This reference to fire reminds us of the tongues of flame that descended on the apostles at Pentecost and that inspired them to go forth fearlessly and preach the gospel to the whole world.

So too does the fire of baptism inspire and urge us. Know too, however, that the fire will also divide us, exposing the division between those who accept and those who reject the offer of salvation and the demands of the Kingdom.

The gospel account of the baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own baptism when we were made into sons and daughters of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, and commissioned to spread the good news of Jesus' coming and the gift of God's grace in the world. Let us give thanks and take heed from Titus who urges us in today's first reading to give up everything that does not lead to God and have no ambition but to do good.

Written by Anne Hunt (Taken from Majellan Media 2022)