

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAI AH MARNENI

Parish Phone: 9792 4422 **Parish Email:** dandenongnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.stgerards.org.au **Facebook:** [facebook.com/saintgerardparish](https://www.facebook.com/saintgerardparish)

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

Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato

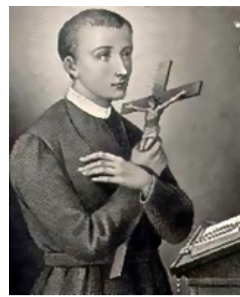
Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

Office: Closed from Friday, 22nd December 2023 and re-opens Monday, 8th January 2024

Confession: Please see website and bulletin board for amended confession times

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"

The Nativity of the Lord

(5:30pm and Midnight Mass)

Entrance Antiphon: Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

First Reading - Isaiah 9: 1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on His shoulders; and this is the name they give Him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is His dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for His royal power, which He establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading - Titus 2: 11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed Himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be His very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel - Luke 2: 1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Communion Antiphon: The Word became flesh, and we have seen His glory.





The Nativity of the Lord

(8:30am & 10:30am Mass)



Entrance Antiphon: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; His sceptre of power rests upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading - Isaiah 52: 7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as He returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling His people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me.* Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia!**

Gospel - John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. 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. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Communion Antiphon: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Daily Antiphons - Tuesday, December 26 to Saturday, December 30 (Year B) 2023

Tuesday, December 26 - Saint Stephen

Entrance Antiphon: The gates of heaven were opened for blessed Stephen, who was found to be first among the number of the Martyrs and therefore is crowned triumphant in heaven.

Responsorial Psalm: Into Your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; the Lord God shines upon us. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: As they were stoning Stephen, he called out: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Wednesday, December 27 - Saint John

Entrance Antiphon: This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed and who spread the words of life through all the world.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the just rejoice in the Lord.

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: The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and from His fullness we have all received.

Thursday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

Entrance Antiphon: The innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they follow the Lamb and sing for ever: Glory to You, O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You are God, we praise You; You are the Lord: we acclaim You; the white-robed army of martyrs praise You. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, those redeemed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb, and who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Friday, December 29 - Fifth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Responsorial Psalm: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of Your people, Israel. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

Saturday, December 30 - Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, Your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

Responsorial Psalm: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, You nations, and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.



Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday Vigil, 23rd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Giovanni, Brigida and Giuseppe Cardamone
and Antonio and Angelina Sacco (*Remembrance* ✝)

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* ✝)

Sunday, 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

Mass 5:30pm Christmas Family Mass

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Christmas Mass

11:30pm Carols followed by Christmas Midnight Mass

Monday, 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30am Intentions of the Parish

10:30am Thanksgiving to baby Jesus - Nigel & Maria
Rodrigues

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

Tuesday, 26th December - Saint Stephen

Mass 9:15am Jerson Pereira (*15th Death Anniversary* ✝)

Wednesday, 27th December - Saint John

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit for special
favours received

Thursday, 28th December - The Holy Innocents

Mass 9:15am For the souls of Mavis Domingo and
George Francis ✝

and Pasquale Isabella (*2nd Death Anniversary*)

Friday, 29th December

Mass 9:15am Frank Mark Imbrogno (*Birthday Remembrance* ✝)

and Repose of the Souls of Antonette and Charles
Henry Vettivelu ✝

Saturday, 30th December

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Saturday Vigil Mass, 30th December

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

Mass 5:30pm Fiore Mete (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 31st December

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

Mass 8:30am Thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity

Mass 10:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 5:30pm Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, 1st January 2024 - Happy New Year!

Mass 9:15am Solemnity of Mary, the Holy mother of God

No evening Mass on New Years Day

Please remember to pray for...

Our sick: Mary Considine, Crystal Wilson, Tyrone Francisco, Frances & Lovett DosRemedios, Charlie Cassar, Debbie Juchno, Vincent Newton, Heather Fernandez, Alessandro Zaia, Eliana Scardigli, 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

The recently deceased:

Joseph Wright, Souhail Jabbour, Regina Mira, Cyril Savannah

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Ivor & Maisie DeKauwe, Angelina and Rocco Musico, John Daniels, Arthur Akom, Fiore Mete, Domenico Lidonnici

Reading Roster

Saturday, December 30

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, December 31

8:30am R. Noble

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, January 6

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, January 7

8:30am R. Noble

10:30am M. Naidoo

5:30pm L. Hector

Church Cleaning

Saturday, December 30

Q. Roland, X. Fernando, T. Bui

Saturday, January 6

Knights of the Southern Cross

Please visit our website for **Mass**
and **confession** times:
www.stgerards.org.au

The **Parish office** will close from
Friday December 22nd and will re-
open Monday January 8th, 2024.

Dear Parishioners,
The staff and I, would like to
thank you for your support and
kindness throughout the year.
Wishing you every blessing at
Christmas and for a happy and
prosperous New Year.
May God bless you all.
Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni
Parish Priest

