

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

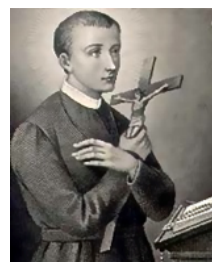
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

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"

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Readings for Mass (Year C) December 22, 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading - Micha 5:1-4

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: *You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'* Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* I am the servant of the Lord: may His will for me be done. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Emmanuel.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Thanksgiving envelopes are ready for collection in the Church Foyer.

Thank you for your continued support of our Church and Parish.

READING ROSTER

The 2025 Reading roster is ready for collection for the Sacristy. Thank you to all our volunteers.

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

ACCESS TO THE 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.

Please note that the School/Church car park gates will be locked after the Masses during the holidays.

Beginning Wednesday, 25th December until Mid January, the gates will be locked after all Masses.

We are pleased to share the success of the inaugural Archbishop's Campaign and sincerely thank you for your generosity and support. Together, parishes across the Archdiocese raised **\$811,178** including **\$1,958** contributed by Parish of St Gerard Majella, Dandenong North. These funds will support vital mission areas such as the Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College and the Archbishop's Evangelisation Initiatives. Thank you for being part of this important campaign and for living out your faith with action.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY

You are invited to view St Gerard's parishioner Andrew Vaccaro's Christmas Lights Display, which features a beautiful Nativity as its centrepiece. Where: Ring Court, Dandenong North. From Friday December 13, 2024 until Tuesday January 5th, 2025. Times: Mon-Wed: 8:45PM to 11:00PM, Thur-Sun: 8:45PM to 12:00AM. Please feel free to look around but watch for any cables! Andrew encourages parishioners to come up and introduce themselves, as he wishes to meet as many people within the wider community as possible. Andrew also recommends the Christmas Lights Display of his friends the Scanlon Family, Parishioners of St. Elizabeth's, at 6 Neasham Drive, Dandenong North, at the same times and dates as above. Again, this display features a beautiful Nativity.

'MARRIAGE' WITH MATT AND CAMERON FRADD @ ACU, MELBOURNE

Join internationally renowned speakers Matt and Cameron Fradd for an evening filled with inspiration, joy and practical wisdom on marriage. This event will provide insights, encouragement and laughs for everyone. **Venue:** Cathedral Hall, ACU, Fitzroy. **Time** 6pm-9.30pm and **Date** Thursday 6th February. **Tickets and Details:** GodandBeer.com.au. **Cost:** \$30 adults / \$20 concession / Free for children under 10 and priests and religious. Tickets include live music and BBQ dinner.



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)

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Rosary continues this Sunday, after the 8.30am Mass.

All welcome.

SYMBOLON: THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED

returning Sunday 19 January at 9:30am.

RCIA is now on break over Christmas and will be returning Sunday 19 January. Contact: Jeff Zaher 0477188883.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 5:30pm Bruno Macri (7th Death Anniversary ✚)
and Giuseppe Macri (1st Death Anniversary ✚)
and Rosemarie Varney (Recently Deceased ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:30am Marguerite Valery (Recently Deceased ✚)
and Elodie Kathalea Gaspard (Recently Deceased ✚)
and John Daniels (Death Anniversary ✚)

Mass 10:30am Welcome Rite Blessing for the Baptism of Val Clyde Carvajal
Private Intention of Thanksgiving
and Thanksgiving on the Birthday of Jordan Fernando

Mass 5:30pm For the repose of the soul of Mercy Xavier ✚

Monday, December 23

Mass 9:15am Birthday Thanksgiving for Levi Lopez
and Ivor & Maisie De Kauwe (Death Anniversary ✚)

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Mass 9:15am Lourdunathan (Death Anniversary ✚)

5:30pm Christmas Family Mass

Midnight Christmas Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day

Mass 8:30am Elodie Kathalea Gaspard (Recently Deceased ✚)

Mass 10:30am For the soul of Glen Nicolay (Remembrance ✚)
and Thanksgiving to St. Anthony - Nigel & Maria Rodrigues
and Noel Pierre Michel (Birthday Remembrance ✚) and
for all deceased members of the family
and Diamante & Tiodoro Ricci and Mariangela &
Pasquale Isabella (Remembrance ✚)

Please note: No evening Mass today

Thursday, December 26 - Saint Stephen

Mass 9:15am Wedding Anniversary Remembrance of Yvonne &
Ronald Barnett
and Deceased soul of Jerson Pereira (Death Anniversary ✚)

Friday, December 27 - Saint John

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Saturday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

Mass 9:15am Burty François (Recently Deceased ✚)
and The soul of Joaquina Baretto (Remembrance ✚)

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

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

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

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

Mass 8:30am Marguerite Valery (Recently Deceased ✚)
and Elodie Kathalea Gaspard (Recently Deceased ✚)
and 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 ✚)

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, Nick & 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, John Daniels, Ivor and Maisie DeKauwe, Lycette & Martin Ticlo

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

Please note: NO EVENING MASS on Christmas Day

Church Cleaning

Saturday, December 28

Moses Family, Vincent, Mary & Rebecca

Saturday, January 4

Legion of Mary & J. Okoduwa

Confession will not be heard from Saturday 21st December and will recommence Thursday 26th

December before the 9:15am

Mass. Usual hours will resume

26th December.

Please visit www.stgerards.org.au for more information.

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

Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 23 to Saturday, December 28, 2024

Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 23

Entrance Antiphon: A child shall be born for us, and He will be called God, the Almighty; every tribe of the earth shall be blest in Him.

Responsorial Psalm: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, King of all nations, source of Your Church's unity and faith; save all people, Your own creation! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears My voice and opens the door to Me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me.

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent - December 24

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son into the world.

Responsorial Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice; shine on those lost in the darkness of death! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited His people and redeemed them.

Wednesday December 25 - Christmas Day - separate Bulletin will be provided with all readings.

Thursday of the Second day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - December 26 - Saint Stephen

Entrance Antiphon: The gates of heaven were opened for blessed Stephen, who was found to be first among the number of the Martyrs and therefore is crowned triumphant in heaven.

Responsorial Psalm: Into Your hands, O Lord, I entrust My spirit.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; The Lord God shines upon us. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: As they were stoning Stephen, he called out: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Friday of the Third day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - December 27 - Saint John

Entrance Antiphon: This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed and who spread the words of life through all the world.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the just rejoice in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You are God: we praise You; You are the Lord: we acclaim You; the glorious company of apostles praise You. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and from His fullness we have all received.

Saturday of the Fourth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - December 28

The Holy Innocents

Entrance Antiphon: The innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they follow the Lamb and sing for ever: Glory to You, O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You are God, we praise You; You are the Lord: we acclaim You; the white-robed army of martyrs praise You. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold those redeemed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb, and who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

