

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

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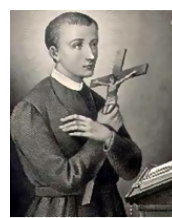
Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

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.

## Second Sunday of Advent (Year A) - December 3 & 4, 2022

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.

### First Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

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

### Second Reading - Romans 15: 4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia!*

### Gospel Reading - Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: *A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.* This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

## PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

St. Gerard's Primary School invite you to join them for their annual Community Christmas Carol evening on Tuesday, 6th December at 7pm in the School hall.

Please collect your thanksgiving envelopes from the foyer of the Church. We thank you for your support and generosity to our parish. Please note 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.

We invite 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.

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.

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](http://ssemelbourne.org.au) or follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ssemelbourne for more information and updates.

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](mailto: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, 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) or Agnelo Miranda (Mob 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

Archbishop Peter 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>

### **Kingdom Come: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday in Advent**

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David – a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel – but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God's oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise" (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1-2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5) – children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings – making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

## MASS and INTENTIONS

### 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*)  
*and* Ethan Myers (*for his spiritual needs*)  
Mass 5:30pm Thanksgiving Mass for prayers answered

### Monday, December 5

Mass 9:15am Saturnina de Jesus & Jeronimo Belo (*Rememb.*)  
*and* Sabato Leone (*Anniversary of Death*)  
*and* Victor Jayamaha (*Remembrance*)

### Tuesday, December 6

Mass 9:15am Steven Dickson (*for his recovery*)  
*and* James (Ji) Imbrogno (*Recently Deceased*)

### Wednesday, December 7 - Saint Ambrose

Mass 9:15am Clifford, Emerald & Christopher Rodrigo and  
Annesley, Rita & Candice Fernando  
(*Remembrance*)

### Thursday, December 8 -

#### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass 9:15am Jacob Abraham (*Anniversary of Death*)  
*and* Lise Donaldson (*Repose of the Soul*)

### Friday, December 9

7:45am-8:45am Adoration  
Mass 9:15am Peter D'Souza (*Birthday Remembrance*)

### Saturday, December 10

Mass 9:15am Anton Adolphus (*Birthday Remembrance*)  
*and* Jillian Coles and Ernest & Yvonne Carter  
(*Repose of their souls*)

### Saturday, December 10 - Vigil - Third Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Salvador Rebello (*For their soul*)  
*and* Librada Fernandes (*For their soul*)  
7:00pm Maronite Mass

### Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and  
the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
*and* Lise Donaldson (*Repose of the Soul*)  
Mass 10:30am Deceased members of the Rea Family  
(*Remembrance*)  
*and* Salvatore Puleio (*Anniversary of Death*)  
Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community  
Mass 5:30pm Thanksgiving Mass to St. Gerard

### 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, Sarkis Dib, 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:** Philomena Vaz, Mansueto Balaba, James (Ji) Imbrogno, Irene Meaker, Francesca Timpanaro, Lise Donaldson, Norman DeLorenzo

**Anniversaries/Remembrances:** Brian Gatt, Anton & Stefania Los, F.X. Pereira, Sabato Leone, Filippo Cordoma, Salvatore Puleio

### 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 10 - Vigil

5:30pm J. D'Souza

#### Sunday, December 11

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

#### Saturday, December 17 - Vigil

5:30pm P. Kroon

#### Sunday, December 18

8:30am M. Noble  
10:30am C. Fernando  
5:30pm B. Collins

### Masses at St. Gerard's

Maronite Mass - Every Saturday at 7:00pm  
Tamil Mass - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 3.30pm  
French Mass - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.  
Rosary at 2.45pm and Mass at 3.30pm.

### Church Cleaning

**Saturday, 10 December**  
Knights of the Southern Cross  
**Saturday, 17 December**  
J. Trissy, Linda & family

*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, December 5, to Saturday, December 10, 2022 (Year A)

### Monday of the Second Week of Advent - December 5

**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:** Our God will come to save us!

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Behold, the king will come, the Lord of the earth: and He will set us free. *Alleluia!*

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

### Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent - December 6

**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:** The Lord our God comes in strength.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* The day of the Lord is near: He comes to save us. *Alleluia!*

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

### Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent - December 7 - Saint Ambrose

**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:** O bless the Lord, my soul.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Lord is coming to save His people: happy are those prepared to meet Him. *Alleluia!*

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

### Thursday of the Second Week of Advent - December 8

#### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Entrance Antiphon:** I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvellous deeds.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

### Friday of the Second Week of Advent - December 9

**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:** Those who follow You, Lord, will have the light of life.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Lord will come, go out to meet Him! He is the Prince of Peace. *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 Second Week of Advent - December 10

**Entrance Antiphon:** Come and show us Your face, O Lord, who are seated upon the Cherubim, and we will be saved.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, I am coming soon and my recompense is with Me, says the Lord, to bestow a reward according to the deeds of each.