

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

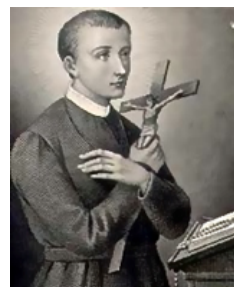
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

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"

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A) - December 10 & 11, 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading - Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading - James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He sent me to bring Good News to the poor. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. 'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save us.

St. Gerard's Christmas Carols

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. During this evening there will be a raffle drawn with all funds received from the proceeds of the sale of tickets to go towards the repair of the Church roof.

Parish Christmas Raffle

Tickets will be on sale after the Sunday masses for the parish Christmas raffle, for the chance to win one of three Christmas hampers. Cost is \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The Raffle will be drawn on the night of the Carols.

Volunteers

We would appreciate any volunteers to help with setting up and decorating the hall after the 9:15am mass next Saturday, 17 December, in preparation for our Christmas Carols.

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 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.

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 (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

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.

Here is your God : Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday in Advent

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvellous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18-20; 61:1-2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25-34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Saviour.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

MASS and INTENTIONS

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*)
and Carmela Bruno (*For her soul*)
Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community
Mass 5:30pm Thanksgiving Mass to St. Gerard

Monday, December 12

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving Mass - Panicker Family
and Joseph Gerald Marmion (*Anniversary of Death*)
and Lise Donaldson (*Repose of Soul*)
and Fiore Mete (*30th Anniversary of Death*)

Tuesday, December 13 - Saint Lucy

Mass 9:15am Wilhemina Afonso & Olivio Afonso
(*Remembrance*)

Wednesday, December 14 - Saint John of the Cross

Mass 9:15am Anthony William D'Souza
(*Birthday Remembrance*)

Thursday, December 15

Mass 9:15am Deceased members of the Savannah &
La Pierre Families (*Repose of their Souls*)
6:30pm-8:00pm Evening of Reconciliation

Friday, December 16

7:45am-8:45am Adoration
Mass 9:15am Jean Riviere (*Remembrance*)

Saturday, December 17

Mass 9:15am Alistair Hendrickze (*For his soul*)
and Lester Jeromy Andrado
(*25th Death Anniversary*)

Saturday, December 17 - Vigil - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Pasquale & Cecilia Campisi (*Remembrance*)
and Pedrinha & Anthony Fernandes
(*For their soul*)
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*)

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, 17 December

J. Trissy, Linda & family

Saturday, 24 December

Moses family, Vincent,
Mary, Rebecca

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 Crowl, Patricia Slattery, Sandy Hayman, Anna Pradel, Giovanna & Giuseppe Campasso, Maria Perez, Marie Teycheney, Rita Kaczowski, 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, Helen Watts, Melomie Perera

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Joseph Gerald Marmion, Rocco Surace, Carmela Bruno, Antony & members of Daniells Family, 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 17 - Vigil

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, December 18

8:30am M. Noble

10:30am C. Fernando

5:30pm B. Collins

***All readers for Christmas Masses
will be listed & advised next week.***

Saturday, December 31

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm A. Miranda

Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 12, to Saturday, December 17, 2022 (Year A)

Monday of the Third Week of Advent - December 12

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: Teach me Your ways, O Lord.

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

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

Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 13 - Saint Lucy

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, O Lord, do not delay: Forgive the sins of Your people. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.

Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 14 - Saint John of the Cross

Entrance Antiphon: May I never boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Raise your voice and tell the Good News: the Lord our God comes in strength. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me, says the Lord.

Thursday of the Third Week of Advent - December 15

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: I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

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: 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 Third Week of Advent - December 16

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: O God, let all the nations praise You!

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Lord, bring to us Your peace; let us rejoice before You with a perfect heart. *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 Third Week of Advent - December 17

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to His poor.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.