

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](https://www.facebook.com/saintgerardparish)

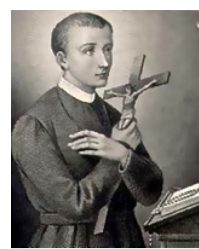
Address: 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

Confession: Tuesday-Saturday 8:20am-8:50am also Saturday after Mass until 10:30am

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 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"

First Sunday of Advent (Year A) - November 26 & 27, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: To You, I lift up my soul, O my God. In You, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in You be put to shame.

First Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord, show us Your mercy and love, and grant us Your salvation. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Evening of Reconciliation, 2022 - Thursday, 15th December

We welcome you to an evening of reconciliation from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Thursday, 15th December.

Five priests will be available to hear confessions throughout this evening.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

We warmly welcome you to join us at our parish Christmas Carols on Saturday, 17th December, at 6:30pm. Tea and coffee will be provided but please BYO food and drink.

First Friday of the Month & Adoration

Mass will be held on the First Friday of the month, every month, at 9:15am and also at 7:00pm in the evening on the first Friday. Each Friday, Adoration is held at 7:45am until 8:45am. Mass will then follow at 9:15am. Adoration will recommence on Friday, 2nd December at 7:45am.

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023.

Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) Tel: 9326 1895

Dear Parishioners, You have been very generous over the years to offer hampers, toys and food items for those in need during the Christmas season. This year we appeal to you to kindly make your offerings in the form of Coles/Woolworth vouchers or monetary donations, instead of gifts in kind, which will enable us to provide items as per specific requirements of those in need. These may be handed over to John Seeruthun (Mob 0439 580 601), Agnelo Miranda (Mob 0470 130 041) or the Parish Office. We thank you for your understanding. Our Conference is deeply indebted to you for your kindness and generosity as always. May God bless you abundantly. We wish you and your families a Holy and Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Warm regards, Conference of SVP, Dandenong North

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli is inviting young people, ages 16-35, across the Archdiocese to journey with him to Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day in 2023. This is a life-changing opportunity for our youth to experience their Catholic faith with more than a million young people from around the world. We are holding six information sessions at Regional Youth Gatherings around Melbourne this month.

Find out more at <https://udisciple.melbournecatholic.org/wyd>

Archbishop Comensoli has written a pastoral letter regarding the lifting of the general dispensation from our Sunday and Holy Day obligations as of the first Sunday in Advent - 27 November 2022. Please visit; <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/welcome-home-a-pastoral-letter-from-archbishop-comensoli>

In a Dark Hour: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday in Advent

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. Christ occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26). His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him – spiritually and morally – when He comes.

For He will surely come, He tells us – like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David.

From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord – that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7). It is time we start living like it: throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, rejecting the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace. The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this

Eucharist. As we sing in today's Psalm, "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 26 - Vigil - First Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Menino Rebello (*For their soul*)
and Peter Kelly (*Recently Deceased*)
7:00pm Maronite Mass

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Russell McLauchlan (*Remembrance*)
Mass 10:30am Michel, Donat & Le Gentil Families &
Souls in Purgatory
Baptism Welcome Rite Blessing - Congratulations
Luna Alice Eggington & Jerome Sukh Kamboj
Mass 5:30pm Antonio & Carmela Bruno (*For their Souls*)

Monday, November 28

Mass 9:15am Deanna Donaldson (*Anniversary of Death*)

Tuesday, November 29

Mass 9:15am Gerry Rebeiro (*Anniversary of Death*)
and Antonette Vettivelu (*For her soul*)

Wednesday, November 30 - Saint Andrew

Mass 9:15am Deceased members of the Panicker Family
(*Remembrance*)

Thursday, December 1

Mass 9:15am Elisa Lemos Alfaia & José da Graça Alfaia
(*Remembrance*)

Friday, December 2

7:45am-8:45am Adoration
Mass 9:15am Mavis Mantel (*Anniversary of Death*)
Mass 7:00pm Greta Neville (*For the safe delivery of her baby*)

Saturday, December 3 - Saint Francis Xavier

Mass 9:15am Donat Family Thanksgiving and for the
Deceased Members of the Donat Family

Saturday, December 3 - Vigil - Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Piedade Rebello (*For their soul*)
7:00pm Maronite Mass

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Thomas Lobo (*Anniversary of Death*)
Mass 10:30am Anton Los (*Anniversary of Death*) and
Stefania Los (*Remembrance*)
12:00pm *Baptism Congratulations to Jerome Sukh Kamboj*
Mass 5:30pm Thanksgiving Mass for prayers answered

Please remember to pray for...

