

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI

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Website: www.stgerards.org.au Facebook: [facebook.com/saintgerardparish](https://www.facebook.com/saintgerardparish)

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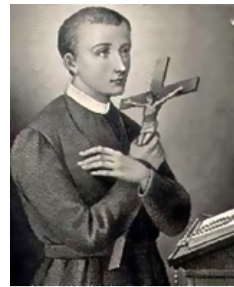
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

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"

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 11/12, 2023 (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

First Reading - Sirach 15: 15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

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

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.* These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

Gospel - Matthew 5: 17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. 'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery.* But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal.* But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.* But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

An invitation is extended to all Parishioners to join the Lenten Scripture and Reflection Group. Please register your interest by emailing dandenongnorth@cam.org.au or calling the office on 9792 4422. Once we know the number of people attending, we will announce the date and time of commencement. Thank you.

We ask you to please return your palms from last year to the basket on the table in the foyer of the Church. This is so that they can be collected for blessing in preparation of Ash Wednesday.

This weekend is the Pastoral Care Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable in our community. Your gift can help people find comfort and hope as they go through some of their darkest times of their life. We thank you in anticipation of your generosity. You can donate using the envelopes in the foyer of the Church or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call 9287 5513.

The Junior Legion of Mary will resume their meetings on Monday, 13th February. Please email the Parish office to register your child's details at dandenongnorth@cam.org.au or please call 9792 4422. We look forward to welcoming you then.

Catechism classes will commence on Tuesday, 14th February. Any queries, please contact the office on 9792 4422 or email dandenongnorth@cam.org.au.

God's Word 2023 diaries are now on sale for \$16.00. This book helps you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word. It has daily readings, a short reflection and space to write your own thoughts. Columbian Calendars are now on sale for \$6.00 (Sale items - whilst stocks last). Please visit the piety stall over the weekend.

Matthew Kennedy plays football for Carlton in the AFL. He has an inspiring story about the ups and downs of life in the AFL and the importance of faith & family. He will be joined by his friend Fr Brendan Lane, Parish Priest of St Mary's Dandenong. Kids welcome but must be accompanied by parents. Matthew has generously offered to autograph any footballs, jumpers (any club!), etc. and there will also be a Carlton jumper signed by the team auctioned off on the night. Date: Wednesday 15th February. Time: 6.30pm for a meal, 7.30pm for the talk. Venue: Matthew Flinders Hotel, 667 Warrigal Rd, Chadstone. 'Longitude Room'. Cost: Free, however, places are limited so please [register](#) to avoid disappointment. Meals and drinks available for purchase from the main bistro area. RSVP: GodandBeer.com.au. Contact: John Smyth - jtsmyth@gmail.com - 0406 747 123.

Affair of the Heart: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus tells us in the Gospel this week that He has come not to abolish but to "fulfill" the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. His Gospel reveals the deeper meaning and purpose of the Ten Commandments and the moral Law of the Old Testament. But His Gospel also transcends the Law. He demands a morality far greater than that accomplished by the most pious of Jews, the scribes and Pharisees.

Outward observance of the Law is not enough. It is not enough that we do not murder, commit adultery, divorce, or lie. The law of the New Covenant is a law that God writes on the heart (see Jeremiah 31:31-34). The heart is the seat of our motivations, the place from which our words and actions proceed (see Matthew 6:21; 15:18-20).

Jesus this week calls us to train our hearts, to master our passions and emotions. And Jesus demands the full obedience of our hearts (see Romans 6:17). He calls us to love God with all our hearts and to do His will from the heart (see Matthew 22:37; Ephesians 6:6).

God never demands more than what we are capable of doing. That is the message of this week's First Reading. It is up to us to choose life over death, to choose the waters of eternal life over the fires of ungodliness and sin.

By His life, death, and Resurrection, Jesus has shown us that it is possible to keep His commandments. In Baptism, He has given us His Spirit, that His Law might be fulfilled in us (Romans 8:4).

