

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

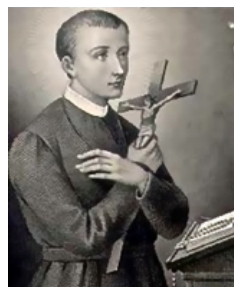
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

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



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"*

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) - December 17/18, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading - Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

Second Reading - Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A Virgin will give birth to a son; His name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: *The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'* When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Emmanuel.

The Pontifical Funeral Mass for Reverend Father Joseph Patrick Hynan, St. Gerard's former Parish Priest, will be celebrated at 11:00am on Thursday, 22nd December, 2022, here at St. Gerard's.

We pray for Fr. Joe Hynan, that he be richly rewarded and may he rest in peace.

You are all welcome to pay your last respects at the Funeral Mass.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

Please collect your thanksgiving envelopes from the foyer of the Church. We thank you for your support and generosity to our parish. Please be aware that some thanksgiving numbers have been changed. Should your envelopes not be in the foyer, or if you have any queries, please contact the parish office on 9792 4422. Thank you.

The Parish office will be closed from Friday, December 23rd, 2022 and will re-open Monday, January 9th, 2023. The staff and I wish to thank you all for your support and kindness throughout the year. Wishing you all every blessing at Christmas and for a safe, happy and healthy New Year. May God bless you all.
- Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni, Parish Priest

Are you a young adult aged 18-35 years old? Join other Catholic young adults and become *Alive Again* at Summer School of Evangelisation Melbourne, a week-long retreat led by prayer, fellowship, praise & worship, catechesis and sacraments. There's no better way to start the year than on a retreat spent with the Lord. Jan 15-22, 2023. Early bird rates now available. Register @ ssemelbourne.org.au or follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ssemelbourne for more information and updates.

You are invited to view St Gerard's parishioner Andrew Vaccaro's Christmas Lights Display, which features a beautiful Nativity as its centrepiece. Where: Ring Court, Dandenong North (you'll know the house!!) When: Sunday, December 11, 2021 to Saturday, January 1st, 2022. Times: Mon-Wed: 8:45PM to 11:00PM, Thur-Sun: 8:45PM to 12:00AM. Please feel free to go on the lawn and look around- just take it slow and watch for any cables! Andrew encourages parishioners to come up and introduce themselves, as he wishes to get to meet and know as many people within the wider community as possible. Andrew also recommends the Christmas Lights Display of his friends the Scanlon Family, Parishioners of St. Elizabeth's, at 6 Neasham Drive, Dandenong North, at the same times and dates as above. Again, this display features a beautiful Nativity.

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, which will enable us to provide items as per specific requirements of those in need. These may be handed over to John Seeruthun (0439 580 601) or Agnelo Miranda (0470 130 041). 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

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th - 28th April 2023. If you are interested please visit our Parish Website www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls 0427 879 733.

God Is with Us: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The mystery kept secret for long ages, promised through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, is today revealed (see Romans 16:25-26).

This is the "Gospel of God" that Paul celebrates in today's Epistle—the good news that "God is with us" in Jesus Christ. The sign promised to the House of David in today's First Reading is given in today's Gospel. In the virgin found with child, God Himself has brought to Israel a saviour from David's royal line (see Acts 13:22-23). Son of David according to the flesh, Jesus is the Son of God, born of the Spirit. He will be anointed with the Spirit (see Acts 10:38), and by the power of Spirit will be raised from the dead and established at God's right hand in the heavens (see Acts 2:33-34; Ephesians 1:20-21).

He is the "King of Glory" we sing of in today's Psalm. The earth in its fullness has been given to Him. And as God swore long ago to David, His Kingdom will have no end (see Psalm 89:4-5).

In Jesus Christ we have a new creation. Like the creation of the world, it is a work of the Spirit, a blessing from the Lord (see Genesis 1:2). In Him, we are saved from our sins, are called now "the beloved of God."

All nations now are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to enter into the House of David and kingdom of God, the Church. Together, through the obedience of faith, we have been made a new race—a royal people that seeks for the face of the God of Jacob.

He has made our hearts clean; He has made us worthy to enter His holy place,
to stand in His presence and serve Him.

In the Eucharist, the everlasting covenant is renewed, the Advent promise of virgin with child—God with us—continues until the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20; Ezekiel 37:24-28).

