

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: From August 5th -September 14th, Confession will only be heard on a Saturday after Mass until 10:30am. On a weekday, please ask the priest officiating their availability. Thank you.

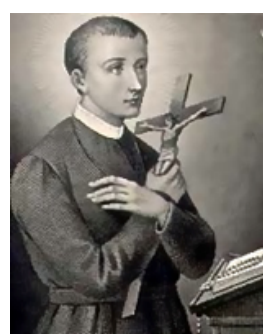
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses (Monday & Thursday)

Office hours: 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"**

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Readings for Mass (Year B) - August 17/18, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of Your anointed one; one day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading - Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her seven pillars, she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table. She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city's heights: 'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.' To the fool she says, 'Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared! Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.'

Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 5:15-20

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but you redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who eat My flesh and drink My blood live in Me and I in them, says the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading - John 6: 51-58

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

Wisdom's Feast: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Wisdom of God has prepared a feast, we hear in today's First Reading.

We must become like children (see Matthew 18:3-4) to hear and accept this invitation. For in every Eucharist, it is the folly of the Cross that is represented and renewed.

To the world, it is foolishness to believe that the crucified Jesus rose from the dead. And for many, as for the crowds in today's Gospel, it is foolishness—maybe even madness—to believe that Jesus can give us His Flesh to eat.

Yet Jesus repeats himself with gathering intensity in the Gospel today. Notice the repetition of the words "eat" and "drink," and "my Flesh" and "my Blood." To heighten the unbelievable realism of what Jesus asks us to believe, John in these verses uses not the ordinary Greek word for eating but a cruder term, once reserved to describe the "munching" of feeding animals.

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom (see 1 Corinthians 1:18-25). In His foolish love, He chooses to save those who believe that His Flesh is true food, His Blood, true drink.

Fear of the Lord, the desire to live by His will, is the beginning of true wisdom, Paul says in today's Epistle (see Proverbs 9:10).

And as we sing in today's Psalm, those who fear Him shall not want for any good thing.

Again today in the liturgy, we are called to renew our faith in the Eucharist, to forsake the foolishness of believing only what we can see with our eyes. We approach, then, not only an altar prepared with bread and wine, but the feast of Wisdom, the banquet of heaven—in which God our Saviour renews His everlasting covenant and promises to destroy death forever (see Isaiah 25:6-9).

Let us make the most of our days, as Paul says, always, in the Eucharist, giving thanks to God for everything in the name of Jesus, the bread come down from heaven.

PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

KSC Information Night

The Knights of the Southern Cross are hosting an Information Evening for any Catholic gentlemen wishing to learn about their role within the Church, with an interest in joining. DATE: Monday August 19, 2024. VENUE: Majellan Room (Behind the Church at St. Gerard's Parish, 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North). Commencing promptly at 7.30 pm, Finishing by 9.00 pm followed by a light supper. DRESS CODE: Suit and Tie. For further details, refer to the advertisement on the Bulletin Boards.

Natural Fertility Awareness Week 2024 (August 19 – 25) promotes an alternative, healthy option to family planning compared with chemical and other contraceptive devices. The theme this year is: "Trust your body's natural signs of fertility: Forget about drugs and devices." You are invited to join the Billings LIFE free webinar on Monday 19th August 2024 at 7:30pm AEST where you can listen to the conversation about the basics of the Billings Ovulation Method® and its application, including during times of breastfeeding. <https://events.humanitix.com/trust-your-body-s-natural-signals-of-fertility-free-webinar>
Further info @ ph: 1800 335 860 or website: www.billings.life/en/

Dandenong Deanery Council invite you to their last dinner of the year on Wednesday, 4th September at St. John's Regional College, Graduate's Restaurant, Caroline St. Dandenong. Cost \$48 for a 3 course meal, wine and beer. RSVP by Friday, 30th August by calling Paddy on 0422 296 961 or email dandenongdeanery@live.com.au. Forms available from Church foyer.

St Elizabeth's Parish are delighted to announce that their Church Dinner & Dance will be held on Saturday, **21st September 2024!** Please save the date to celebrate this epic event together. Your participation is crucial in making this a memorable occasion and supporting our wonderful community! Please see the bulletin board for more information.

PLANT SALE - SJV GARDEN CLUB - ST JOHN VIANNEY PARISH, 23 Police Road, Mulgrave
Friday 23rd August 10.30am to 1.00pm, Sunday 25th August 9.00am to 11.30am. Most plants priced at just \$5.00
Please enter via the wooden gate at the side of the hall.

Toorak and Armadale Parish Mission, featuring Fr Frankie Mulgrew

Fr Frankie Mulgrew was a professional entertainer in the UK before answering a calling to become a Catholic priest. While he is in Melbourne, he will be delivering multiple parish missions across the Archdiocese, sponsored by the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga. In each parish, over three nights, he will share his story and lead talks, adoration and confessions. Mass for this free event will commence at 7pm and will be followed by the talk, adoration and confessions between 7.30pm and 8.30pm. All are welcome! **Night 1:** talk on the Joy of the Gospel—followed by adoration. **Night 2:** talk on the Divine Mercy—followed by confessions. **Night 3:** Eucharistic healing service.

