

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIHA MARNENI

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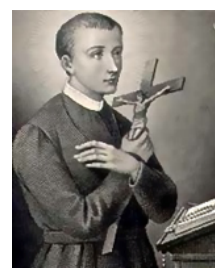
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

Office: Monday & Thursday only from 9.30am to 2.30pm (for the Month of April)

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"

Palm Sunday - April 2nd, 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the Highest.

First Reading - Isaiah 50: 4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm: My God, My God, Why Have You Abandoned Me?

Second Reading - Philippians 2: 6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised Him on high and gave Him a name above all other names. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Gospel - The Passion of the Lord according to Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66

Communion Antiphon: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without My drinking it, Your will be done.

All Is Fulfilled: Scott Hahn Reflects on Passion Sunday

"All this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled," Jesus says in today's Gospel (see Matthew 26:56).

Indeed, we have reached the climax of the liturgical year, the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been anticipated and promised is to be fulfilled.

By the close of today's long Gospel, the work of our redemption will have been accomplished: the new covenant will be written in the blood of His broken body hanging on the Cross at the place called the Skull.

In His Passion, Jesus is "counted among the wicked," as Isaiah had foretold (see Isaiah 53:12). He is revealed definitively as the Suffering Servant the prophet announced, the long-awaited Messiah whose words of obedience and faith ring out in today's First Reading and Psalm.

The taunts and torments we hear in these two readings punctuate the Gospel as Jesus is beaten and mocked (see Matthew 27:31), as His hands and feet are pierced, as enemies gamble for His clothes (see Matthew 27:35), and as His enemies dare Him to prove His divinity by saving Himself from suffering (see Matthew 27:39-44).

He remains faithful to God's will to the end. He does not turn back in His trial. He gives Himself freely to His torturers, confident that, as He speaks in today's First Reading, "The Lord God is My help . . . I shall not be put to shame."

Destined to sin and death as children of Adam's disobedience, we have been set free for holiness and life by Christ's perfect obedience to the Father's will (see Romans 5:12-14, 17-19; Ephesians 2:2; 5:6).

This is why God greatly exalted Him. This is why we have salvation in His name. Following His example of humble obedience in the trials and crosses of our lives, we know we will never be forsaken. We know, as the centurion realises today, that truly this is the Son of God (see Matthew 27:54).

Daily Antiphons - Holy Week - Monday, April 3 to Friday, April 7, 2023 (Year A)

Monday of Holy Week - 3rd April

Entrance Antiphon: Contend, O Lord, with my contenders; fight those who fight me. Take up Your buckler and shield; arise in my defence, Lord, my mighty help.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Let us greet our king; He alone showed mercy for our sins. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress. Turn Your ear towards me; on the day when I call, speedily answer me.

Tuesday of Holy Week - 4th April

Entrance Antiphon: Do not leave me to the will of my foes, O Lord, for false witnesses rise up against me and they breathe out violence.

Responsorial Psalm: I will sing of Your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Hail to our king, obedient to His Father; He went to His crucifixion like a gentle lamb. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: God did not spare His own Son, but handed Him over for us all.

Wednesday of Holy Week - 5th April

Entrance Antiphon: At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend of those in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, for the Lord became obedient to death, death on a cross: therefore Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, in Your great love, answer me.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* Let us greet our king; He alone showed mercy for our sins. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum - Thursday of the the Lord's Supper - 6th April

Entrance Antiphon: We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

Responsorial Psalm: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: This is the Body that will be given up for you; this is the Chalice of the new covenant in My Blood, says the Lord; do this, whenever you receive it, in memory of Me.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum - Friday of the Passion of the Lord - 7th April

Responsorial Psalm: Father, I put My life in Your hands.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised Him on high and gave Him a name above all other names. *Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*



MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 1st - Palm Sunday

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Knights of the Southern Cross - "To foster the Christian way of life throughout the nation."
Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, April 2nd - Palm Sunday

Mass 8:30am For the Holy Souls
and Michele Martin (*Birthday Remembrance*)
Mass 10:30am Private intentions of a Doctors Family
Mass 5:30pm Private intentions of a Doctors Family

Monday of Holy Week - April 3rd - No Confessions

Mass 9:15am May Francis Tirimanne (*Death Anniversary*)
and Michele Martin (*Death Anniversary*)
7:00pm Maronite Mass

Tuesday of Holy Week - April 4th - No Confessions

Mass 9:15am Antonio Bruno (*Death Anniversary*)
7:00pm Maronite Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week - April 5th - No Confessions

Mass 9:15am Victor Jayamaha (*for his soul*)
7:00pm Maronite Mass

Thursday of the Lord's Supper - April 6th

No Morning Mass and No confessions

7:00pm The Lord's Supper followed by Adoration

Friday - Passion of the Lord - April 7th

No Morning Mass and No confessions

9:00am Parish Stations of the Cross
11:00am Maronite Good Friday Service
3:00pm Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday - April 8th - No Morning Mass

9:00-10:30am Confession
6:00pm Maronite Easter Vigil Mass
8:30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday - April 9th - (Fr. Michael Shadbolt's Birthday)

8:30am Candice Fernando (*For the repose of her soul*)
10:30am Antonio Puleio (*Death Anniversary*)
and Carmela & Antonio Bruno (*Death Anniversary*)

No evening Mass on Easter Sunday

Church Cleaning

Saturday, 8th April

Legion of Mary

Saturday, 15th April

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.

