

**ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH** - Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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

Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

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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 parishioners have the right to feel safe and welcome.

If you have any concerns, visit <https://www.stgerards.org.au/child-safety-professional-standards/> or see the Safeguarding Officer.

*"Child Safety is Everyone's Responsibility"*

## **Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) — Sunday, 27th February, 2022**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; He saved me because He delighted in me.

### **First Reading - Sirach 27:4-7**

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, it is good to give thanks to You.

### **Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?* Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. *Alleluia!*

### **Gospel Reading - Luke 6:39-45**

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. "There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

**Communion Antiphon:** I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

## Daily Antiphons - Monday, February 28 to Saturday, March 5, 2022 (Year C)

### Monday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time - February 28th, 2022

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; He saved me because He delighted in me.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord will remember His covenant for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus Christ was rich but He became poor to make you rich out of His poverty. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

### Tuesday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time - March 1st, 2022

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; He saved me because He delighted in me.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord has made known His salvation.

**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:** I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

### March 2nd, 2022 - Ash Wednesday

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and You spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

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

### Thursday after Ash Wednesday - March 3rd, 2022

**Entrance Antiphon:** When I cried to the Lord, He heard my voice; He rescued me from those who attack me. Entrust your cares to the Lord, and He will support you.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me.

### Friday after Ash Wednesday, March 4th, 2022

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord heard and had mercy on me; the Lord became my helper.

**Responsorial Psalm:** A broken, humbled heart, O God, You will not scorn.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and the Lord will be with you. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** O Lord, make me know Your ways, teach me Your paths.

### Saturday after Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 2022

**Entrance Antiphon:** Answer us, Lord, for Your mercy is kind; in the abundance of Your mercies, look upon us.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may be faithful in Your sight.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord, but to turn to Me and live. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** I desire mercy, not sacrifice, says the Lord, for I did not come to call the just but sinners.

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### Saturday, February 26th, 2022

#### Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Gladys Rezel  
(Birthday Remembrance)

and Charles Mackness  
(Anniversary of Death)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### Sunday, February 27th

#### Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Maria Bonfante  
(Anniversary of Death)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

#### Baptism Welcome Rite

Congratulations to Mark Nicholas Jeremiah Ta  
and Lennie Mae Rasowaqa Derenalagi

Mass 5:30pm Lakmani Siriwardene  
(Anniversary of Death)

### Monday, February 28th

Mass 9:15am

### Tuesday, March 1st - Shrove Tuesday

Mass 9:15am Giovanni & Brigida Cardamone  
(Remembrance)

### Wednesday, March 2nd - Ash Wednesday

9:15am Mass  
6:30pm Stations of the Cross  
7:00pm Mass

### Thursday, March 3rd

Mass 9:15am Noel & Doris Bocks  
(Remembrance)

### Friday, March 4th

8:10am Adoration until 9am  
9:15am Mass  
6:30pm Stations of the Cross  
7:00pm Mass

### Saturday, March 5th

Mass 9:15am

## 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, Antonette Vettivelu, Claris, Suzette Savrimoothoo, Kathleen James, Marie Blandin de Chalain, Melvina Extross, Clita Martinelli, Anna Lesnjak, Lalitha Kurup

**The recently deceased:** Pearl Harriet Perera, Monsignor Joji Babu, Rev. Fr. Fritz Neuhauser mhm, Nimal Wickramasuriya

**Anniversaries/Remembrances:** Maria Bonfante, Elisa Vaccaro, Samuel Clark

## Reading Roster

### March

Sat. 5th 5:30pm	D. Franklin
Sun. 6th 8:30am	S. Hayman
10:30am	A. Pacifique
5:30pm	J. Abraham

### March

Sat. 12th 5:30pm	P. Kroon
Sun. 13th 8:30am	R. Noble
10:30am	M. Lourdunathan
5:30pm	B. Collins

## Church Cleaning

### **Saturday 5th March, 2022**

Moses Family, Vincent, Mary & Rebecca

### **Saturday 12th March, 2022**

The Legion of Mary

## Ash Wednesday and

### Mass on Friday during Lent

Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March. For this day only Mass will be held at 9:15am and then Stations of the Cross will be held at 6:30pm followed by Mass at 7:00pm. During Lent, each Friday, Adoration will begin at 8:10am and Mass will be held at 9:15am. In the evening, Stations of the Cross will begin at 6:30pm followed by Mass at 7:00pm.

## PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

### Explore the difference a Nazareth education provides

The Nazareth College Open Evening will be held on Tuesday, 22nd March, and will be a great opportunity for the whole family to experience all our College has to offer. You will hear from our Principal, Mr Sam Cosentino, view performances and demonstrations from several learning areas as well as have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss important aspects of the College with key members of our staff. Registrations essential at [www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/enrolments/school-tours](http://www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/enrolments/school-tours)

### LENT 2022 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY BRUCE DOWNES

Be inspired, Be refreshed, Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent22> or, call 1300 734 880.

### Confession

Confession will not be heard on Sunday or Monday. Confession is heard Tuesday to Saturday from 8:20am to 8:50am and after the Mass on Saturday until 10:30am.

### Mass Times

**Monday to Thursday** 9:15am

**Friday** - Adoration 8:10am, Mass at 9:15am, 6:30pm Stations of the Cross, Mass at 7:00pm

**Saturday** - 9:15am & 5:30pm

**Sunday** - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm

### Heart and Mouth: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's readings we hear Jesus speaking in Galilee as well as a Jewish sage named Sirach writing in Jerusalem more than a century earlier. The two of them touch upon a single truth: The words that come out of us make known the hidden thoughts within us. Speech reveals the secrets of the heart.

Sirach teaches that speaking is "the test of men" and their character. One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. But one whose heart is cluttered with "refuse" will be exposed, since the "fruit" of his mouth speaks volumes about the "tree" that produces it.

Sirach also compares the testing of our words to clay fired in a kiln—if properly prepared, a useful vessel emerges; but if the clay is not fully dried, it will break apart in the extreme heat. In a similar way, Jesus insists that a person speaks "out of the abundance of the heart." He too compares our speech, whether good or bad, to what grows on a tree: "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit."

Both readings urge us to make wholesome speech a habit. After all, much about who we are is brought to light through what we say. But there's an additional step: The Lord is asking us to look inward, to examine our hearts and fill them with the "good treasure" that God desires.

Why do purity of heart and speech matter so much? Because, as Jesus declares elsewhere: "by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:37).

They matter because they help to decide our final judgment, and this is where the Second Reading comes in. Paul reminds us that God will destroy death forever, and if we are to share in this victory and live forever with the Lord, then we must take all steps necessary to give our hearts and lips to what is good.