

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

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

Confession: Tuesday-Saturday 8:20am-8:50am & Saturday after Mass until 10:30am

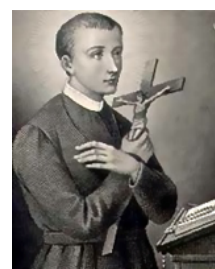
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

Office: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.30pm

Principal of St. Gerard's Catholic School: Mr. Paul Cowan

School Phone: 9791 7553 **Email:** principal@sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au



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"

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Readings for Mass (Year A) September 16/17, 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for You, that Your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of Your servant, and of Your people Israel.

First Reading - Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second Reading - Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18: 21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Communion Antiphon: How precious is Your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of Your wings.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION



Enrolments for Foundation in 2024 are now opened and Parish families are our first priority. If you have or know of a child who will be starting School next year, please call 9791 7553 to arrange a meeting and tour with Principal Mr. Paul Cowan. Please visit our website: <https://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au> for more information.



A bus will be leaving from St Gerard's on 7th October for the March For Babies. Please leave an envelope at the piety stall with your name and contact number to register. Cost is \$10 per family/person and \$5 for pensioners. Please come and support this very worthy cause, as every life matters. For further information, please contact Maree on 0407 762 057.

On Sunday, 15th October, our Parish will celebrate the Feast of St. Gerard. Mass will be officiated by Regional Bishop Tony Ireland at 10:30am. Following Mass, we are holding a Trivia Luncheon. Thank you to those whom have offered their help. If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office on 9792 4422. Thank you in advance.

Please note in your diary that there will be no 5:30pm Mass held on this day.

From 27th September to 5th November you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil – location and other information: www.40daysforlife.com/en/melbourne. We are also running parish teams and if you would like information on this please call Andrew Vaccaro at 0404 390 824 or avaccaro@internode.on.net. A sign-up sheet and information flyers will also be available. To make a donation: 40 Days for Life Melbourne BSB: 063 167 ACC: 11053337

After his conversion in 1992 John Pridmore joined the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and met St. Mother Theresa. They helped him to love again and to use his story to help others. He has inspired countless individuals to find hope and meaning through his powerful talks, conferences and parish missions. John will be speaking at St Thomas More Parish, Mount Eliza. Each talk begins at 7:30pm and runs for one hour. On the 18, 19 & 20th September. Visit www.jpmelb.com.au

The Legion of Mary meet each Monday and Saturday at 10am. The Junior Legion of Mary meet each Monday at 4:15pm until 5pm. We encourage and welcome any new members to attend.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. Please contact national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au or call on 02 8912 4818 for more information.

The debt we owe: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life.

Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, and refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, seven is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a sevenfold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us. This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10, 12).

So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, September 16 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

No Mass No Maronite Mass this evening

Sunday, September 17 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Francesca Tomaino (*Birthday Remembrance* ✙)
and Daniel Thomas Milloy (*Remembrance* ✙)

Mass 10:30am Yolanda D'Souza (*Birthday Remembrance* ✙)
and Fr. Francis Xavier MSFS (*Recently Deceased* ✙)
and Laurence Rosette (*1st Death Anniversary* ✙) and
prayers for her children Gaetan & Colette Rosette
and Kerrie-Anne Rosette (*Recently Deceased* ✙)

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm Maud Aza (*Recently Deceased* ✙)

Monday, September 18

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Tuesday, September 19

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Wednesday, September 20

Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gōn, Paul Chōng Ha-Sang & Companions

Mass 9:15am Private Intention

Thursday, September 21 - Saint Matthew

Mass 9:15am Maria Cardamone (*Anniversary of Death & Birthday Remembrance* ✙)

Friday, September 22

Mass 9:15am Daisy Hart (*Death Anniversary* ✙)
and Roy DeKauwe (*Death Anniversary* ✙)
and Hyacinth Ludwick (*Death Anniversary* ✙)
and Dominic D'Vaz & Family - *Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Väilankanni*
and For the soul of Phyllis Michael & all deceased souls of the Michael's Family (*Remembrance* ✙)

Saturday, September 23 - Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Saturday Vigil, September 23 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Antonio Sacco & Giovanni Marotta
(*Death Anniversary & Remembrance* ✙)
and Angelina Sacco (*Birthday Remembrance* ✙)
and For the Soul of Jerry Rodrigues (*Remembrance* ✙)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, September 24 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Fr. William Van Kooy (*Death Anniversary* ✙)

Mass 10:30am Gennaro De Marco
(*1st Month Death Remembrance* ✙)
and *Baptism Welcome Rite Blessing*

Mass 5:30pm Violet & Anthony Sabba, Cliff Micallef and Sylvia Domenici (*Remembrance* ✙)

Please remember to pray for...

Our sick: Mary Considine, Crystal Wilson, Frances & Lovett DosRemedios, Charlie Cassar, Debbie Juchno, Vaz Godwin, Tyrone Francisco, Vincent Newton, Heather Fernandez, Alessandro Zaia, Eliana Scardigli, Jeanne Joseph, Giovanna McKercher, Steven & Monica Dickson, Sandy Hayman, Anne Moorthy, Jean Joseph, Fr. Rodney, Maria O'Blak, Maria Tomaselli, Aldo Provenazzano, Colin Hillas

The recently deceased: Fr. Brian Gleeson, Fr. Francis Xavier, Sarah Cleary, Gennaro DeMarco, KerrieAnne Rosette, Harry Brian Fernando, Nicolina Rosella

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Roy DeKauwe, Daniel Thomas Milloy, Fred Barthelot

Church Cleaning

Saturday, September 23

Q. Roland, X. Fernando
& T. Bui

Saturday, September 30

Knights of the Southern Cross

Reading Roster

Saturday Vigil, September 23

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, September 24

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am J. Panicker

5:30pm L. Hector

Saturday Vigil, September 30

5:30pm A. Miranda

Sunday, October 1

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

Confession

Confession will not be heard on a Sunday or Monday.

Confession is heard Tuesday to Saturday, from 8:20am to 8:50am, and after the Mass on Saturday until 10:30am.

Church

The Church will be open for private prayer Monday to Friday at 8:00am and closed at 2:30pm. On Saturday and Sunday, the Church is open from 8am and closed after the 5:30pm Mass.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, September 18 to Saturday, September 23, 2023 (Year A)

Monday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time - September 18

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for You, that Your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of Your servant, and of Your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Blest be the Lord for He has heard my prayer.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much, He gave us His only Son, that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: How precious is Your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of Your wings.

Tuesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time - September 19

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for You, that Your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of Your servant, and of Your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: I will walk with blameless heart.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited His people. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: How precious is Your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of Your wings.

Wednesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time - September 20

Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gōn, Paul Chōng Ha-Sang & Companions

Entrance Antiphon: The blood of the holy Martyrs was poured out for Christ upon the earth; therefore they have gained everlasting rewards.

Responsorial Psalm: How great are the works of the Lord!

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

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who acknowledges Me before others I will acknowledge before My heavenly Father, says the Lord.

Thursday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time - September 21 - Saint Matthew

Entrance Antiphon: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Their message goes out through all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You are God: we praise You; You are the Lord: we acclaim You; the glorious company of apostles praise You. Alleluia!

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

Friday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time - September 22

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for You, that Your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of Your servant, and of Your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

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!

Communion Antiphon: How precious is Your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of Your wings.

Saturday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time September 23 - Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

Entrance Antiphon: Your priest, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; Your holy ones shall ring out their joy.

Responsorial Psalm: Come with joy into the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when He comes. Amen I say to you: He will put that servant in charge of all His property.