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 17 - Vigil - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Pasquale & Cecilia Campisi (*Remembrance*)
and Pedrinha & Anthony Fernandes
(*For their soul*)
and Bromley DeSouza (*Recently Deceased*)
7:00pm Maronite Mass

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Margaret Karmakar (*Anniversary of Death*)
Mass 10:30am Giovanni & Brigida Cardamone and
Antonio & Angelina Sacco (*Remembrance*)
Mass 3:30pm French Community
Mass 5:30pm Giselle Bensley (*Remembrance*)

Monday, December 19

Mass 9:15am Michael Lovett (*Repose of his soul*)

Tuesday, December 20

Mass 9:15am Beverley Deabe (*Anniversary of Death*)

Wednesday, December 21

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving for blessings - D'Silva Family

Thursday, December 22

Mass 9:15am For the Holy Souls
11:00am Pontifical High Funeral Mass
Fr. Joseph Hynan

Friday, December 23 - NO Adoration (To resume Feb.1st)

Mass 9:15am Ivor DeKauwe (*Anniversary of Death*)
Thanksgiving Mass - Panicker Family

Saturday, December 24

Mass 9:15am Lourdunathan (*Anniversary of Death*)
and Domenico Lidonnici (*Anniversary of Death*)

Saturday, December 24 - Vigil - Christmas Eve

Mass 5:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass
7:00pm Maronite Mass
9:30pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
11:30pm Carols
12:00pm Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Mass 8:30am Francesca Timpanaro (*Recently Deceased*)
Mass 10:30am Pierre Michel (*Birthday Remembrance*)

No evening Mass Christmas Day

Please remember to pray for...

Our sick: Denzil & Mary Considine, 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, Alessandro Zaia, David Giacotto, Mila, Steven Dickson, Sarah Cleary, Monica Kelly, Anne Moorthy, Mayelin Do Santos, Jessie Sequeira, Reed Crawl, Patricia Slattery, Sandy Hayman, 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, Katie Kronfeld, Leon, Isabella, Louis Jean-Pierre, Jeanne Joseph, Jennifer Hidge

The recently deceased: Rev. Fr. Joseph Hynan, Sarkis Dib, James (Ji) Imbrogno, Irene Meaker, Francesca Timpanaro, Bromley De Souza, Fr. Noel Rebello

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Santina Venuto

Reading Roster

Saturday, December 24

9:15am M. Lourdunathan
5:30pm A. Pacifique (Reader 1)
Children (Reader 2)
9:30pm B. Collins
Midnight I. Mulipola (Reader 1)
B. Edwards (Reader 2)

Sunday, December 25

8:30am G. DosRemedios
(Reader 1)
G. Van Hees (Reader 2)
10:30am J. Abraham

Saturday, December 31

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:30am G. Markezic
10:30am S. Moses
5:30pm A. Miranda

Confession

This week, Confessions will be heard on Friday, 23rd December before the Mass and on Saturday, 24th December before and after the Mass until 10:30am.

Adoration

Adoration will not be held for the rest of the month and will re-commence on Friday, 1st February, 2023.

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, 24 December

Moses family, Vincent,
Mary, Rebecca

Saturday, 31 December

Legion of Mary

Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 19, to Saturday, December 24, 2022 (Year A)

Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 19

Entrance Antiphon: He who is to come will come and will not delay, and now there will be no fear within our land, for He is our Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm: Fill me with Your praise, and I will sing Your glory!

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Flower of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all His people: save us without delay. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The Dawn from on high will visit us, guiding our feet in the way of peace.

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 20

Entrance Antiphon: A branch shall sprout from the root of Jesse, and the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth, and all flesh will see the salvation of God.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: free the prisoners of darkness! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The Angel said to Mary: Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 21

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord and Ruler will be coming soon, and His name will be called Emmanuel, because He will be God-with-us.

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones; sing a new song to Him.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Emmanuel, God's presence among us, our King, our Judge: save us, Lord our God! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are you who have believed, that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 22

Entrance Antiphon: O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let Him enter, the king of glory!

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, King of all nations, source of Your Church's unity and faith: save all people, Your own creation! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Friday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 23

Entrance Antiphon: A child shall be born for us, and He will be called God, the Almighty; every tribe of the earth shall be blest in Him.

Responsorial Psalm: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, King of all nations, source of your Church's unity and faith: save all people, Your own creation! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears My voice and opens the door to Me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me.

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 24 - Christmas Eve

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son into the world.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: shine on those lost in the darkness of death! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited His people and redeemed them.