

# ST. GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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**Website:** www.stgerards.org.au **Facebook:** facebook.com/saintgerardparish

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**Confession:** Please see website, bulletin or notice board for amended confession times

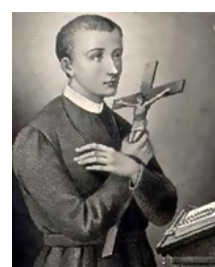
**Parish Secretary:** Sinthia Stellato

**Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer:** Sumitha Moses

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

**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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Readings for Mass (Year B) December 31, 2023

**Entrance Antiphon:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

### First Reading - Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord remembers His covenant for ever.

### Second Reading - Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on.* He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. *Alleluia!*

### Gospel Reading - Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

**Communion Antiphon:** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

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 directly with the reply paid envelope. Thank you in advance for your generosity to this worthy cause.

# Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Readings for Mass (Year B) January 1st, 2024

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

## First Reading - Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Say this to Aaron and his sons: “This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.” This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.’

**Responsorial Psalm:** May God bless us in His mercy.

## Second Reading - Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, ‘Abba, Father’, and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. *Alleluia!*

## Gospel Reading - Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

**Communion Antiphon:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

## PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

### Mass Programme

Sunday, 31st December

Mass held at 8:30am and 10:30am

celebrating The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Sunday, 31st December Mass at 5:30pm

Celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day - Monday, 1st January 2024

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God – 9:15am Mass

*(Please note: No evening Mass 1st January, 2024)*

### Parish Office Hours

The Parish office is currently closed and will re-open Monday, 8th January 2024.

### CHURCH

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

### CONFESSION

**For the month of January,**

Confessions will only be heard on Saturday from 8:20am to 9:00am and after the Mass until 10:30am.

Catholic Mission thanks the parish of St Gerard's for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$1,260.30 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need. Many thanks!

**“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.**

# MASS and INTENTIONS

## 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

**\*\*Please note: Maronite Mass will be held on Sunday next weekend instead of Saturday.\*\***

## Sunday, 31st December

### The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

Mass 8:30am Thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity

Mass 10:30am For the souls of the Toeta Family

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

## Monday, 1st January 2024 - Happy New Year!

### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

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

**No evening Mass on New Year's Day**

## Tuesday, 2nd January - Saints Basil & Gregory

Mass 9:15am For Peter Mackie - for his healing and return to the faith

## Wednesday, 3rd January

Mass 9:15am For Mathew Twiselton - for his conversion

and Birthday blessing for Brandon Collins

and Nadesan Moorthy (*2nd Death Anniversary* ✝)

## Thursday, 4th January

Mass 9:15am For Luke and Rachelle Mackie - for their conversion

## Friday, 5th January

Mass 9:15am Victor Jayamaha (*Remembrance* ✝)

and Thanksgiving to St. Anthony and Thanksgiving on the birthday of Maria Rodrigues

and Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from Gerard Collins and Family

## Saturday, 6th January

Mass 9:15am For the healing of Maria Grisafi

## Saturday Vigil Mass, 6th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass 5:30pm Marc Mantel (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

and Maximiano Fernandes (*1st Death Anniversary* ✝)

**Please Note: Maronite Mass will be held tomorrow evening**

## Sunday, 7th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass 8:30am David Scanlon (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

and Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes and Thanksgiving on the first Wedding Anniversary of Leandar and Wendy Lewis

Mass 10:30am Special Intention

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

## 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

### **The recently deceased:**

Joseph Wright, Souhail Jabbour, Regina Mira, Cyril Savanah

### **Anniversaries/Remembrances:**

Frank Mark Imbrogno, Pasquale Isabella, Angelina & Rocco Musico, Mary Celi

### Church Cleaning

**Saturday, January 6**

Knights of the Southern Cross

**Saturday, January 13**

S. Jose, Linda & Family

**2024 Reading Rosters and Church Cleaning Rosters may be collected from the Sacristy.**

### Reading Roster

**Saturday, January 6**

5:30pm J. D'Souza

**Sunday, January 7**

8:30am R. Noble

10:30am M. Naidoo

5:30pm L. Hector

**Saturday, January 13**

5:30pm A. Miranda

**Sunday, January 14**

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am J. Panicker

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

### **Scott Hahn - The Holy Family**

In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 3:3-6; 10:21).

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son" (see Revelation 21:3, 7). (Excerpt from Scott Hahn)

## Daily Antiphons - Tuesday, January 2 to Saturday, January 6 (Year B) 2024

### Tuesday, January 2 - Saints Basil and Gregory

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let the peoples recount the wisdom of the Saints, and let the Church proclaim their praise. Their names will live on and on.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** We proclaim Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

### Wednesday, January 3 - Wednesday before the Epiphany

**Entrance Antiphon:** A people who walked in darkness has seen a great light; for those dwelling in a land of deep gloom, a light has shone.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted Him to become the children of God. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** That life which was with the Father became visible, and has appeared to us.

### Thursday, January 4 - Thursday before the Epiphany

**Entrance Antiphon:** In the beginning and before all ages, the Word was God and He humbled Himself to be born the Saviour of the world.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. *Alleluia!*

**Communion 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.

### Friday, January 5 - Friday before the Epiphany

**Entrance Antiphon:** A light has risen in the darkness for the upright of heart; the Lord is generous, merciful and just.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let all the earth cry out to God with 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:** By this the love of God was revealed to us: God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him.

### Saturday, January 6 - Saturday before the Epiphany

**Entrance Antiphon:** God sent His Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as children.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is My beloved Son, hear Him. *Alleluia!*

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



