

**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:** Tuesday to Saturday 8:20am-8:50am also Saturday prior to & after Mass until 10:30am

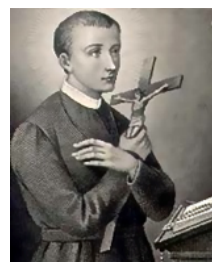
**Parish Secretary:** Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

**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"**

## First Sunday of Advent - Readings for Mass (Year C) December 1, 2024

**Entrance Antiphon:** To You, I lift up my soul, O my God. In You, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in You be put to shame.

### First Reading - Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.’

**Responsorial Psalm:** To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.

### Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord, show us Your mercy and love, and grant us Your salvation. *Alleluia!*

### Gospel Reading - Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. ‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

## THANKSGIVING OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your involvement in the Parish Offertory Giving program. It has been so encouraging to see such a large number of pledge cards being returned. Thank you to everyone who handed in their cards. You are welcome to commence or amend your pledge today.

We are now in the follow up week where we will be seeking any pledges which haven't been returned. If you haven't already done so, you are encouraged to carefully consider your offering and return your pledge cards to the parish office, or place in the census box in the Church foyer or into any of the mass collections.

New envelopes will be available for collection mid December. We will advise you when they are ready.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support.

## Prayer to St Gerard Majella

Great protector of the family, St Gerard, we ask your prayers for all parents, that they may receive the grace to live in the love of God and bring up their children to know and love Him with all their hearts.



We ask you to pray also that those who take the lives of unborn innocents and attack the dignity of motherhood, may come to see the error of their ways, and that all may value the true holiness of Christian family life.

God, our loving Father, Your love gives life to the world. Bless and make holy all human love, especially the life-giving love of husband and wife.

May Your love fill the hearts and homes of all families, so that the world may enjoy the peace and happiness promised by Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PARISH NEWS, NOTICES AND REFLECTION

### RCIA PROGRAM - SYMBOLON: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXPLAINED

Join us Sundays 9:30am – 11am in the Majellan room for a 20 week exploration of the richness of the Catholic faith through a video presentation featuring Dr Edward Sri. This week's theme is "WHY DO I NEED THE CHURCH?: The Mystery of the Catholic Church" and next week we explore MARY AND THE SAINTS: Our Spiritual Mother & the Communion of Saints.

Contact: Jeff Zaher 0477 188 883. All are welcome.

### ROSARY FOR LIFE!

Rosary for Life continues this Sunday, after the 8.30am Mass. All welcome.

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AT ST. GERARD'S - FRIDAY, 20TH DECEMBER 7:00PM TO 8:30PM

We will be holding an evening of Reconciliation (Confessions) on Friday, 20th December from 7:00pm until 8:30pm.

Priests are available for individual confessions. Confession will not be held on Saturday, 21st December and will re-commence after Christmas. We will advise you of other parish confession times in the next bulletin.

### PIETY STALL

God's Word 2025 is now available at the piety stall. This book has the readings for every day, a small reflection and space to put your own personal thoughts. It makes a great Christmas gift at \$20.00. Divine Mercy and Columbian Calendars are available at \$11.00 each, but we have limited stock. Advent candle sets may be purchased for \$9, just in time for Advent. Christmas cards available for \$4.00 for a pack of 6. All proceeds go to the good work of St Vincent De Paul, Dandenong North.

### ENTRY TO CHURCH CARPARK

The entries to and from the school carpark have had gates installed for security reasons. These gates will be open from 6:30am and will close every day at 8:00pm. Please ensure to leave the carpark well prior to this time. Thank you.

### ADVENT REFLECTION

Advent Reflection will continue each Tuesday after the 9:15am Mass, meeting in the Majellan Hall. Cost for the booklet is a donation of your choice. The group will meet Tuesday, 3rd December, Tuesday 10th December and conclude Tuesday 17th December. All are welcome.

### LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL

The escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has pushed Lebanon into severe turmoil, with tragic consequences that have spread from Southern Lebanon to the entire nation. The situation is dire: over 3,000 lives have been lost, more than 13,000 people injured, and critical infrastructure has been destroyed. In response to a heartfelt plea for assistance by Bishop Tarabay and Bishop Rabbat, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with Catholic Religious Australia, Caritas Australia and Caritas Lebanon, has launched the Lebanon Appeal. This appeal aims to provide essential humanitarian aid to our brothers and sisters suffering in Lebanon, especially those who are displaced and without homes or shelter. Donate today:

[www.caritas.org.au/lebanondonate](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanondonate)

**Congratulations to the following children that received their First Holy Communion last Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King.**

*Xavier Bo, Thien Dang, Xian Dayanghirang,*

*Hayden Francis and Yllejandra Plavijanic*

**We pray that these children will grow and increase in faith and love of our Lord.**



## MASS and INTENTIONS

### Saturday Vigil, November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Mavis Mantel (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

*and* *Repose of the souls of the Martin Family (Remembrance* ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am *Repose of the soul of Burty François* ✝

*and* *Repose of the Soul of P.K Sebastian (Recently Deceased* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Glen Nicolay (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

