

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

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

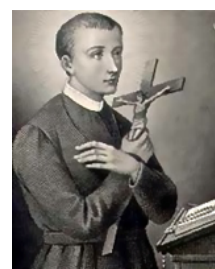
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

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"**

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Readings for Mass (Year B) February 4, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for He is the Lord our God.

First Reading - Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak: I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for His mercy, His wonders for the children of men, for He satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry He fills with good things.

Please return your last years blessed palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday.
There is a box near the table in the foyer of the church where you can place these. Thank you.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our weekly morning tea will be postponed and will now recommence after the 10:30am Mass on **Sunday, 11th February**. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you then.

Lenten study guides may be purchased from the Parish office for \$10. The Lenten Reflection group will commence on Tuesday, 13th February after the morning Mass in the Majellan hall. Everyone is welcome.

Please see the piety stall for any lost items as quite a few were handed in last weekend. God's word 2024 has now been reduced to \$17.00 and Columbian calendars to \$6.00.
Also, the Piety Stall need volunteers please. We ask that you visit the stall to advise your availability. Thank you.

Catechism classes for State School children will commence on Tuesday, 13th February at 4:00pm. There will be a compulsory enrolment meeting to attend on either Tuesday 6th or Wednesday 7th February at 4:00pm in the Church Foyer.

God and Beer, Catholicism at the Movies - with speaker Jeremy Ambrose. Join us for an entertaining and inspiring look at some of the great films where art and evangelisation have come together on the silver screen. Date: Monday 12th February. Time: 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk. Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted). Venue: Notting Hill Hotel (Steakhouse Room), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill. To Register visit: Godandbeer.com.au

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

We are pleased to invite you to attend the Mary MacKillop Oration and Dinner to be held on Wednesday 21 February at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne. **Date:** Wednesday 21 February 2024. **Time:** 7-9pm. **Location:** Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. **Tickets:** \$110. Click here to register: [Register for the Mary MacKillop Oration and Dinner](#). The Mary MacKillop Oration and Dinner is held in conjunction with the Catholic Social Services National Conference, although each can be attended independently. We warmly invite you to attend both these events. [Read more about the Catholic Social Services National Conference, 21-23 February 2024.](#)

Fr Richard Rosse would like to invite you for a 14-day pilgrimage departing on 21st May 2024. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Valladolid, Lourdes, Nice, Siena, Rotondo and Rome for all-inclusive price of \$8490. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au.

Raised to Serve : Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ.

His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin (see Genesis 3:17-19).

Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the brokenhearted and gather those lost in exile from Him (see Isaiah 11:12; 61:1). We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel.

Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand (see Isaiah 42:6), Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise (see Mark 5:41-42). It's used again to describe His own resurrection (see Mark 14:28; 16:7).

What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins (see Ephesians 2:5).

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ.

We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence (see Hosea 6:1-2).

Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel.

Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, 3rd February - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Erlinda (*Thanksgiving Mass*)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 4th February - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Sunil Perera (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Raffalina Marrotta (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

and Alfio Tomaselli (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

12:00pm May God bless the following families and their children to be Baptised today;

*Charlie Ashweel, Martin Ashweel, Yasmin Ashweel,
Camilla Bo, Sienna Cassimaty and Jaden De Guzman*

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Monday, 5th February - Saint Agatha

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

and George Dos Remedios (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

Tuesday, 6th February - Sts. Paul Miki & Companions

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes from Leandar & Wendy Lewis

Wednesday, 7th February

Mass 9:15am Thanks to the Lord for the beautiful life we have received

Thursday, 8th February

Mass 9:15am For Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, 9th February

Mass 9:15am William Crisp (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

and Private intention of Tan Bee Ling

Saturday, 10th February - Saint Scholastica

Mass 9:15am Fr Francis Xavier MSFS (*Remembrance* ✝)

and Royston Lopez (*Birthday Remembrance* ✝) and for the souls of Malcolm Antony and Antoinette Antony ✝

Saturday, 10th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Fiore Mete and Angelo Pane (*Remembrance* ✝)

and Erlinda (*For her healing*)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 11th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 10:30am Intentions of the Parish and Blessing of the children beginning Catechism classes

Mass 12:00pm Tamil Mass - Festival of the Infant Jesus

Mass 5:30pm Yose Veenman (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

Please pray for...

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

The recently deceased:

Peter O'Shea, Yvonne De Zilva, Susan Nuñez, Rosaria Morabito, Francesca Campisano, Sunil Perera, Yose Veenman, Kevin Tissera, Anna Maria Gentile.

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Aida Sufra, Raffalina Marrotta, Yvonne Rozario, Raul Fernandes, George Dos Remedios, Alfio Tomaselli, Antonette & Charles Vettivelu

Church Cleaning

Saturday, February 10

Kronfeld & Palat Families

Saturday, February 17

Q. Roland, X. Fernando & T. Bui

Reading Roster

Saturday, February 10

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, February 11

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, February 17

5:30pm A. Miranda

Sunday, February 18

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am J. Panicker

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

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.

www.stgerards.org.au

Daily Antiphons (Year B) - Monday, February 5 to Saturday, February 10 2024

Monday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time - February 5 - Saint Agatha

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: Lord, go up to the place of Your rest!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

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

Tuesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time - February 6 - Saint Paul Miki & Companions

Entrance Antiphon: The souls of the Saints are rejoicing in heaven, the Saints who followed the footsteps of Christ, and since for love of Him they shed their blood, they now exult with Christ for ever.

Responsorial Psalm: How lovely is Your dwelling-place, Lord, mighty God!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Turn my heart to do Your will; teach me Your law, O God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: It is You who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, says the Lord, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom.

Wednesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time - February 7

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for He is the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm: The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for His mercy, His wonders for the children of men, for He satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry He fills with good things.

Thursday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time - February 8

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for He is the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, remember us, for the love You bear Your people.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Receive and submit to the word planted in you; it can save your souls. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for His mercy, His wonders for the children of men, for He satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry He fills with good things.

Friday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time - February 9

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for He is the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm: I am the Lord your God: hear My voice.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of Your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for His mercy, His wonders for the children of men, for He satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry He fills with good things.

Saturday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time - February 10 - Saint Scholastica

Entrance Antiphon: I despised the kingdom of the world and all worldly finery for love of my Lord, Jesus Christ, whom I have seen, whom I have loved, in whom I have believed, in whom has been my delight.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, remember us, for the love You bear Your people.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: One thing is necessary: she has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken away from her.