

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 & 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”*

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday - March 19, 2023 (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading - 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows Me will have the light of life. ***Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Gospel - John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?’ ‘Neither he nor his parents sinned,’ Jesus answered ‘he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ‘As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.’ Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’ So they said to him, ‘Then how do your eyes come to be open?’ ‘The man called Jesus’ he answered ‘made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, “Go and wash at Siloam”; so I went, and when I washed I could see.’ They asked, ‘Where is he?’ ‘I don’t know’ he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, ‘Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.’ His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, ‘He is old enough; ask him.’ So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, ‘Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.’ The man answered, ‘I don’t know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He replied, ‘I have told you once and you wouldn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?’ At this they hurled abuse at him: ‘You can be his disciple,’ they said ‘we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man replied, ‘Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don’t know where he comes from! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn’t do a thing.’ ‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and worshipped him. Jesus said: ‘It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.’ Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, ‘We are not blind, surely?’ Jesus replied: ‘Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, “We see,” your guilt remains.’

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

We invite you to join us for coffee and tea after the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, 19th March.
All are welcome.

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.

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.
Held in the 'Longitude Room'. Cost: Free. Meals and drinks available for purchase from the main bistro area.
For Tickets visit: GodandBeer.com.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.

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

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, or by calling 1800 024 413.

HOLY SPIRIT PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND AND/OR ITALY (28th August - 19th September, 2023): Caesarea Maritime, Haifa; Mt Carmel; Nazareth Village; Basilica of Annunciation; Masada, Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Mensa Christi, Capernaum, Sea Of Galilee, River Jordan (Yardenit); Cana of Galilee, Local Winery, Mt Tabor, Mt of Temptation, Caesarea Philippi; Mt Olives, Pater Noster, Chapel of Ascension, Garden of Gethsemane, Blessed Virgin Mary's Tomb, Mount Zion, Bethany & Bethphage; Old City, Wailing Wall, Pool of Bethesda, Antonia Fortress, Via Dolorosa, Mount Calvary, Cenacle, St Peter in Gallicantu; Basilica of Nativity, Shepherds' Field, Ein Karem; Turin, Milan, Verona, Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Loretto, Lanciaio, Manoppelo, Rome. Contact Fr. Emmanueltv (Spiritual Director) at the following: fremmanueltv@gmail.com; holyspiritp@gmail.com; 0417999553, 0893413079; **Dax:** 0420643949; and **Didith:** 0473246029.

Eyesight to the Blind: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Lent

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind. The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin," he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see Genesis 2:7), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see John 9:11). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent." Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will (see John 9:4; 12:44). He is the new source of life-giving water: the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism (see John 4:10; 7:38-39).

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him (see Exodus 3:1; Psalm 78:70-71), David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus (see John 10:11).

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By His death and Resurrection He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church. In the restful waters of Baptism He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: "I do believe, Lord." "The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light," trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 18 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Vigil 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 (*Birthday Remembrance*)
Mass 10:30am Brigida Cardamone (*Death Anniversary*)
 and Noeline Rita Rode (*30th Death Anniversary*)
 and Jayda Shavac (*Death Anniversary*)
Mass 3:30pm French Community
Mass 5:30pm For Jacquie

Monday, March 20 - Saint Joseph

Mass 9:15am Holy Mass offered for peace throughout
 South Africa
After Mass Legion of Mary Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, March 21

Mass 9:15am Birthday Thanksgiving - Nigel Rodrigues
 and Thanksgiving for Greta & Family

Wednesday, March 22

Mass 9:15am For Holy Souls

Thursday, March 23

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Friday, March 24

Mass 9:15am Olga Kroon (*Death Anniversary*)
6:30pm & 7:00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

Saturday, March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Saturday, March 25 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Vigil Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish
Mass 7:00pm Maronite Mass

Sunday, March 26 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Wilhemina Afonso & Olivio Afonso
 (*Remembrance*)
Mass 10:30am Thanksgiving to St. Gerard for favours
 received from Vivian & Lynette Whetton
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 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: Rei Dalen, Marie Captieux, Giustino DeLuca, Ratnam, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Bernard Caszo (MSFS)

Anniversaries/Remembrances: William Issaeff & Noeline Rode

Reading Roster

Saturday, March 25

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, March 26

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am E. Ebert

5:30pm J. Abraham

Saturday, April 1

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, April 2

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am M. Jose

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Church Cleaning

Saturday, March 25

S. Jose, Linda & Family

Saturday, April 1

Moses Family, Vincent, Mary & Rebecca

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

Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 20 - Saint Joseph

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, a faithful and prudent steward, whom the Lord set over His household.

Responsorial Psalm: The son of David will live for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: ***Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*** How happy they who dwell in Your house, O Lord; continually they sing Your praise! ***Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Communion Antiphon: Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share Your master's joy.

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 21

Entrance Antiphon: All who are thirsty, come to the waters, says the Lord. Though you have no money, come and drink with joy.

Responsorial Psalm: The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where He gives me repose, near restful waters He leads me.

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 22

Entrance Antiphon: I pray to You, O Lord, for a time of Your favour. In Your great mercy, answer me, O God, with Your salvation that never fails.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: ***Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*** I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in Me will not die for ever. ***Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Communion Antiphon: God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 23

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and His strength; constantly seek His face.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, remember us for the love You bear Your people.

Gospel Acclamation: ***Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*** God loved the world so much, He gave us His only Son, that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. ***Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Communion Antiphon: I will place My law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people, says the Lord.

Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 24

Entrance Antiphon: O God, save me by Your name; by Your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is near to broken hearts.

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!***

Communion Antiphon: In Christ, we have redemption by His Blood, and forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the riches of His grace.

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord said, as He entered the world: Behold, I come to do Your will, O God.

Responsorial Psalm: Here am I, Lord; I come to do Your will.

Gospel Acclamation: ***Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*** The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory. ***Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Emmanuel.