

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: Tues, Wed, Fri 9.00am to 3.00pm (*Parish office closed Monday & Thursday in December*)

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"**

Second Sunday of Advent - Readings for Mass (Year B) December 9 & 10, 2023

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see Your kindness, and grant us Your salvation.

Second Reading - 2 Peter 3: 8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

In response to the continued conflict in Ukraine, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has launched a special Advent appeal, the proceeds of which will go towards providing aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and are without basic supplies, especially as winter approaches. Please collect a card from the table in the Church foyer from the Archbishop. Thank you in advance for your generosity to this worthy cause.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

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

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.

You are invited to view St Gerard's parishioner Andrew Vaccaro's Christmas Lights Display, which features a beautiful Nativity as its centrepiece. Where: Ring Court, Dandenong North. When: Sunday December 10, 2023 to Tuesday January 2nd, 2024. Times: Mon-Wed: 8:45PM to 11:00PM, Thur-Sun: 8:45PM to 12:00AM. Please feel free to introduce yourself to Andrew and to go on the lawn and look around - just take it slow and watch for any cables! Andrew also recommends the Christmas Lights Display of his friends the Scanlon Family, Parishioners of St. Elizabeth's, at 6 Neasham Drive, Dandenong North, at the same times and dates as above. Again, this display features a beautiful Nativity.

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

For the month of 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.

This coming week, Advent Reflection will be held on Wednesday, 13th December at 6:30pm in the Majellan Hall. Reflection books may be purchased from the piety stall. Consecutive dates for the Reflection meetings will be confirmed on this night. All are invited and most welcome to attend.

Straighten the Path: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday of Advent

Our God is coming. The time of exile—the long separation of humankind from God due to sin—is about to end.

This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God—the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus toward the promised land (see Exodus 23:20). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see Malachi 3:1–4).

John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle.

Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our

lives so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

MASS and INTENTIONS

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
and Malcolm Farquharson (*Remembrance* ✚)

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community

Mass 5:30pm For the abandoned Souls in Purgatory

Monday, 11th December

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Tuesday, 12th December

Mass 9:15am Private Intentions - Panicker Family
and Anthony William D'Souza
(*Birthday Remembrance* ✚)
and Joseph Gerald Marmion (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Wednesday, 13th December - Saint Lucy

Mass 9:15am Private Intentions - Panicker Family
and Fanny and Patrick Antaran (*Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Thanksgiving for Private Intention

Thursday, 14th December - Saint John of the Cross

Mass 9:15am Fr. Joe Hynan (*1st Year Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Giovanna McKercher (*Remembrance* ✚)

6:30pm-7:45pm *Evening of Reconciliation*

Friday, 15th December

Mass 9:15am Deceased Members of the D'Sousa Family ✚

Saturday, 16th December

Mass 9:15am Gorette Lobo (*Recently Deceased* ✚) and abandoned souls in Purgatory

Saturday Vigil, 16th December - Third Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 17th December - Third Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Mary Bennett, Bernadette Timothy and Teresa Mockler (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Mass 10:30am Deceased members of the Martin Family ✚

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm Teresa and Donald Collins (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

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, Jeannie Joseph, Fr. Rodney, Maria O'Blak, Maria Tomaselli, Aldo Provenazzano, Colin Hillas, Job Thaejus, Monica Kelly, Sunny, Jimmy Logan, Carmel Feola

The recently deceased: Souhail Jabbour, Regina Mira, Mary Bennett, Bernadette Timothy, Teresa Mockler

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Salvatore Puleio, Angelina & Rocco Musico, Sabato Leone, Lycette Ticlo, Joseph Gerald Marmion

Church Cleaning

Saturday, December 16

Gonsalves Family, M. Ferdinands & L. Harper

Saturday, December 23

Kronfeld Family

Reading Roster

Saturday Vigil, December 16

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, December 17

8:30am M. Noble

10:30am D. Naidoo

5:30pm B. Collins

Saturday Vigil, December 23

5:30pm A. Miranda

Sunday, December 24

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am M. Jose

Christmas Eve Mass

5:30pm A. Pacifique

Midnight: M. Naidoo (Reader 1)

J. D'Souza (Reader 2)

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass

8:30am B. Collins (Reader 1)

A. Zaher (Reader 2)

10:30am TBA (Reader 1)

TBA (Reader 2)

Please note: There will not be an evening Mass on Christmas Day

Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 11 to Saturday, December 16, 2023 (Year B)

Monday of the Second Week of Advent - December 11

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: Our God will come to save us!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, the king will come, the Lord of earth: and He will set us free. Alleluia!

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

Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent - December 12

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: The Lord our God comes in strength.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The day of the Lord is near: He comes to save us. Alleluia!

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

Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent - December 13 - Saint Lucy

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity.

Responsorial Psalm: O bless the Lord, my soul.

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

Communion Antiphon: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.

Thursday of the Second Week of Advent - December 14 - Saint John of the Cross

Entrance Antiphon: May I never boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me, says the Lord.

Friday of the Second Week of Advent - December 15

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit His people with peace, and He will bestow on them eternal life.

Responsorial Psalm: Those who follow You, Lord, will have the light of life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord will come, go out to meet Him! He is the prince of peace. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with His glorified body.

Saturday of the Second Week of Advent - December 16

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

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. 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.

