

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

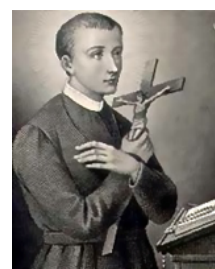
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

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"**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Readings for Mass (Year B) February 11, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

First Reading - Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons. 'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm: I turn to You, Lord, in time of trouble, and You fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10: 31 - 11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited His people. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Beginning Friday 16th February, and continuing each Friday during Lent, Mass will be held at 9:15am and at 6:30pm Stations of the Cross will be held, followed by Mass.

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

Our weekly morning tea will recommence after the 10:30am Mass this **Sunday, 11th February**.

We still need volunteers please. Please see Alizarin in the foyer after Mass.

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.

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.

Parents and children beginning Catechism are invited to meet in the Church foyer for a tea or coffee after the 10:30am Mass, Sunday 11th February.

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

Altar Servers will resume their training from Thursday, 15th February.

New servers are invited and welcome to join. Please call Ron Maroun on 9792 4422 if you have any queries.

During Lent, the **Legion of Mary** will hold the Stations of the Cross every Monday after Mass Starting on the 19th February. Everyone is invited to join them.

If you have an elderly family member or you know someone who lives alone and could benefit from a visit by the Legion of Mary; be it for a talk, to pray with or, just for company, please contact the Parish office on 9792 4422.

Mazenod College Open Day will be held on Wednesday 6th March from 2:30pm until 6:30pm. Applications for Year 7 in 2026 will close on August 16, 2024. Please call 9560 0911 or visit <https://www.mazenod.vic.edu.au>

Made Clean : Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Old Testament, leprosy is depicted as punishment for disobedience of God's commands (see Numbers 12:12–15; 2 Kings 5:27; 15:5).

Considered “unclean”—unfit to worship or live with the Israelites, lepers are considered “stillborn,” the living dead (see Numbers 12:12). Indeed, the requirements imposed on lepers in today's First Reading—rent garments, shaven head, covered beard—are signs of death, penance, and mourning (see Leviticus 10:6; Ezekiel 24:17).

So there's more to the story in today's Gospel than a miraculous healing.

When Elisha, invoking God's name, healed the leper, Naaman, it proved there was a prophet in Israel (see 2 Kings 5:8). Today's healing reveals Jesus as far more than a great prophet—He is God visiting His people (see Luke 7:16). Only God can cure leprosy and cleanse from sin (see 2 Kings 5:7), and only God has the power to bring about what He wills (see Isaiah 55:11; Wisdom 12:18).

The Gospel scene has an almost sacramental quality about it.

Jesus stretches out His hand—as God, by His outstretched arm, performed mighty deeds to save the Israelites (see Exodus 14:6; Acts 4:30). His ritual sign is accompanied by a divine word (“Be made clean”). And, like God's word in creation (“Let there be”), Jesus' word “does” what He commands (see Psalm 33:9).

The same thing happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the sacrament of penance. On our knees like the leper, we confess our sins to the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm. And through the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, 10th February

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Fiore Mete & Angelo Pane (*Remembrance* ✙)
and
Erlinda (*For her healing*)
and
Hazel Veronica D'Costa (*Remembrance* ✙)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 11th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am For the good health of Hermione & Karen Daniells

Mass 10:30am Debbie Juchno (*Recently Deceased* ✙)
and
Terry Shannon (*Recently Deceased* ✙)
and
Blessing of the Children - Catechism

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

Mass 5:30pm Yose Veenman (*Recently Deceased* ✙)
and
Marko & Ruza Sagols (*Death Anniversary* ✙)

Monday, 12th February

Mass 9:15am Alfred Antonipillai and Paul Antonipillai
(*Birthday Remembrance* ✙)

Mass 6:00pm Maronite Community Ash Monday

Tuesday, 13th February (Lenten Reflection after Mass)

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Wednesday, 14th February - Ash Wednesday

Mass 9:15am Giovanna McKercher (*Remembrance* ✙)

Mass 7:00pm Intentions of the Parish

Thursday, 15th February

Mass 9:15am Royston Lopez (*Death Anniversary* ✙) and
for the souls of Malcolm Antony and
Antoinette Antony ✙

Friday, 16th February

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

Saturday, 17th February

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving offering for Our Lady of
Vailankanni from Isabelle & Christelle

Saturday, 17th February - First Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 18th February - First Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 10:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 3:30pm French Mass

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

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, Hazel Veronica D'Costa, Debbie Juchno, Terry Shannon

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Giovanna McKercher, Peter Shannahan, Anna Ksheveena, Fiore Mete and Angelo Pane

Church Cleaning

Saturday, February 17

Q. Roland, X. Fernando & T. Bui

Saturday, February 24

Knights of the Southern Cross

Reading Roster

Saturday, February 17

5:30pm A. Miranda

Sunday, February 18

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am J. Panicker

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

Saturday, February 24

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, February 25

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm M. Yallapa

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 12 to Saturday, February 17 2024

Monday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time - February 12

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

Responsorial Psalm: Be kind to me, Lord, and I shall live.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through Me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Tuesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time - February 13

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For You are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of Your name.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are those You teach, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who love Me will keep My words, and My Father will love them and We will come to them. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

Entrance Antiphon: You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that You have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and You spare them, for You are the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

Thursday after Ash Wednesday - February 15

Entrance Antiphon: When I cried to the Lord, he heard my voice; He rescued me from those who attack me. Entrust your cares to the Lord, and He will support you.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Friday after Ash Wednesday - February 16

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord heard and had mercy on me; the Lord became my helper.

Responsorial Psalm: A broken humbled heart, O God, You will not scorn.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ! Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and the Lord will be with you. Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: O Lord, make me know Your ways, teach me Your paths.

Saturday after Ash Wednesday - February 17

Entrance Antiphon: Answer us, Lord, for Your mercy is kind; in the abundance of Your mercies, look upon us.

Responsorial Psalm: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may be faithful in Your sight.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord, but to turn to Me and live. Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: I desire mercy, not sacrifice, says the Lord, for I did not come to call the just but sinners.