The wisdom of the Gospel surpasses all the wisdom of this age that is passing away, St. Paul tells us in the Epistle. The revelation of this wisdom fulfills God's plan from before all ages. Let us trust in this wisdom and live by His kingdom law. As we do in this week's Psalm, let us pray that we grow in being better able to live His Gospel and to seek the Father with all our heart.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 11 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil Mass 5:30pm Emma Jones (*Recovery from illness*)
and Maximiano Fernandes
(*First Month Remembrance*)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Mass

Sunday, February 12 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Kevin Soares (*Repose of his soul*)

Mass 10:30am Intentions of the Parish

12:00pm -5:00pm Tamil Mass (*Feast of the Infant Jesus*)

Mass 5:30pm William Crisp (*Recently Deceased*)

Monday, February 13

Mass 9:15am Ana & Mijo Glavacevic
(*Anniversary of Death*)

Tuesday, February 14 - Saints Cyril and Methodius

Mass 9:15am Mato, Eva, Ivan, Kuzma & Stanko
Glavacevic (*Repose of their souls*)

and Minal Wickramasuriya
(*Anniversary of Death*)

Wednesday, February 15

Mass 9:15am Bernard Anderson (*Recently Deceased*)
and Royston Lopez (*Anniversary of Death*)

Thursday, February 16

Mass 9:15am Lise Donaldson (*Repose of her soul*)

Friday, February 17- No Adoration

Mass 9:15am Thomas O'Shaughnessy (*Remembrance*)

Saturday, February 18

Mass 9:15am Sylvester Chandrasekera
(*First Anniversary of Death*)

Saturday, February 18 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil Mass 5:30pm Teresa Pane (*Recently Deceased*)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Mass

Sunday, February 19 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Peter Isaac (*Thanksgiving Mass*)

Mass 10:30am Ida Rea (*Remembrance & for her soul*)

and *Welcome Blessing for Catechism Children*

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm Jean Gabriel Seeruthun Snr.
(*Anniversary of Death*)

Other 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.

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, 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, Giovanna McKercher, Luciano Cudrig, Gerard Wilson, Crystal Wilson, Frances DosRemedios

The recently deceased: Aida Sufra, Otilia Taofi Amato, Fiorentina Sansone, Noreen Dicque, Donato Rosella, Thomas Geoghegan, William Crisp

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Gertrude Monsurate, Ida Rea, Teresa Pane

Reading Roster

Saturday, February 18

5:30pm A. Miranda

Sunday, February 19

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am D. Naidoo, Sn

5:30pm J. Panicker

Saturday, February 25

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, February 26

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Church Cleaning

Saturday, 18 February

Legion of Mary

Saturday, 25 February

Gonsalves family, M. Ferdinands & L. Harper

Church Open Hours

The Church will be locked each weekday at 2:30pm.

On the weekend, the Church will be open at 8:00am and locked after the 5:30pm Mass, Saturday and Sunday.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, February 13, to Saturday, February 18, 2023 (Year A)

Monday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time - February 13

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

Responsorial Psalm: Offer to God a sacrifice of praise.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through Me. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Tuesday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time - February 14 - Saints Cyril & Methodius

Entrance Antiphon: These are holy men who became friends of God, glorious heralds of divine truth.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* All who love Me will keep My words, and My Father will love them and We will come to them. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The disciples went forth and preached the Gospel, while the Lord worked with them, confirming the word through accompanying signs.

Wednesday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time - February 15

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

Responsorial Psalm: To You, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Thursday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time - February 16

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

Responsorial Psalm: From heaven the Lord looks down on the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Friday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time - February 17

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be His own.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* I call you My friends, says the Lord, for I have made known to you all that the Father has told Me. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Saturday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time - February 18

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

Responsorial Psalm: I will praise Your name for ever, Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is My beloved Son, hear Him. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.