

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

**Address:** 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

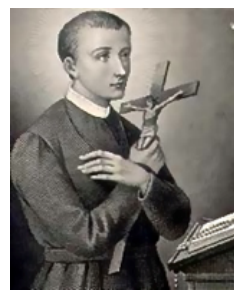
**Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer:** Sumitha Moses (Monday & Thursday)

**Parish Secretary:** Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)

**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 Lent - March 12, 2023 (Year A)**

**Entrance Antiphon:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for He rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

### **First Reading - Exodus 17:3-7**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

**Responsorial Psalm:** If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

### **Second Reading - Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*** Lord, You are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. ***Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

### **Gospel - John 4:5-42**

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

**Communion Antiphon:** For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

## PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

**Save the Date!** Our parish will hold an evening of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter, on Thursday, 30th March, between 6:30pm and 8:00pm.

Enrolments for Prep (Foundation) in 2024 are now open and Parish families are our first category for enrolments. If you have or know of a child who will be starting school next year please contact the School Office 9791 7553 or email [principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au) to arrange a meeting and tour with the Principal Mr Paul Cowan. We also have Open Days on Thursday 16, Wednesday 22, and Tuesday 28, March. Families are welcome to come at any time on these days, there is no need for an appointment. Please visit our website <https://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au>

The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver will be holding a Book and Plant Sale, on Saturday, 18 March from 9am – 2:00pm, at 154 Cotham Road, Kew. Proceeds from the Sale will go to assist the many needs of the missions. For any enquiries, please call: 9817 3715.

There are places available for school aged children from Prep to Year 1 to join in Catechesis at St. Gerard's. Please call the Coordinator, Angele Pacifique, on 0411 578 404, or please email your enquiry to [dandenongnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:dandenongnorth@cam.org.au).

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from the foyer, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check website for more details. 28 – 30 April, 2023 in Melbourne. Information & Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.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](mailto:dandenongdeanery@live.com.au).

God and Beer March - Topic: A Tribute to Pope Benedict XVI Speaker: Professor Tracey Rowland. Date: Monday, 20th March. Time: 6.30pm for dinner, 7.30pm for the talk. Venue: Matthew Flinders Hotel, 667 Warrigal Rd, Chadstone. God and Beer will be held in the 'Longitude Room'. Cost: Free, however, places are limited so please register to avoid disappointment and to hear about future events. Meals and drinks available for purchase from the main bistro area. Tickets: [GodandBeer.com.au](http://GodandBeer.com.au)

### **Striking the Rock: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Lent**

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert. Though they saw His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm.

Jesus is thirsty, too in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls (see John 19:28). He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life. These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans. But Jesus was something greater than Jacob (see Luke 11:31–32).

The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ (see 2 Kings 17:6, 24–41). They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem. But Jesus tells the woman that the "hour" of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth. Jesus' "hour" is the "appointed time" that Paul speaks of in today's Epistle. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock (see John 19:34–37). These waters are the Holy Spirit (see John 7:38–39), the gift of God (see Hebrews 6:4). By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down (see Ephesians 2:12–14,18).

Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism (see 1 Corinthians 12:13). In the Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob. In the "today" of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: "I am He," come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How can we continue to worship as if we don't understand? How can our hearts remain hardened?

## **MASS and INTENTIONS**

### **Saturday, March 11 - Vigil Mass - Third Sunday of Lent**

Mass 5:30pm Jack Gubbins (*Death Anniversary*)  
and Intentions of Zvonko Glavacevic

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Mass

### **Sunday, March 12 - Third Sunday of Lent**

Mass 8:30am Simone Valadon (*First Death Anniversary*)  
and Adrian Van Hees (*25th Death Anniversary*)

Mass 10:30am Liberante and Santo Mancuso  
(*Remembrance & for their souls*)

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community

Mass 5:30pm Kenneth Joseph Rodrigues (*For his soul*)

### **Monday, March 13**

Mass 9:15am Elisa Lemos Alfaia & José da Graça Alfaia  
(*Remembrance*)

and Intentions of Zvonko Glavacevic

After Mass Legion of Mary Stations of the Cross

### **Tuesday, March 14**

Mass 9:15am For the soul of Kenneth Joseph Rodrigues  
and Intentions of Zvonko Glavacevic

### **Wednesday, March 15**

Mass 9:15am Osman Mirriampillai - Thanksgiving  
and Zvonko Glavacevic & family - Thanksgiving

### **Thursday, March 16**

Mass 9:15am Birthday Thanksgiving - Norbert Kronfeld

### **Friday, March 17 - Saint Patrick**

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving - Ella D'Souza's 2nd Birthday

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

### **Saturday, March 18**

Mass 9:15am Birthday Thanksgiving - Joshua Francis

### **Saturday, March 18 - Vigil Mass - Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Mass 5:30pm Francesco Tomaino (*Death Anniversary*)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Mass

### **Sunday, March 19 - Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Mass 8:30am Saturnina de Jesus & Jerónimo Belo  
(*Remembrance*)

and Kenneth Joseph Rodrigues

(*Birthday Remembrance*)

and William Issaeff (*Anniversary of Death*)

Mass 10:30am Brigida Cardamone (*Death Anniversary*)

and Noeline Rhode (*30th Death Anniversary*)

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm For Jacquie

### **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, Charlie Cassar, Debbie Juchno

**The recently deceased:** Carmen Rapinett, Giuseppe Cardamone, Marie Captieux, Giustino DeLuca

**Anniversaries/Remembrances:** Simone Valadon, Jack Gubbins, Adrian Van Hees

### **Reading Roster**

#### **Saturday, March 18**

5:30pm P. Kroon

#### **Sunday, March 19**

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm B. Collins

#### **Saturday, March 25**

5:30pm D. Franklin

#### **Sunday, March 26**

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am E. Ebert

5:30pm J. Abraham

### **Church Cleaning**

#### **Saturday, March 18**

Knights of the Southern Cross

#### **Saturday, March 25**

S. Jose, Linda & Family

### **Other 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.

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

### Monday of the Third Week of Lent - March 13

**Entrance Antiphon:** My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see Him face to face?

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* I hope in the Lord, I trust in His word; with Him there is mercy and fullness of redemption. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** O praise the Lord, all you nations, for His merciful love towards us is great.

### Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent - March 14

**Entrance Antiphon:** To You I call, for You will surely heed me, O God; turn Your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of Your eye; in the shadow of Your wings protect me.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Remember Your mercies, O Lord.

**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:** Lord, who may abide in Your tent, and dwell on Your holy mountain? Whoever walks without fault and does what is just.

### Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent - March 15

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let my steps be guided by Your promise; may evil never rule me.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in Your presence, O Lord.

### Thursday of the Third Week of Lent - March 16

**Entrance Antiphon:** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to Me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**Responsorial Psalm:** If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* With all your heart turn to Me, for I am tender and compassionate. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

**Communion Antiphon:** You have laid down Your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping Your statutes.

### Friday of the Third Week of Lent - March 17 - Saint Patrick

**Entrance Antiphon:** Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

### Saturday of the Third Week of Lent - March 18

**Entrance Antiphon:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all His benefits; it is He who forgives all your sins.

**Responsorial Psalm:** It is steadfast love, not sacrifice, that God desires.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** The tax collector stood at a distance, beating his breast and saying: O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.