

# 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:** The Office will be closed until Monday, 6th January 2025

**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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Readings for Mass - Year C Sunday, 29th December 2024

**Entrance Antiphon:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

### First Reading - 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** How happy they who dwell in Your house, O Lord.

### Second Reading - 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia, alleluia!** Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of Your Son. **Alleluia!**

### Gospel - Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

**Communion Antiphon:** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

## 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, January 4**

5:30pm C. Fernando

**Sunday, January 5**

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am R. Gonsalves

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

**Saturday, January 11**

5:30pm A. Miranda

**Sunday, January 12**

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am A. Pacificque

5:30pm L. Hector

### Church Cleaning

**Saturday, January 4**

L. Vanculenburg & Family

**Saturday, January 11**

Gonsalves Family, Mario,

Linda Harper

### Confession

**Confession will not be heard until  
Thursday, 26th December.**

**Confession will not be heard on a  
Sunday or Monday.**

**Confession is heard Tuesday to  
Saturday, from 8:20am to 8:50am,  
and after the Mass on Saturday  
until 10:30am.**

### 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](mailto:dandenongnorth@cam.or.au).

Thank you.

### 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, Yvonne DeZilva

### **Our True Home: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of the Holy Family**

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see 2 Corinthians 6:16-18).

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it.

The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasised only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "my Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15).

The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 3:3-6; 10:21).

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God—until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be my son" (see Revelation 21:3, 7).

## 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* ✚)

## Daily Antiphons - Monday, December 30 to Saturday, January 4, 2025

### Monday - The Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - December 30

**Entrance Antiphon:** When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, Your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

**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!

**Communion Antiphon:** From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

### Tuesday - The Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord - December 31

**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.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted Him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him.

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

**Responsorial Psalm:** May God bless us in His mercy.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

### Thursday, January 2 - Saints Basil & Gregory

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let the peoples recount the wisdom of the Saints, and let the Church proclaim their praise. Their names will live on and on.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. Alleluia!

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

### Friday before The Epiphany - January 3

**Entrance Antiphon:** A light has risen in the darkness for the upright of heart; the Lord is generous, merciful and just.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted Him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** By this the love of God was revealed to us: God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him.

### Saturday before The Epiphany - January 4

**Entrance Antiphon:** God sent His Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as children.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.