*and* *Anton & Stefanja Los (Remembrance* ✝)

*and* *Wilfredo Amoranto (First Death Anniversary* ✝)

*12:00pm Baptism Congratulations to Mia Metz, Sofia Occhietti, Lucas Parisi & Xavier Parisi. God bless you and your families today and always.*

Mass 5:30pm *Repose of the souls of the D'Sousa Family* ✝

*and* *Sabato Leone (Death Anniversary* ✝)

### Monday, December 2

Mass 9:15am *For the souls of Scottvale Aged Care* ✝

*and* *Thomas Lobo (Death Anniversary* ✝)

### Tuesday, December 3 - Saint Francis Xavier

Mass 9:15am Marguerite Valery (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

### Wednesday, December 4

Mass 9:15am *Repose of the soul of Burty François* ✝

### Thursday, December 5

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

*and* *P.K. Sebastian (41 days of death* ✝)

*and* *Abraham Besorio (Death Anniversary* ✝)

*and* *Private Intention*

### Friday, December 6

Mass 9:15am Marguerite Valery (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

### Saturday, December 7 - Saint Ambrose

Mass 9:15am *For the Souls in Purgatory*

### Saturday Vigil, December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Cecilia & Pasquale Campisi (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

*and* *Maria Milicia (Remembrance* ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am *Repose of the soul of Burty François* ✝

*and* *Jacob Abraham (Death Anniversary* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Glen Nicolay (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

*and* *For the deceased members of the Knights of the Southern Cross*

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community

Mass 5:30pm Marguerite Valery (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

## *Parish information of Christmas Masses*

*Christmas Eve - Tuesday, 24th December, 2024*

*5:30pm - Christmas Family Mass*

*7:00pm - Maronite Mass*

*11:30pm - Carols followed by Midnight Mass*

*Christmas Day - Wednesday, 25th December*

*8.30am and 10.30am Mass - Please note: No evening Mass on Christmas day.*

*Thursday 26th, Friday 27th, Saturday 28th December, Mass at 9:15am*

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

*Saturday 28th December Vigil 5:30pm and*

*Sunday 29th December Mass held at 8:30am, 10:30am, and 5:30pm*

*New Year's Day - Wednesday, 1st January 2025*

*9:15am Mass - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God - (No evening Mass)*

## Please pray for...

**Our sick:** Lovett Dos Remedios, Heather Fernandez, Steven & Monica Dickson, Sandy Hayman, Jeanne Joseph, Colin Hillas, Giuseppina Bonato, Anne Moorthy

*\*Please note: the sick list has been updated as per notice in the last four bulletins. Please contact the Parish office to advise if you wish a name to be added to this list. Thank you.\*\**

## **The recently deceased:**

Glen Nicolay, Marguerite Valery, Burty François, Maria Leta Sequeira, Pierre Lindsay Clark, George Tour, Ruby D'Souza, Fabian Nazareth, Carmen Felicia Nanayakkara, Maria Surace

## **Anniversaries/Remembrances:**

Sabato Leone, Anton & Stefanja Los, Mavis Mantel, Patricia O'Shea, Wilfredo Amoranto

## Church Cleaning

**Saturday, December 7**

Q. Roland, X. Fernando, T. Bui

**Saturday, December 14**

Knights of the Southern Cross

## Reading Roster

**Saturday, December 7**

5:30pm D. Franklin

**Sunday, December 8**

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm M. Yallapa

**Saturday, December 14**

5:30pm J. D'Souza

**Sunday, December 15**

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am J. Abraham

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

## **YOU ARE INVITED**



Please join the children of the Catechism classes in preparing for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus with songs. To be held, Tuesday 17th December at 4:00pm in the Church then in the Majellan Hall. RSVP by 15.12.2024 to Angele on 0411 578 404.

# Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 2 to Saturday, December 7, 2024

## Monday of the First Week of Advent - December 2

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come and save us, Lord our God; let us see Your face, and we shall be saved. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before You with a blameless heart.

## Tuesday of the First Week of Advent - December 3 - Saint Francis Xavier

**Entrance Antiphon:** I will praise You, Lord, among the nations; I will tell of Your name to my kin.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Justice shall flourish in His time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, our Lord shall come with power; He will enlighten the eyes of His servants. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

## Wednesday of the First Week of Advent - December 4

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord will come and He will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal Himself to all the nations.

**Responsorial Psalm:** I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord is coming to save His people; happy are those prepared to meet Him. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of His servants.

## Thursday of the First Week of Advent - December 5

**Entrance Antiphon:** You, O Lord, are close, and all Your ways are truth. From of old I have known of Your decrees, for You are eternal.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Seek the Lord while He can be found. Call on Him while He is near. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.

## Friday of the First Week of Advent - December 6

**Entrance Antiphon:** Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit His people with peace and He will bestow on them eternal life.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, our Lord shall come with power; He will enlighten the eyes of His servants. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with His glorified body.

## Saturday of the First Week of Advent - December 7 - Saint Ambrose

**Entrance Antiphon:** In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord will judge us by His law; He is our King and Saviour. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

