

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI

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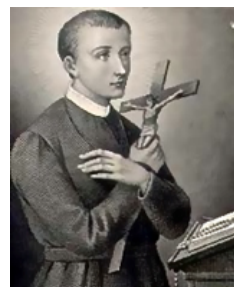
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

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"*

First Sunday of Lent - February 26, 2023 (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: When He calls on me, I will answer Him; I will deliver Him and give Him glory, I will grant Him length of days.

First Reading - Genesis 2: 7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

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

Second Reading - Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Gospel - Matthew 4: 1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: *Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: *He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.*' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: *You must not put the Lord your God to the test.*' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: *You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.*' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

The Welcome Blessing for children attending Catechism classes will be held this *Sunday, 26th February* at the 10:30 am Mass. Families are invited to join their teachers for refreshments after the Mass.
We look forward to welcoming you then.

An invitation is extended to all Parishioners to join the Lenten Scripture and Reflection Group.
Please register your interest by emailing or contacting the office.
We will announce the date and time of commencement in next weekend's bulletin. Thank you.

We invite you to join the Legion of Mary every Monday morning after the 9:15am Mass during Lent for the Stations of the Cross.

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours. Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by visiting our website. You can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: Call 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 visit www.palms.org.au

Dandenong Deanery Council invite you to "Listening to the voices that Echo Joy in our Lives" with Guest Speaker, Fr Brian Collins. To be held at St. John's Regional College, Graduate's Restaurant, Caroline Street, Dandenong on Wednesday, 22nd March - 5:30pm for a 5:45pm start. Cost is \$45 per head for a 3 course meal, wine and beer.
To book please phone Paddy on 0422 296 961 or email dandenongdeanery@live.com.au.

The Melkite Catholic Eparchy have asked us to share with you, Bishop Robert Rabbat's Syrian Earthquake Appeal. The recent Syrian earthquake has hit people who were already displaced in a region that has been devastated by more than a decade of civil war. Yet again, we are seeing people fleeing and desperate for shelter in freezing winter conditions. We want to help provide that light in the deepest darkness, to get through this devastating disaster. To donate, please contribute to: MCF DGR ACCOUNT Ref: Syrian Appeal BSB: 062784 Account: 100011493. All donations are Tax Deductible. For a receipt please email mcf@melkite.org.au or contact on (02) 9750 5514.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, it is a time to set aside for reflection, penance, and spiritual renewal. The ashes that are placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross are a symbol of mortality and a reminder of the need for repentance and forgiveness. Lent is a time to take stock of one's life, to recognise one's faults and shortcomings, and to seek a greater relationship with God. In the book of Joel 2:12-18 encourages us to return to God with all our heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning, as we repent for our sins and turn back to Him. And in Psalm 51, which is a prayer of repentance, it acknowledges our sinful nature and asks God to create in us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us. As we begin our Lenten journey, these Scriptures remind us of the importance of repentance and renewal.

Lent can also be a meaningful experience for families. It is a time for family members to come together and support one another in their spiritual journeys, as they strive to draw closer to God and grow in their faith.

For many Lent is a time of sacrifice and self-discipline. People choose to give up something they enjoy, such as sweets or social media, as a way of focusing their attention on spiritual matters. Others use this time to engage in acts of service or to deepen their prayer life. It is a season of introspection and growth, a time to draw closer to God and to become more aware of one's place in the world. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul calls us to be ambassadors for Christ and to reconcile with God and reminds us that we are called to be Christ's representatives in the world and to share His message of reconciliation with others.

Lent also provides an opportunity for families to practice sacrifice and self-discipline together. Families can also choose to adopt new habits during Lent, such as daily prayer or reading a daily devotion, to help them deepen their faith. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying before beginning his public ministry. Lent is an opportunity to follow in his footsteps, to imitate his example of selflessness and devotion. The Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, from Matthew's Gospel warns against performing religious acts for show, but encourages us to pray, give alms, and fast in secret, so that our Father who sees in secret will reward us.

This reminds us to focus on our personal relationship with God during Lent and to emulate Christ's humility and devotion. Lent can be a time for families to grow closer to God and to each other. It provides a chance for family members to support one another in their spiritual journeys. *(Excerpt from Majellan Media)*

Daily Antiphons - Monday, February 27, to Saturday, March 4, 2023 (Year A)

Monday of the First Week of Lent - February 27

Entrance Antiphon: Like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords, so our eyes are on the Lord our God, till He show us His mercy. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon: Amen, I say to you: Whatever you did for one of the least of My brethren, you did it for Me, says the Lord. Come, you blessed of My Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Tuesday of the First Week of Lent - February 28

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, You have been our refuge, from generation to generation; from age to age, You are.

Responsorial Psalm: From all their afflictions God will deliver the just.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: When I called, the God of justice gave me answer; from anguish You released me; have mercy, O Lord, and hear my prayer!

Wednesday of the First Week of Lent - March 1

Entrance Antiphon: Remember Your compassion, O Lord, and Your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* With all Your heart turn to Me, for I am tender and compassionate. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: All who take refuge in You shall be glad, O Lord, and ever cry out their joy, and You shall dwell among them.

Thursday of the First Week of Lent - March 2

Entrance Antiphon: To my words give ear, O Lord; give heed to my sighs. Attend to the sound of my cry, my King and my God.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, on the day I called for help, You answered me.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* Create a clean heart in me, O God; give back to me the joy of Your salvation. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Friday of the First Week of Lent - March 3

Entrance Antiphon: Set me free from my distress, O Lord. See my lowliness and suffering, and take away all my sins.

Responsorial Psalm: If You, O Lord, laid bare our guilt, who could endure it?

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* Rid yourselves of all your sins and make a new heart and a new spirit. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon: As I live, says the Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he turn back and live.

Saturday of the First Week of Lent - March 4

Entrance Antiphon: The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect, says the Lord.