Our sick: Steven Dickson, Jerome Santiago, Brian Edwards, Peter Shaw Dennis, Allan Welsh, Carl De Rozario, Doreen Oliver, Kathleen James, Marie Blandin de Chalain, Clita Martinelli, Lalitha Kurup, Sarkis Dib, Alessandro Zaia, David Giacotto, Mila, Steven Dickson, Sarah Cleary, Monica Kelly, Anne Moorthy, Mayelin Do Santos, Jessie Sequeira, Reed Crowl, Patricia Slattery, Anna Pradel, Giovanna & Giuseppe Campasso, Maria Perez, Marie Teycheney, Rita Kaczkowski, Flavia Petrucci, Josie Surace, Julia, Claris Sebastianpillai, Gertrude Baldsing, Pina Lidonnici, Dolly Azzopardi, Annie Gatt, Caterina Giammarino, Denzil Considine, Katie Kronfeld, Leon, Isabella, Louis Jean-Pierre, Jeanne Joseph, Jennifer Hidge

The recently deceased: Baby Velasco, Philomena Vaz, Mansueto Balaba, Peter Kelly

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Robert Hanson, Rudy Watts

Christmas Masses

Saturday, 24th December

Christmas Eve

9.15am Morning Mass
5.30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass
7.00pm Maronite Mass
9.30pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass.

Sunday, 25th December

Christmas Day

8.30am Mass and 10.30am Mass
(No evening Mass)

Reading Roster

Saturday, December 3 - Vigil

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, December 4

8:30am G. VanHees
10:30am M. Lourdunathan
5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, December 10 - Vigil

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, December 11

8:30am G. Markezic
10:30am D. Naidoo Jn
5:30pm B. Edwards

Masses at St. Gerard's

Maronite Mass - Every Saturday at 7:00pm

Tamil Mass - 2nd Sunday of the month at 3.30pm

French Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month.
Rosary at 2.45pm and Mass at 3.30pm.

Church Cleaning

Saturday, 3 December

Q. Roland, X. Fernando &
T. Bui

Saturday, 10 December

Knights of the Southern Cross

St. Vincent De Paul are looking for volunteers to help at the piety stall once a month. If you would like to join and help the needy in our community, please see one of the volunteers at the piety stall.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, November 28, to Saturday, December 3, 2022 (Year A)

Monday of the First Week of Advent - November 28

Entrance Antiphon: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear.

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come and save us, Lord our God; let us see Your face, and we shall be saved. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before You with a blameless heart.

Tuesday of the First Week of Advent - November 29

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come, and all His holy ones with Him; and on that day there will be a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in His time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Behold, our Lord shall come with power; He will enlighten the eyes of His servants. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await His coming.

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent - November 30 - Saint Andrew

Entrance Antiphon: Beside the Sea of Galilee, the Lord saw two brothers, Peter and Andrew, and He said to them: Come after Me and I will make you fishers of men.

Responsorial Psalm: Their message goes out through all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come and follow Me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of My people. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Andrew told his brother Simon: We have found the Messiah, the Christ, and he brought him to Jesus.

Thursday of the First Week of Advent - December 1

Entrance Antiphon: You, O Lord, are close, and all Your ways are truth. From of old I have known of Your decrees, for You are eternal.

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Seek the Lord while He can be found. Call on Him while He is near. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.

Friday of the First Week of Advent - December 2

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit His people with peace, and He will bestow on them eternal life.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Behold, our Lord shall come with power; He will enlighten the eyes of His servants. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with His glorified body.

Saturday of the First Week of Advent - December 3 - Saint Francis Xavier

Entrance Antiphon: I will praise You, Lord, among the nations; I will tell of Your name to my kin.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Lord will judge us by His law; He is our King and Saviour. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.