

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

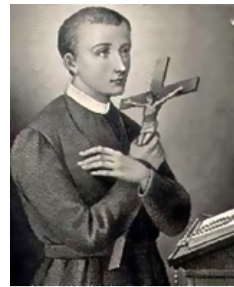
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

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"

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 18/19, 2023 (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in Your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading - Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. "You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: *The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are;* or again: *God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise.* So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel - Matthew 5: 38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: *Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.* But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all Your wonders, I will rejoice in You and be glad, and sing psalms to Your name, O Most High.

The Welcome Blessing for children attending Catechism classes will be held on Sunday, 26th February at the 10:30 am Mass. Families are invited to join their teachers for refreshments after the Mass. We ask parents to please note this date in their diary.

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.

Last weekend was the annual Pastoral Care Appeal collection. The presence of Catholic Chaplains is a crucial witness to our faith, a crucial dimension of our service of love, and a vital testimony to the value of life in all its stages. Thank you to those who have supported this Appeal. If you still wish to donate or have any queries, please visit www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call 9287 5513.

Mission in Flight (ministry) assist youth group or bible study or any Church ministry. Learn from those who have kept their groups going for more than 15 years. Suitable for also beginners & advanced. To be held on the weekend of 25-26 February. The event starts at 10am on Saturday and concludes at 4pm on Sunday, at St. Joseph's Parish Chelsea. For more info www.trybooking.com/CFPZX or call 0413 398 528.

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.

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.

Holy as God : Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are called to the holiness of God. That is the extraordinary claim made in both the First Reading and the Gospel this Sunday. Yet how is it possible that we can be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect? Jesus explains that we must be imitators of God as His beloved children (Ephesians 5:1-2).

As God does, we must love without limit—with a love that does not distinguish between friend and foe, overcoming evil with good (see Romans 12:21).

Jesus Himself, in His Passion and death, gave us the perfect example of the love that we are called to. He offered no resistance to the evil—even though He could have commanded twelve legions of angels to fight alongside Him. He offered His face to be struck and spit upon. He allowed His garments to be stripped from Him. He marched as His enemies compelled Him to the Place of the Skull. On the Cross, He prayed for those who persecuted Him (see Matthew 26:53-54, 67; 27:28, 32; Luke 23:34).

In all this, He showed Himself to be the perfect Son of God. By His grace, and through our imitation of Him, He promises that we too can become children of our heavenly Father.

God does not deal with us as we deserve, as we sing in this week's Psalm. He loves us with a Father's love. He saves us from ruin. He forgives our transgressions. He loved us even when we had made ourselves His enemies through our sinfulness. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (see Romans 5:8).

We have been bought with the price of the blood of God's only Son (see 1 Corinthians 6:20). We belong to Christ now, as St. Paul says in this week's Epistle. By our baptism, we have been made temples of His Holy Spirit.

And we have been saved to share in His holiness and perfection. So let us glorify Him by our lives lived in His service, loving as He loves.

MASS and INTENTIONS

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*)

and Hyacinth Maureen Kelly (*4th Death Anniversary*)

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

Mass 3:30pm French Community

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

Monday, February 20

Mass 9:15am Joaquim de Jesus Afonso & Maria

Henriques Afonso (*Remembrance*)

and Perlita Patano (*1st Death Anniversary*)

Tuesday, February 21

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

Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

6:30pm Stations of the Cross

Mass 7:00pm Patrick McConville (*Birthday Remembrance*)

Thursday, February 23

Mass 9:15am Annamma DeVasia (*2nd Death Anniversary*)

and Theresa Yohanan (*60 day Death Anniversary*)

and Kenneth Joseph Rodrigues (*For his soul - 3rd Anniversary of Death*)

Friday, February 24 - No Adoration

Mass 9:15am Jenny Harther (*Death Anniversary*)

6:30pm & 7:00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

Saturday, February 25

Mass 9:15am Jack Lovett (*Death Anniversary*)

Saturday, February 25 - First Sunday of Lent

Vigil Mass 5:30pm For the Holy Souls

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Mass

Sunday, February 26 - First Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Óscar Leopoldo Lemos & Lourença Ximenes
Lemos (*Remembrance*)

and For the Soul of Charles Mackness

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

and ***Catechism & Baptism Welcome Rite Blessing***

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

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 Crowl, 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, Charlie Cassar

The recently deceased: Aida Sufra, Otilia Taofi Amato, William Crisp, J. Helen Perera

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Kenneth Joseph Rodrigues, Hilary Pool, Rita and James O'Shea, Ida Rea

Reading Roster

Saturday, February 25

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, February 26

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, March 4

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, March 5

8:30am R. Noble

10:30am J. Panicker

5:30pm J. Abraham

Church Cleaning

Saturday, 25 February

Gonsalves family, M. Ferdinands & L. Harper

Saturday, March 4

Q. Roland, X. Fernando & T. Bui

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 20, to Saturday, February 25, 2023 (Year A)

Monday of the 7th Week in Ordinary Time - February 20

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in Your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is king; He is robed in majesty.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death and brought us life through His gospel. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all Your wonders, I will rejoice in You and be glad, and sing psalms to Your name, O Most High.

Tuesday of the 7th Week in Ordinary Time - February 21

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in Your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Responsorial Psalm: Commit Your life to the Lord, and He will help you.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all Your wonders, I will rejoice in You and be glad, and sing psalms to Your name, O Most High.

February 22 - Ash Wednesday

Entrance Antiphon: You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that You have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and You spare them, for You are the Lord our God.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

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

Thursday after Ash Wednesday - February 23

Entrance Antiphon: When I cried to the Lord, He heard my voice; He rescued me from those who attack me. Entrust your cares to the Lord, and He will support you.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Friday after Ash Wednesday - February 24

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord heard and had mercy on me; the Lord became my helper.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and the Lord will be with you. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: O Lord, make me know Your ways, teach me Your paths.

Saturday after Ash Wednesday - February 25

Entrance Antiphon: Answer us, Lord, for Your mercy is kind; in the abundance of Your mercies, look upon us.

Responsorial Psalm: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may be faithful in Your sight.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord, but to turn to Me and live. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: I desire mercy, not sacrifice, says the Lord, for I did not come to call the just but sinners.