

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

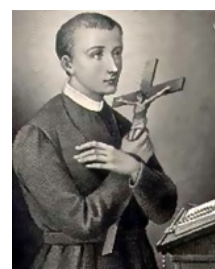
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

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"**

First Sunday of Lent - Readings for Mass (Year B) February 18, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading - Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep Your covenant.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Gospel Reading - Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

The Library Room and toilets located in the carpark will be closed until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience however, this is out of our control.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

Should you wish to participate in the KSC footy tipping competition, please see the notice board for instructions. You may also call Carmine Miranda on 0412 817 995 or email carmine@vicinsurance.com.au

Altar Servers will resume their training from Thursday, 15th February from 5:30-6:30pm. New servers are invited and welcome to join. Please call Ron Maroun on 9792 4422 if you have any queries.

Our weekly morning tea has recommenced after the 10:30am Mass. **We still need volunteers please.** Please see Alizarin in the foyer after Mass. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you then.

Lenten Reflection will be held each Tuesday after the morning Mass. Please meet in the Church foyer.

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.

You can help better the lives of people in some of the most vulnerable communities on earth by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes found on the table in the foyer of the Church or please visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by phoning 1800 024 413.

During Lent, the **Legion of Mary** will hold the Stations of the Cross every Monday after Mass beginning 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.

Killester College Reunion for the Class of 1969 will be held on Saturday, March 2nd at 12pm at the Sundown Tab Bistro, 15 View Road Springvale. Contact Mary Davies on 0408 030 042 or email marydavies_52@hotmail.com

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>

The New Creation : Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday in Lent

Lent bids us to return to the innocence our baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of Baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle.

And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation (see Hosea 2:20; Isaiah 11:1-9).

We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel.

Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God (see Mark 1:11; Luke 3:38), living in harmony with the wild beasts (see Genesis 2:19-20), being served by angels (see Ezekiel 28:12-14).

Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death (see Romans 5:12-14, 17-20), Jesus is victorious. This is the good news, the "gospel of God" that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom.

In the waters of Baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son (see Colossians 1:13-14). We were made children of God, new creations (see 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 4:3-7).

But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness (see 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 9,13; Deuteronomy 8:2, 16).

We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Saviour—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm (see John 14:6). He feeds us with the bread of angels (see Psalm 78:25; Wisdom 16:20), and cleanses our consciences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows—to repent and believe the gospel.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, 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 Prayers for Jona Kinivuwai

and Special Intention

Mass 10:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 3:30pm French Mass

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Monday, 19th February

Mass 9:15am Hyacinth Maureen Kelly

(5th Death Anniversary ✝)

and Jenny Harter *(Death Anniversary ✝)*

Tuesday, 20th February (Lenten Reflection after Mass)

Mass 9:15am Prayers for Jona Kinivuwai

Wednesday, 21st February

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving for blessings - D'Silva Family

and Anthony Joseph Domingo

(Birthday Remembrance ✝)

Thursday, 22nd February - The Chair of St. Peter

Mass 9:15am Jack Lovett *(Death Anniversary ✝)*

Friday, 23rd February

Mass 9:15am For the repose of the soul of Kenneth Joseph

Rodrigues *(4th Death Anniversary ✝)*

and Thanksgiving on the 80th Birthday of

Joseph and Audrey Lopez

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

Saturday, 24th February

Mass 9:15am Simone Williamson-Ballard *(Remembrance ✝)*

and Florrie Dos Remedios *(Birthday Remembrance ✝)*

and Abandoned Souls in Purgatory

Saturday Vigil, 24th February - Second Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Clifford and Christopher Rodrigo

(Remembrance ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 25th February - Second Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Maria Bonfante *(5th Death Anniversary ✝)*

Mass 10:30am Anna Ksheveena *(Death Anniversary ✝)*

Mass 5:30pm Annama Devasia *(3rd Death Anniversary ✝)*

Please pray for...

Our sick: Mary Considine, Frances & Lovett Dos Remedios, Crystal Wilson, Charlie Cassar, 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, Claris Sebestiampillai, Bob Grosser

The recently deceased:

Yose Veenman, Kevin Tissera, Anna Maria Gentile, Hazel Veronica D'Costa, Debbie Juchno, Terry Shannon

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Lakmani Siriwardene, Nimal Wickramasuriya

Church Cleaning

Saturday, February 24

Knights of the Southern Cross

Saturday, March 2

S. Jose, Linda and Family

Reading Roster

Saturday, February 24

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, February 25

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, March 2

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, March 3

8:30am R. Noble

10:30am D. Naidoo

5:30pm L. Hector

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 19 to Saturday, February 22 2024

Monday of the First Week of Lent - February 19

Entrance Antiphon: Like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords, so our eyes are on the Lord our God, till He show us His mercy. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: Amen, I say to you: whatever you did for one of the least of My brethren, you did it for Me, says the Lord. Come, you blessed of My Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Tuesday of the First Week of Lent - February 20

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, You have been our refuge, from generation to generation; from age to age, You are.

Responsorial Psalm: From all their afflictions God will deliver the just.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: When I called, the God of justice gave me answer; from anguish You released me; have mercy, O Lord, and hear my prayer.

Wednesday of the First Week of Lent - February 21

Entrance Antiphon: Remember Your compassion, O Lord, and Your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ! With all your heart turn to Me, for I am tender and compassionate. Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: All who take refuge in You shall be glad, O Lord, and ever cry out their joy, and You shall dwell among them.

Thursday of the First Week of Lent - February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord says to Simon Peter: I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail, and, once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build My Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

Friday of the First Week of Lent - February 23

Entrance Antiphon: Set me free from my distress, O Lord. See my lowliness and suffering, and take away all my sins.

Responsorial Psalm: If You, O Lord, laid bare our guilt, who could endure it?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Rid yourselves of all your sins and make a new heart and a new spirit. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: As I live, says the Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he turn back and live.

Saturday of the First Week of Lent - February 24

Entrance Antiphon: The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect, says the Lord.