No confession heard during Holy Week from Monday, 3rd April until Saturday 8th April.

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 Kaczowski, 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, Vaz Godwin, Tyron Francisco

The recently deceased: Giustino DeLuca, Ratnam, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Bernard Caszo (MSFS), Fr. John Tollan, Fr. Salvatore Di Mattina, Carmelo Tumino, baby Angelopoulos, Joseph Murugan

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Carmela and Antonio Bruno

Reading Roster

Saturday, 1st April - Palm Sunday

Vigil 5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, 2nd April - Palm Sunday

8:30am G. Markezic

Gospel

Narrator: G. Van Hees

Jesus: Fr. Michael

Crowd: Choir

10:30am M. Jose

Gospel

Narrator: A. Miranda

Jesus: Fr. Shanthaiah

Crowd: Choir

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Holy Thursday - 6th April - 7pm

1st Reading: J. D'Souza

2nd Reading: P. Kroon

Good Friday - 7th April - 3:00pm

1st Reading: J. Panicker

2nd Reading: A. Pacifique

Gospel

Narrator: D. Naidoo

Jesus: Fr. Shanthaiah

Crowd: Choir

Holy Saturday - 8th April - 8:30pm

Readers: 1. A. Miranda

2. C. Fernando

3. E. Ebert

4. M. Yallapa

5. I. Mulipola

Easter Sunday - 9th April

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am M. Naidoo

No Evening Mass Easter Sunday

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

The office will be closed every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for the entire month of April. The office will therefore only be open on Monday and Thursday during this time. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. We wish you all a very blessed, safe and Holy Easter - Fr. Shanthaiah and Parish staff.

We ask that you please pray for and congratulate Nadeesha and Amanda as they receive their sacraments of initiation on Easter Saturday. May God bless them always. We also thank and pray for Susan for her dedication and tireless work in preparing them in their faith journey.

Dear Parishioners,

The Finance Committee of St. Gerard's are looking to replace the dilapidated Church doors and appeal to your generosity and financial assistance. If you are able to please donate, we ask you to bring your donation in a marked envelope "Donation for Church Doors" and give directly to the office or add to the leaving collection after Mass.

The collections will take place 1st and 2nd April.
We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Knights of the Southern Cross - Public Speaking Course

This course is designed to help you overcome your fear of public speaking and improve your communication skills. You'll learn the techniques and strategies that successful speakers use to engage their audience and deliver their message with confidence and get opportunities to practice in a supportive environment to help you improve. There are only 10 places available. This course is an initiative of the Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria. When: 7.30-9.30pm, Thursday nights (for 10 consecutive weeks) starting 13th April. Where: Majellan Room, St Gerard's Catholic Church Hall, 71 Gladstone Rd. Dandenong. Cost: \$30. To register email Michael mmpalma98@gmail.com

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 7th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Whilst life in the Holy Land is returning to some new sense of normality (as is the rest of the world) the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2022 Australian Catholics were extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land \$1.4 million [compared to \$1,126,098 (2021) \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

St. Gerard's Holy Week Mass Times

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th April, Mass will be at 9:15am and the Maronite Service will be held at 7:00pm.

Holy Thursday - 6th April - No morning Mass and No Confessions

7:00pm - The Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until midnight

Good Friday - 7th April - No Confessions

9:00am - Stations of the Cross

11:00am - Good Friday Service by the Maronite Community

3:00pm - Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday - 8th April - 9:00am to 10:30am - Confession

6:00pm - Maronite Community Easter Vigil Mass

8:30pm - Easter Vigil Mass

The Resurrection of the Lord - Sunday, 9th April

8:30am Mass

10:30am Mass

There will **not be** evening Mass on Easter Sunday, 9th April

Divine Mercy Sunday

We invite you to please join us in celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Gerard's.

Bishop Leslie Tomlinson will preside over the Mass on Sunday, 16th April at 3:00pm.

From 1:00pm there will be Rosary, Confessions and Adoration in the Church until approximately 2:30pm.

After the Mass at 3pm, there will be a sausage sizzle and refreshments with the proceeds raised being used for the replacement of the Church doors.

Morning Mass will be held as usual at 8:30am and 10:30am on this day.

There will **not be** an evening Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, 16th April.