For more information, visit: [Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga](http://CatholicWomen'sLeagueofVictoriaandWaggaWagga). Dates - Monday 19 August and Tuesday 20 August, Wednesday 21 August 2024, 7:00pm. VENUE St Peter's Catholic Church 581 Toorak Road, Toorak.

Tony Abbott at St Gerard's for God And Beer

On Monday August 12, 350 people travelled from all around Melbourne and surrounds to catch the August edition of the Knights of the Southern Cross' 'God And Beer' talk series. This talk featured the Hon. Tony Abbott AC, the 28th Prime Minister of Australia, at St Gerard's Parish Hall. Speaking for about 15 minutes, Mr Abbott spoke on topics related to faith and politics, before sitting down with MC John Smyth to answer some questions taken from the audience.

Many thanks to all those who participated, to Fr Shanthaiah for allowing the use of the Hall, and to the KSC for hosting the event, and running a sausage sizzle for those in attendance. Video can be viewed at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/3uUZRS-QXj8>



MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, August 17th - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil 5:30pm Sarah Cleary (*First Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Maria Theresa Hy (*Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Rosa Vu (*Remembrance* ✚)

Please Note* **Maronite Mass to be held tomorrow evening**

Sunday, August 18th - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am For the recovery and healing of Lawton Ho
Mass 10:30am Charles Lovett (*Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Gennaro De Marco (*First Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Thanksgiving offering to our Lady of Lourdes from
Leandar & Wendy Lewis
and Giovanni Mete (*First Month Remembrance* ✚)

Mass 3:30pm French Community
Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish
Mass 7:00pm* Maronite Community *

Monday, August 19th

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Tuesday, August 20th - Saint Bernard

Mass 9:15am Lily Anne Mary Alfred (*Birthday Remembrance* ✚)

Wednesday, August 21st - Saint Pius X

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Thursday, August 22nd - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Friday, August 23rd

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

Saturday, August 24th - Saint Bartholomew

Mass 9:15am Victor Susainathan (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Saturday Vigil, August 24th - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil 5:30pm Thanksgiving to St. Gerard - from Bernie

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, August 25th - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 10:30am *Welcome Rite Blessing - Congratulations to
Baby Vaeda James Marcellino and family in
preparation of their baptism*

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Please pray for...

Our sick: Mary Considine, Frances & Lovett Dos Remedios, Crystal Wilson, Charlie Cassar, Tyrone Francisco, 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, Libby Wilson, Claris Sebestiampillai, Bob Grosser, Elajah Isah, Ramon Jabbour, Maleena, Melanie, Selina Tour, Christine Joseph, Hilda Marianne, Giuseppina Bonato, Patty Fong, Clarice Giacomini, Nikita Stein, Kenny Michael, Ron Jabke, Prasad Weerasuriya, Sean VanTwest, Carmela Fato, Lawton Ho

The recently deceased:

Faustina D'Sa, Derrick DeZilva, Dino Antonucci, Yolande Pirie, Fr. Joseph Kuzhikanniyil, Sister Ann Mary SABS, Joan De Alwis, Elizabeth Bala, Joanita Rodrigues, Tyron Johnson, Giovanni Mete

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Maria Theresa Hy, Rosa Vu, Umberto Plutino, Antonio Occhietti

Church Cleaning

Saturday, August 24

Ratika & Family

Saturday, August 31

Q. Roland, X. Fernando, T. Bui

Reading Roster

Saturday, August 24

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, August 25

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, August 31

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, September 1

8:30am G. DosRemedios

10:30am D. Naidoo

5:30pm L. Hector

CONFESSION

From August 5th until September 14th, Confession will *only* be heard on a Saturday after the Mass until 10:30am.

On weekdays, Fr. Michael will be available to hear confession however, if another priest is officiating, please ask their availability. Thank you.

Daily Antiphons - Monday, August 19 to Saturday, August 24, 2024

Monday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 19

Entrance Antiphon: Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of Your anointed one; one day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Responsorial Psalm: You have forgotten God who gave you birth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 20 - Saint Bernard

Entrance Antiphon: Filled by the Lord with a spirit of understanding, blessed Bernard ministered streams of clear teaching to the people of God.

Responsorial Psalm: It is I who deal death and give life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but He became poor, to make you rich out of His poverty. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: As the Father loves Me, so I also love you; remain in My love, says the Lord.

Wednesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 21 - Saint Pius X

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord chose him for Himself as high priest, and, opening His treasure house, made him rich in all good things.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has laid down His life for His sheep.

Thursday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon: At your right stands the queen in robes of gold, finely arrayed.

Responsorial Psalm: I will pour out clean water on you and wash away all your sins.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are you who have believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord will be fulfilled.

Friday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 23

Entrance Antiphon: Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of Your anointed one; one day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord, His love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Teach me Your paths, my God, and lead me in Your truth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

Saturday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 24 - Saint Bartholomew

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim the salvation of God day by day; tell among the nations His glory.

Responsorial Psalm: Your friends tell the glory of Your kingship, Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Master, You are the Son of God, You are the king of Israel. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: I confer a kingdom on you, just as My Father has conferred one on Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, says the Lord.