

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 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)
Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses (Monday & Thursday)
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"

First Sunday of Advent - Readings for Mass (Year B) December 2/3, 2023

Entrance Antiphon: To You, I lift up my soul, O my God. In You, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in You be put to shame.

First Reading - Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord, show us Your mercy and love, and grant us Your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading - Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**Thanksgiving envelopes are ready for collection from the Church foyer.
We thank you for your continued support and generosity to our Parish.**



CONGRATULATIONS FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

We congratulate the children whom received their First Holy Communion last Sunday, 26th November on the Feast of Christ the King.

Huong Dang, Jenaya Ngoma, Alyssia Ngoma, Lorenzo Paguio, Liana Inn Thomas & Devana Aloema Sua Wendt

May God bless you all.

A Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be visiting St Elizabeth Parish, 107 Bakers Rd, Dandenong North from Sunday, 3rd December 2023 to Friday, 8th December 2023. The visit will start with a procession from the Parish House to the Church commencing at 9.00am on Sunday, 3rd December followed by the rite of welcome of the statue of Our lady of Fatima and mass at 9.30am. The Holy Rosary and the Litany of Our Lady of Fatima will be prayed in the church each evening at 7.00pm from Monday, 4 December to Thursday, 7 December and after each 9.15am Mass during the week. The visit will conclude with the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception mass on Friday 8 December at 9.15am followed by the Holy Rosary and Litany of Our Lady of Fatima. All are welcome! Our Lady of Fatima pray for us.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

Catholic Bible Study - "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible." Final session - The Messianic Fulfillment – Part 2, The Church, Continuing the Journey. Join us this Tuesday from 6pm – 7:45pm as we conclude our exploration of salvation history through the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah. Cost: Free. Venue: St Gerard's Dandenong North - Majellan Hall. Children's Catechesis available.

The Piety Stall have Advent Candles and Wreaths available to purchase. 'Gods' Word 2024' are also available for purchase for \$21.95 and 2024 Columban and Divine Mercy Calendars, are \$10 each.

Our Christmas Carols luncheon will be held Sunday, 10 December after the 10:30am mass. Please book your table ASAP to help us with catering by contacting Jeff on 0477 188 883, or Alizarin on 0457 778 889, or the Parish office on 9792 4422. Volunteers are welcome to assist with setup on Saturday the 9th after 9:15am mass.

Tea and coffee after 10:30am Masses. Volunteers are required to be rostered to assist with tea and coffee after 10:30am Masses. Please contact Alizarin on 0457778889.

Evening of Reconciliation - Thursday, 14th December

Reconciliation will be heard 6:30pm to 7:45pm on Thursday, 14th December.
Please Note: Confessions ***will not*** be heard from the 15th to the 22nd December.
On Saturday, 23rd December, confession will be heard between 9:45am to 10:30am.

Christmas Programme, 2023

Mass celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent, 24th December to be held at 8:30am and 10:30am

Christmas Eve - Sunday, 24th December

5:30pm - Christmas Family Mass

7:00pm - Maronite Mass

11:30pm - Carols followed by Midnight Mass

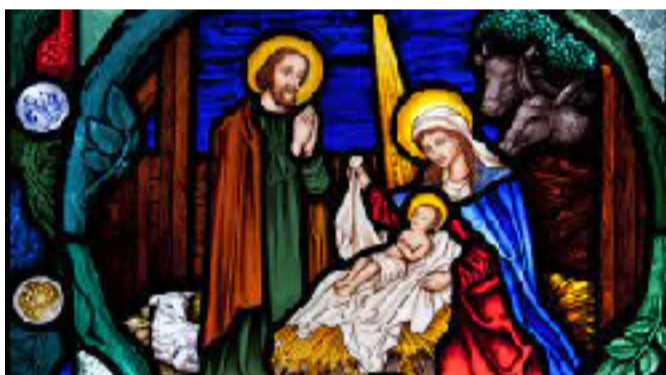
Christmas Day - Monday, 25th December

8.30am and 10.30am Mass (*No evening Mass on Christmas day*)

Parish Office Hours

Beginning Thursday, 7th December, the Parish office will be **closed every Monday and Thursday.**

The office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9:00am and 3:00pm.



