

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

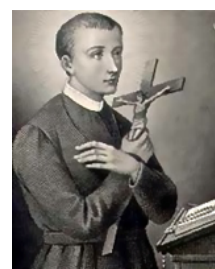
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

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"**

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Readings for Mass (Year B) March 10, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading - 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget You!

Second Reading - Ephesians 2: 4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise 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. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel Reading - John 3: 14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

Living in the Light: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God’s covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today’s First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God’s final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89:3).

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today’s Psalm.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4).

God is rich in mercy, as today’s Epistle teaches. He promised that David’s kingdom would last forever, that David’s son would be His Son and rule all nations (see 2 Samuel 7:14–15; Psalm 2:7–9). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see Revelation 22:16).

Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see Wisdom 16:6–7; Numbers 21:9). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself (see John 12:32).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father’s love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God’s handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see John 19:37) and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for.

Reconciliation

There will be an evening of Reconciliation held in the Church on Thursday, 21st March from 6:30pm until 7:45pm.

Holy Week and Easter Mass Times, 2024

Palm Sunday, 24th March

Mass will be held at 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:30pm

At 10:30am Mass - procession from the Grotto to the Church.

Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March

On 26th, 27th & 28th March, Mass at 9:15am. [No Confessions](#)

Maronite Service will be held each evening at 7:00pm.

Holy Thursday - 28th March

[No morning Mass and No Confessions](#)

7:00pm - The Lord’s Supper followed by Adoration until midnight

Good Friday - 29th March

[No Confessions](#)

9:00am - Stations of the Cross

11:00am - Maronite Community Good Friday Service

3:00pm - Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday - 30th March

9:00am to 10:30am - Confession

6:00pm - Maronite Community Easter Vigil Mass

8:30pm - Easter Vigil Mass

The Resurrection of the Lord - Sunday, 31st March

8:30am Mass and 10:30am Mass - [No evening Mass](#)

Divine Mercy Sunday - 7th April

Celebrant - Monsignor Geoff Barron

Mass at 8:30am, 10:30am and 3:00pm - [No evening Mass](#)

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 are found on the table in the foyer of the Church or please visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phone 1800 024 413.

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER-Weekend is for YOU... “Live Your Best Married Life in Love”

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!! The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details Date: 12-14 April. Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwwme.org.au

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.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, 9th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 10th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Mass of Thanksgiving from the Palat Family

Mass 10:30am Fr Francis Xavier MSFS (*Remembrance* ✙)

and Hilda Marianne - For her health

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Monday, 11th March

Mass 9:15am Simone Valadon (*Death Anniversary* ✙)

and Philomena Edmonds (*Remembrance* ✙)

and Jack Gubbins (*Death Anniversary* ✙)

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

Tuesday, 12th March

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Wednesday, 13th March - Parish office closed today

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Thursday, 14th March

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

Friday, 15th March

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

Mass 7:00pm Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit for favours received & Abandoned souls in Purgatory

Saturday, 16th March

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Saturday Vigil, 16th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 17th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Brigida Cardamone and Angelina Sacco
(*Death Anniversaries* ✙)

Mass 10:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 3:30pm French Community

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, Krzysztof Borkowski, Hilda Marianne

The recently deceased:

Yose Veenman, Debbie Juchno, Terry Shannon, AnnaMaria Gentile

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Simone Valadon, Jack Gubbins, Philomena Edmonds, Eunice Scanlon, Marc & Mavis Mantel

Church Cleaning

Saturday, March 16

Legion of Mary & J. Okoduwa

Saturday, March 23

Gonsalves family,

M. Ferdinands & L. Harper

Reading Roster

Saturday, March 16

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, March 17

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am J. Abraham

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, March 23

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, March 24

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am E. Ebert

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, March 11 to Saturday, March 16, 2024

Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 11

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, I trust in the Lord. Let me be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have seen my affliction.

Responsorial Psalm: I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

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

Communion Antiphon: I will place My spirit within you and make you walk according to My laws: and My judgements you shall keep and observe, says the Lord.

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 12

Entrance Antiphon: All who are thirsty, come to the waters, says the Lord. Though you have no money, come and drink with joy.

Responsorial Psalm: The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! Create a clean heart in me, O God; give back to me the joy of Your salvation. **Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where He gives me repose, near restful waters He leads me.

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 13

Entrance Antiphon: I pray to You, O Lord, for a time of Your favour. In Your great mercy, answer me, O God, with Your salvation that never fails.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in Me will not die for ever. **Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Communion Antiphon: God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 14

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and His strength; constantly seek His face.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to You, Word of God, 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. **Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Communion Antiphon: I will place My law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people, says the Lord.

Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 15

Entrance Antiphon: O God, save me by Your name; by Your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is near to broken hearts.

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!**

Communion Antiphon: In Christ, we have redemption by His Blood, and forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the riches of His grace.

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 16

Entrance Antiphon: The waves of death rose about me; the pains of the netherworld surround me. In my anguish I called to the Lord, and from His holy temple He heard my voice.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, My God, I take shelter in You.

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

Communion Antiphon: By the precious Blood of Christ, the Blood of a spotless and unblemished Lamb, we have been redeemed.