

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

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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"**

Third Sunday of Lent - Readings for Mass (Year B) March 3, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for He rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading - Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Gospel Reading - John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in Your house, for ever singing Your praise.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

Spiritual Sacrifice: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Lent

Jesus does not come to destroy the temple, but to fulfill it (see Matthew 5:17)—to reveal its true purpose in God's saving plan. He is the Lord the prophets said would come—to purify the temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all peoples (see Zechariah 14:21; Malachi 3:1–5; Isaiah 56:7).

The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands (see Acts 7:48; 2 Samuel 7:5).

Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves (see Psalm 50:7–13).

Notice in today's First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices—only that Israel heed His commandments (see Jeremiah 7:21–23; Amos 5:25).

His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today's Psalm. It was a law of love (see Matthew 22:36–40), perfectly expressed in Christ's self-offering on the Cross (see John 15:13).

This is the "sign" Jesus offers in the Gospel today—the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Epistle.

Jesus' body—destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later—is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16) and together builds us into a dwelling place of God (see Ephesians 2:22).

In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires (see John 4:23–24).

We are to offer praise as our sacrifice (see Psalm 50:14, 23). This means imitating Christ—offering our bodies—all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and the love of others (see Hebrews 10:5–7; Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5).

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

From the 25th until 27th March, Parish Mass will be at 9:15am and 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 - **There is no evening Mass**

Divine Mercy Sunday - 7th April

Mass at 8:30am 10:30am and 3:00pm - **There is 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 kept on the table in the foyer of the Church or please visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phone 1800 024 413.

Lenten Reflection will be held on **Friday, 8th March** after the Mass for this week only. The meeting will be held in the Library Room.

Morning tea **will not** be held this weekend after the 10:30am Mass.

We hope to recommence next weekend, 10th March after the 10:30am Mass.

Please inform the office if you are able to volunteer and help this group.

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

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, 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; *Aisha Chung, Alaya Chung*

Aria Chung, and Mason Munro

and families

Mass 5:30pm Private Intention of Thanksgiving

Monday, 4th March

Mass 9:15am Charles Culloden (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

and Norbert Isaacs (*Remembrance* ✚)

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

Tuesday, 5th March (*Lenten Reflection after Mass*)

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

Wednesday, 6th March

Mass 9:15am Mass of Thanksgiving

Thursday, 7th March

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving offering to Our Lady of Lourdes -
Leandar and Wendy Lewis

Friday, 8th March

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

6:30pm *Stations of the Cross followed by Mass*

Mass 6:45pm Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit for a favour
received

and Abandoned Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, 9th March

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

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 Intentions of the Parish

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

Mass 3:30pm Tamil 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

The recently deceased:

Yose Veenman, Debbie Juchno, Terry Shannon, Anna Maria Gentile

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Giovanni & Brigida Cardamone, Giuseppe Cardamone, Donato Antonio Gentile

Church Cleaning

Saturday, March 9

Moses Family, Vincent, Mary, Rebeca

Saturday, March 16

Legion of Mary & J. Okoduwa

Reading Roster

Saturday, March 9

5:30pm B. Collins

Sunday, March 10

8:30am M. Noble

10:30am M. Naidoo

5:30pm J. Panicker

Saturday, March 16

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, March 17

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am J. Abraham

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, March 4 to Saturday, March 9, 2024

Monday of the Third Week of Lent - March 4

Entrance Antiphon: My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see Him face to face?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ! I hope in the Lord, I trust in His word; with Him there is mercy and fullness of redemption. Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: O praise the Lord, all you nations, for His merciful love towards us is great.

Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent - March 5

Entrance Antiphon: To You I call, for You will surely heed me, O God; turn Your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of Your eye; in the shadow of Your wings protect me.

Responsorial Psalm: Remember Your mercies, O Lord.

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: Lord, who may abide in Your tent, and dwell on Your holy mountain? Whoever walks without fault and does what is just.

Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent - March 6

Entrance Antiphon: Let my steps be guided by Your promise; may evil never rule me.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

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

Communion Antiphon: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in Your presence, O Lord.

Thursday of the Third Week of Lent - March 7

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to Me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear His voice, harden not Your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down Your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping Your statutes.

Friday of the Third Week of Lent - March 8

Entrance Antiphon: Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord, for You are great and do marvellous deeds; You alone are God.

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

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: To love God with all your heart, and your neighbour as yourself, is worth more than any sacrifice.

Saturday of the Third Week of Lent - March 9

Entrance Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all His benefits; it is He who forgives all your sins.

Responsorial Psalm: It is steadfast love, not sacrifice, that God desires.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ! If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: The tax collector stood at a distance, beating his breast saying: O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.