

# 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

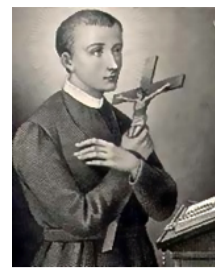
**Parish Secretary:** Sinthia Stellato

**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"**

## Third Sunday of Advent - Readings for Mass (Year B) December 16 & 17, 2023

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

### First Reading - Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God.

### Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

### Gospel Reading - John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save us.

Confession *will not* be heard on a Sunday or Monday. Please note; Confession *will not* be heard from Tuesday 19th until Friday 22nd December inclusive. On Saturday, 23rd December, confession will be heard between 9:45am and 10:30am.

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.

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 and please post your donation with the reply paid envelope. 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 final Advent reflection meeting will be held in the Majellan Hall on Tuesday, 19th December at 6pm.  
Advent booklets may also be purchased from the piety stall this weekend.

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.

### **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***

The Parish office will be **closed Monday 18th December.**

The office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday between 9:00am and 2:30pm and will close Friday 22nd December and re-open Monday 8th January 2024.

**“The Church needs Saints! All are called to holiness, and holiness alone can renew humanity” - St. John Paul II. Join Young Catholic Adults aged 18-30 years at a Catholic Retreat from January 6-7, 2024 at St. Paul's Retreat Centre, 11 Nortons Lane, Wantirna South, Victoria. Cost is \$40 for day attendees or \$70 which is including all meals and accommodation. RSVP by January 1st, 2024 to 0452 088 783 or email [ahfibrothers@gmail.com](mailto:ahfibrothers@gmail.com). Please see bulletin board for more information.**

### **One Who is Coming: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Advent**

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't.

He is not Elijah returned from the heavens (see 2 Kings 2:11), although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire (see Mark 1:6; 2 Kings 1:8) and preaches repentance and judgment (see 1 Kings 18:21; 2 Chronicles 21:12-15).

Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfill his mission (see Luke 1:17; Malachi 3:23-24).

Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word (see Deuteronomy 18:15-19; John 6:14). Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since he was in the womb (see Luke 1:15, 44).

John prepares the way for the Lord (see Isaiah 40:3). The baptism he performs is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance.

John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains (see John 1:32), the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today's First Reading (see Luke 4:16-21). Jesus' bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit (see Zechariah 13:1-3; Ezekiel 36:24-27; Mark 1:8; Titus 3:5).

John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today's Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven (see John 6:33, 49-51).

And as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body—that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.



# MASS and INTENTIONS

## Saturday Vigil, 16th December - Third Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Private Intention

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* ✝)  
and Kakumanu Showri Bhagyam (*Remembrance* ✝)

## Monday, 18th December

Mass 9:15am Margaret Karmarkar (*Death Anniversary* ✝)  
and Manolito and Aurelio Antaran  
(*Special Remembrance*)

## Tuesday, 19th December

Mass 9:15am Diago D'Souza (*1st Year Death Anniversary* ✝)

## Wednesday, 20th December

Mass 9:15am Beverley Deabe (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

## Thursday, 21st December

Mass 9:15am Frank and Celine Martin (*Remembrance* ✝)

## Friday, 22nd December

Mass 9:15am John Daniels (*Death Anniversary* ✝) and for the Abandoned Souls in Purgatory

## Saturday, 23rd December

Mass 9:15am Ivor De Kauwe (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

## Saturday Vigil, 23rd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

## Sunday, 24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Edwin and Claire D'Sousa and Lycette Ticlo  
(*Remembrance* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Lourdunathan (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES - Sunday, 24th December**

Mass 5:30pm Christmas Family Mass

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Christmas Mass

11:30pm Carols followed by Christmas Midnight Mass

## **CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday, 25th December**

8:30am Christmas Mass

10:30am Christmas Mass

Please note there is **No** evening Mass on Christmas day.

## 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, Libby Wilson, Brenda Edwards, Joseph Wright

## **The recently deceased:**

Souhail Jabbour, Regina Mira, Mary Bennett, Bernadette Timothy, Teresa Mockler, Cyril Savannah

## **Anniversaries/Remembrances:**

Kakumanu Showri Bhagyam, Angelina & Rocco Musico, Teresa & Donald Collins, Bromley De Souza, John Ferdinands

## Church Cleaning

**Saturday, December 23**

Kronfeld Family

**Saturday, December 30**

Q. Roland, X. Fernando, T. Bui

## Reading Roster

**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 J. Abraham

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

**Saturday, December 30**

5:30pm C. Fernando

**Sunday, December 31**

8:30am R. Noble

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

## Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 18 to Saturday, December 23, 2023 (Year B)

### Monday of the Third Week of Advent - December 18

**Entrance Antiphon:** Christ our King is coming, He is the Lamb of God foretold by John.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Leader of ancient Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: rescue us with Your mighty power! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** His name will be called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us.

### Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 19

**Entrance Antiphon:** He who is to come will come and will not delay, and now there will be no fear within our land, for He is our Saviour.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Fill me with Your praise, and I will sing Your glory!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Flower of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all His people: save us without delay! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** The Dawn from on high will visit us, guiding our feet in the way of peace.

### Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 20

**Entrance Antiphon:** A branch shall sprout from the root of Jesse, and the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth, and all flesh will see the salvation of God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: free the prisoners of darkness! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** The Angel said to Mary: Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

### Thursday of the Third Week of Advent - December 21

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord and Ruler will be coming soon, and His name will be called Emmanuel, because He will be God-with-us.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones; sing a new song to Him.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Emmanuel, God's presence among us, our King, our Judge: save us, Lord our God! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are you who have believed, that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

### Friday of the Third Week of Advent - December 22

**Entrance Antiphon:** O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let Him enter, the king of glory!

**Responsorial Psalm:** My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come, King of all nations, source of Your Church's unity and faith: save all people, Your own creation! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

### Saturday of the Third Week of Advent - December 23

**Entrance Antiphon:** A child shall be born for us, and He will be called God, the Almighty; every tribe of the earth shall be blest in Him.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come, King of all nations, source of Your Church's unity and faith: save all people, Your own creation! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears My voice and opens the door to Me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and He with me.

