

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 **Office closed: until 6th January 2025**

Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer: Sumitha Moses

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"

The Nativity of the Lord

Readings - Christmas Vigil Mass 5:30pm and Midnight Mass

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord said to Me: You are My Son. It is I who have begotten You this day.

First Reading - Isaiah 9: 1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading - Titus 2: 11-14 - God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel - Luke 2: 1-14 - Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Communion Antiphon: The Word became flesh, and we have seen His glory.

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.



Reading Roster

Saturday, December 28

5:30pm A. Miranda

Sunday, December 29

8:30am G. Markezic

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm L. Hector

Saturday, January 4

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, January 5

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am R. Gonsalves

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

Christmas Readers

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Mass

5:30pm G. Van Hees

Midnight M. & D. Naidoo

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am J. Panicker

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, Jasmine Jimenez, Ricky & Katrina, Stella Joseph, Amber Bulte, Gerry Duff

The recently deceased:

Fabian Nazareth, Carmen Felicia Nanayakkara, Winston Muller, Mervin Joseph Nathan, Letinic Jakou, Nikola Vukmirovic, Elodie Kathalea Gaspard, Aldo Rosario Provenzano, Fr. Len Thomas PE, Joelle Lebrasse

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Glen Nicolay, Pasquale Isabella, Lycette Martin Ticlo

Church Cleaning

Saturday, December 28

Moses Family, Vincent, Mary & Rebecca

Saturday, January 4

Legion of Mary & J.Okoduwa

Volunteers Needed!

We require more volunteers to please help with cleaning of the Church.

If you can please spare an hour of your Saturday, once every few months, we would be most grateful. Please call 9792 4422 and leave your contact details or email dandenongnorth@cam.or.au.

Thank you.

St. Gerard's 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 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, 1st January 2025 - 9:15am Mass (No evening Mass)



MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, December 28 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass 5:30pm Pasquale Isabella (*3rd Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Thanksgiving on the 29th Wedding Anniversary of
Xavier & Mary Fernando

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, December 29 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass 8:30am Marguerite Valery (*Recently Deceased* ✚)
and Elodie Kathalea Gaspard (*Recently Deceased* ✚)
and For God's blessing, mercy and grace for Anthony

Mass 10:30am For the souls of Antonette & Charles Henry Vettivelu ✚
and Repose of the soul of Mercy Xavier (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Mass 5:30pm Burty François (*Recently Deceased* ✚)
and For the Soul of Yvonne DeZilva (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Monday, December 30

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

Tuesday, December 31

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity
and Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

Happy New Year to all! Please Note: No evening Mass

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni - Issabella and Christelle
D'Vaz and Luke Lewis

Thursday, January 2 - Saints Basil and Gregory

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to St. Mary MacKillop and Saint Anthony

Friday, January 3

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving Mass - Manuharan Emmanuel
and For protection in 2025 & for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, January 4

Mass 9:15am Ana and Mijo Glavacevic (*Remembrance* ✚)

Saturday Vigil, January 4 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass 5:30pm Marc Mantel (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, January 5 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass 8:30am Elodie Kathalea Gaspard (*Recently Deceased* ✚)
and For God's blessing, mercy and grace for Anthony

Mass 10:30am Thanksgiving to Saint Anthony & for Maria Rodrigues' Birthday

Mass 5:30pm Eva and Duro Jozicic (*Remembrance* ✚)

The Nativity of the Lord

Readings During the Day (8:30am & 10:30am)

Entrance Antiphon: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; His sceptre of power rests upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading - Isaiah 52: 7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading - Hebrews 1: 1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father*; or: *I will be a father to him and he a son to me*. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him*.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia!**

Gospel - John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Communion Antiphon: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.