

# 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:** Until 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.

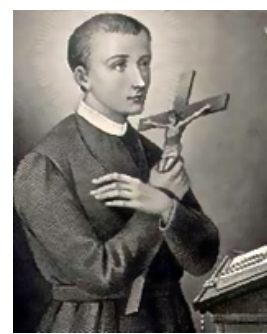
**Parish Secretary:** Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

**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"***

## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Readings for Mass (Year B) - September 8, 2024

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and Your judgement is right; treat Your servant in accord with Your merciful love.

### First Reading - Isaiah 35: 4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Praise the Lord, my soul!

### Second Reading - James 2: 1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia!**

### Gospel Reading - Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for You, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you considering becoming Catholic? Do you know someone who is? The RCIA program prepares adults to become Catholic and will be commencing at St Gerard's in October.

For more information, please contact the office on 9792 4422 or [dandenongnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:dandenongnorth@cam.org.au).

## PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

### **Safeguarding Sunday, 8th September 2024 - "Every Conversation Matters."**

The Parish of St. Gerard's and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work to create safe spaces where we can have meaningful conversations with children and adults at risk about their safety.

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance.

We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

**God and Beer** - Topic: The Eastern Catholic Churches with Speaker, Fr Collin Nunis to be held on Monday, 9th September at 6.30pm. Dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk. Venue: Notting Hill Hotel (Steakhouse Room), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill. Cost is free. For tickets visit: [GodandBeer.com.au](http://GodandBeer.com.au). Many Catholics are unaware that the Catholic Church contains many 'churches' or rites in addition to the Roman Catholic Church (aka Latin Rite). These are often referred to as the Eastern Catholic Churches. Some of the more well-known of these are the Byzantine, Maronite, Melkite and Syro-Malabar. United in faith and in unity with the Pope, these Eastern Catholic Churches often have different rites of the Mass, some married priests and distinctive customs all while maintaining full communion with the Catholic Church and possessing the fullness of the Catholic faith. Due to recent waves of immigration from Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East, these Catholics have also become a significant part of the Catholic Church in Australia.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> of September there will be handcrafted olivewood biblical items for sale. These items are hand crafted in Bethlehem the Holy Land by the catholic families there. Any purchase will help support the catholic community in the Holy Land and improve their livelihood and also support maintaining the Holy sites there.

**40 Days for Life** will be running again this year from **25th September to 3rd November**. We are looking for volunteers and a sign-up drive is happening on this Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September – please look out for the 40DFL table in the Foyer and add your name to the volunteer list or ask about what's involved <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/melbourne>

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2024 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available in the Church foyer. Gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priest's Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic Community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. You can also make a gift online at [melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign](http://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign).

I encourage you to please give generously to the campaign. - Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

### **All Things Well: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The incident in today's Gospel is recorded only by Mark. The key line is what the crowd says at the end: "He has done all things well." In the Greek, this echoes the creation story, recalling that God saw all the things He had done and declared them good (see Genesis 1:31). Mark also deliberately evokes Isaiah's promise, which we hear in today's First Reading, that God will make the deaf hear and the mute speak. He even uses a Greek word to describe the man's condition (*mogilalon* = "speech impediment") that's only found in one other place in the Bible—in the Greek translation of today's Isaiah passage, where the prophet describes the "dumb" singing. The crowd recognises that Jesus is doing what the prophet had foretold. But Mark wants us to see something far greater—that, to use the words from today's First Reading: "Here is your God."

Notice how personal and physical the drama is in the Gospel. Our focus is drawn to a hand, a finger, ears, a tongue, spitting. In Jesus, Mark shows us, God has truly come in the flesh.

What He has done is to make all things new, a new creation (see Revelation 21:1–5). As Isaiah promised, He has made the living waters of Baptism flow in the desert of the world. He has set captives free from their sins, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has come that rich and poor might dine together in the Eucharistic feast, as James tells us in today's Epistle.

He has done for each of us what He did for that deaf mute. He has opened our ears to hear the Word of God and loosed our tongues that we might sing praises to Him.

Let us then give thanks to our glorious Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Let us say with Isaiah, "Here is our God, He comes to save us." Let us be rich in faith, that we might inherit the kingdom promised to those who love Him.

# MASS and INTENTIONS

## Saturday Vigil, September 7

### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil 5:30pm Lorraine Benjamin (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### Sunday, September 8 - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni from Isabelle and Christelle D'Vaz

and Giovanni Paola (*Remembrance* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Mervin Chamerette (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

and God's blessing upon the Ave Maria Rosary families and all the deceased members of their families

and Brigadier Flavian D'Lima (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

Mass 12:00pm Tamil Mass in honour of Our Lady of Vailankanni

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

### Monday, September 9

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving on the Birthday of Ariana Lopez

and For the Lonetti and Pane Families and for the Souls in Purgatory

### Tuesday, September 10

Mass 9:15am Fr. Francis Xavier (*Remembrance* ✝)

### Wednesday, September 11

Mass 9:15am Jessica Cabral (*Birthday Remembrance* ✝)

and Thanksgiving Mass from Moses and Family

### Thursday, September 12

Mass 9:15am Veronica Baptiste (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

### Friday, September 13 - Saint John Chrysostom

Mass 9:15am Bill Dowsey (*Remembrance & Recently Deceased* ✝)

### Saturday, September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

### Saturday, September 14 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil 5:30pm Filomena Giuliani (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### Sunday, September 15 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Intentions of the Parish

Mass 10:30am Victor Jayamaha (*Remembrance* ✝)

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, 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, Nikita Stein, Kenny Michael, Ron Jabke, Prasad Weerasuriya, Sean VanTwest, Carmela Fato, Lawton Ho, Pierina Nogarín, Maria Milicia

### **The recently deceased:**

Lorraine Benjamin, Sr. Benedicta Nunes RSCJ, Chol Deng, Pascoale Fernandes, Flavian D'Lima, Hetty Benker, Charles Aquilina, Bill Dowsey

### **Anniversaries/Remembrances:**

Jessica Cabral, Filomena Giuliani

## Church Cleaning

**Saturday, September 14**

Linda and Family

**Saturday, September 21**

Ratika and family

## Reading Roster

**Saturday, September 14**

5:30pm P. Kroon

**Sunday, September 15**

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am J. Abraham

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

**Saturday, September 21**

5:30pm D. Franklin

**Sunday, September 22**

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am E. Ebert

5:30pm M. Yallapa

## Daily Antiphons - Monday, September 9 to Saturday, September 14, 2024

### Monday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time - September 9

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and Your judgement is right; treat Your servant in accord with Your merciful love.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lead me in Your justice, Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to My voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow Me. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for You, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### Tuesday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time - September 10

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and Your judgement is right; treat Your servant in accord with Your merciful love.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord takes delight in His people.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will last. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for You, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### Wednesday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time - September 11

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and Your judgement is right; treat Your servant in accord with Your merciful love.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Listen to Me, daughter; see and bend your ear.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for You, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### Thursday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time - September 12

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and Your judgement is right; treat Your servant in accord with Your merciful love.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for You, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### Friday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time - September 13 - Saint John Chrysostom

**Entrance Antiphon:** Those who are wise will shine brightly like the splendour of the firmament and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars for ever.

**Responsorial Psalm:** How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** We proclaim Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

### Saturday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time - September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**Entrance Antiphon:** We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Do not forget the works of the Lord!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your cross You have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to Myself, says the Lord.