

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

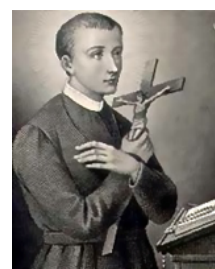
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

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"**

Second Sunday of Lent - Readings for Mass (Year B) February 25, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Of You my heart has spoken: Seek His face. It is Your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not Your face from me.

First Reading - Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading - Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is My beloved Son, hear Him. *Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel Reading - Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Communion Antiphon: This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

The Library Room and toilets located in the carpark will be closed until further notice due to maintenance and repairs. We apologise for any inconvenience.

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

We look forward to welcoming you to Morning tea after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday.
We still need volunteers to help each week please. Contact the office on 9792 4422 if you are able to assist. Thank you.

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

DANDENONG DEANERY COUNCIL presents 'In the Year of Prayer.' To be held on Wednesday, 20TH March 2024, at St John's Regional College, Graduate's Restaurant. Address: Caroline Street, Dandenong. Please arrive at 5.30pm for 5.45pm start. COST: \$48 per person (price increase) includes a 3 course meal, wine & beer. Guest Speaker: TBA. RSVP: Friday 15th March. Phone Paddy on 0422 296 961 or e-mail: dandenongdeanery@live.com.au. Flyers are available for collection from the Church foyer.

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

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

Bonds Loosed : Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday in Lent

The Lenten season continues with another story of testing. Last Sunday, we heard the trial of Jesus in the desert.

In this week's First Reading, we hear of how Abraham was put to the test.

The Church has always read this story as a sign of God's love for the world in giving His only-begotten son.

In today's Epistle, Paul uses exact words drawn from this story to describe how God, like Abraham, did not withhold His only Son, but handed Him over for us on the Cross (see Romans 8:32; Genesis 22:12,16).

In the Gospel today, too, we hear another echo. Jesus is called God's "beloved Son"—as Isaac is described as Abraham's beloved son.

These readings are given to us in Lent to reveal Christ's identity and to strengthen us in the face of our afflictions.

Jesus is shown to be the true son that Abraham rejoiced to see (see Matthew 1:1; John 8:56). In His transfiguration, He is revealed to be the "prophet like Moses" foretold by God—raised from among their own kinsmen, speaking with God's own authority (see Deuteronomy 18:15, 19).

Like Moses, He climbs the mountain with three named friends and beholds God's glory in a cloud (see Exodus 24:1, 9, 15). He is the one prophesied to come after Elijah's return (see Sirach 48:9–10; Malachi 3:1, 23–24).

And, as He discloses to the Apostles, He is the Son of Man sent to suffer and die for our sins (see Isaiah 53:3).

As we sing in today's Psalm, Jesus believed in the face of His afflictions, and God loosed Him from the bonds of death (see Psalm 116:3).

His rising should give us the courage to face our trials, to offer ourselves totally to the Father—as He did, as Abraham and Isaac did.

Freed from death by His death, we come to this Mass to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and to renew our vows—as His servants and faithful ones.

MASS and INTENTIONS

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 ✚)

and Regina Mira (90 days Remembrance ✚)

and Baptism Welcome Rite Blessing

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

Monday, 26th February

Mass 9:15am For Holy Souls

After Mass Stations of the Cross led by the Legion of Mary

Tuesday, 27th February (Lenten Reflection after Mass)

Mass 9:15am Lakmani Siriwardene and Nimal

Wickramasuriya (Death Anniversary ✚)

Wednesday, 28th February

Mass 9:15am Jean Gabriel Seeruthun (Death Anniversary ✚)

Thursday, 29th February

Mass 9:15am For the repose of the souls of Antonette &
Charles Henry Vettivelu (Remembrance ✚)

and Francesco & Iolanda Starvaggi

(Death Anniversary ✚)

Friday, 1st March

Mass 9:15am Patrick Collins Junior (Death Anniversary ✚)

and Thanksgiving to St. Anthony from
Dominic & Belinda D'Vaz & Family

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

Saturday, 2nd March

Mass 9:15am Jean France Henniquin (Death Anniversary ✚)

Saturday Vigil, 2nd March - Third Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Teresa and Francesca (Death Anniversaries ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 3rd March - Third Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Giovanni & Brigida Cardamone
(Birthday Remembrance ✚)

and Giuseppe Cardamone (First Death Anniversary ✚)

Mass 10:30am Good health for Jasmine Forster

12:00pm Congratulations & God Bless you on
your baptism; *Aria Chung,*
Aisha Chung, Alaya Chung and
Mason Munro and families

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish



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:

Elisa Vaccaro, Annamma Devasia, Regina Mira, Florrie Dos Remedios, Maria Bonfante, Lakmani Siriwardene and Nimal Wickramasuriya

Church Cleaning

Saturday, March 2

S. Jose, Linda and Family

Saturday, March 9

Moses Family, Vincent, Mary,
Rebeca

Reading Roster

Saturday, March 2

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, March 3

8:30am R. Noble

10:30am D. Naidoo

5:30pm L. Hector

Saturday, March 9

5:30pm B. Collins

Sunday, March 10

8:30am M. Noble

10:30am M. Naidoo

5:30pm J. Panicker

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 26 to Saturday, March 2, 2024

Monday of the Second Week of Lent - February 26

Entrance Antiphon: Redeem me, O Lord, and have mercy on me. My foot stands on level ground; I will bless the Lord in the assembly.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life. Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent - February 27

Entrance Antiphon: Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death, lest my enemy say: I have overcome him.

Responsorial Psalm: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ! Rid yourselves of all your sins, and make a new heart and a new spirit. Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all Your wonders. I will rejoice in You and be glad, and sing psalms to Your name, O Most High.

Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent - February 28

Entrance Antiphon: Forsake me not, O Lord! My God, be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

Responsorial Psalm: Save me, O Lord, in Your steadfast love.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows Me will have the light of life. Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Thursday of the Second Week of Lent - February 29

Entrance Antiphon: Test me, O God, and know my thoughts. See that my path is not wicked, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart, and yield a harvest through perseverance. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Friday of the Second Week of Lent - March 1

Entrance Antiphon: In You, O Lord, I put my trust, let me never be put to shame, release me from the snare they have hidden for me, for you indeed are my refuge.

Responsorial Psalm: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, He gave us His only Son, that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: God loved us, and sent His Son as expiation for our sins.

Saturday of the Second Week of Lent - March 2

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in mercy. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all His creatures.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.