Enrolments for Prep (Foundation) in 2024 are now open and Parish families are our first priority for enrolments. 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 the Principal Mr. Paul Cowan. Please visit <https://www.sgdandenongnth.catholic.edu.au> for more information.

Watch for Him: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday of Advent

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading.

In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people.

Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today as the people of Israel recognise their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him?

God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see John 14:8–9). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see John 10:11–15) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him.

So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, 2nd December - First Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Abele Trinco (*Death Anniversary* ✚)
and For the departed souls of the Isaacs & Edmonds Family ✚
and For the deceased loved ones of the Fernandes and Rebello family and for all souls in Purgatory ✚
and Mavis Mantel (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 3rd December - First Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am For the souls in Purgatory ✚
Mass 10:30am For the souls of Mijo & Ana Glavacevic (*Remembrance* ✚)

Congratulations to the following children to be baptised today; Daisy Lilith Salvo-Lopez, Ezekiel David Naidoo and Raya Aurora Palat

Mass 5:30pm Special Intention

Monday, 4th December

Mass 9:15am For the souls in Purgatory ✚

Tuesday, 5th December

Mass 9:15am For the repose of the soul of Victor Jayamaha ✚

Wednesday, 6th December

Mass 9:15am For the Souls in Purgatory ✚

Thursday, 7th December - Saint Ambrose

Mass 9:15am For the Souls in Purgatory ✚

Friday, 8th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass 9:15am For the deceased members of Reyes and Marcos Families and for Hedley Simonet ✚
and Jacob Abraham (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Saturday, 9th December

Mass 9:15am For the Repose of the souls of Nina Loos and Emelda Ennis ✚
and Salvatore Puleio (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Saturday Vigil, 9th December - Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Peter D'Souza (*Birthday Remembrance* ✚)
and Thanksgiving to Saint Gerard from the Fernando Family

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 10th December - Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am For the soul of Martin D'Silva ✚
and For the protection of Sienna
Mass 10:30am Fr. Francis Xavier MSFS (*Remembrance* ✚)
and Thanksgiving Mass to St. Gerard from Vivian and Lynette Whetton and Family
Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community
Mass 5:30pm For the abandoned Souls in Purgatory

Please remember to pray for...

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

The recently deceased:

Gérard Sydney Damonsing, Josephine Hamzou Nahas, Oscar Braz, Stephanie Susnja, Goretti Lobo, Ophelia Rodrigues, Souhail Jabbour, Regina Mira, Mary Bennett, Bernadette Timothy, Teresa Mockler

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Anton & Stefanija Los, Helen Watts, Angelina & Rocco Musico

Church Cleaning

Saturday, December 9

Legion of Mary

Saturday, December 16

Gonsalves Family, M. Ferdinands & L. Harper

Reading Roster

Saturday Vigil, December 9

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, December 10

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am J. Abraham

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

Saturday Vigil, December 16

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, December 17

8:30am M. Noble

10:30am D. Naidoo

5:30pm B. Collins

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 8:00am and closed after the 5:30pm Mass.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 4 to Saturday, December 9, 2023 (Year B)

Monday of the First Week of Advent - December 4

Entrance Antiphon: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear.

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come and save us, Lord our God; let us see Your face, and we shall be saved. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before You with a blameless heart.

Tuesday of the First Week of Advent - December 5

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come, and all His holy ones with Him; and on that day there will be a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in His time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, our Lord shall come with power; He will enlighten the eyes of His servants. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await His coming.

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent - December 6

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord will come and He will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal Himself to all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord is coming to save His people; happy are those prepared to meet Him. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of His servants.

Thursday of the First Week of Advent - December 7 - Saint Ambrose

Entrance Antiphon: In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Seek the Lord while He can be found. Call on Him while He is near. Alleluia!

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

Friday of the First Week of Advent - December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Responsorial Psalm: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvellous deeds.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

Saturday of the First Week of Advent - December 9

Entrance Antiphon: Come and show us Your face, O Lord, who are seated upon the Cherubim, and we will be saved.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord will judge us by His law; He is our King and Saviour. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am coming soon and My recompense is with Me, says the Lord, to bestow a reward according to the deeds of each.

