

# 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"**

## The Baptism of the Lord

### Readings for Mass (Year C) - 11/12 January 2025

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

#### First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

#### Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

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. But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

**Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia, alleluia!** John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. **Alleluia!**

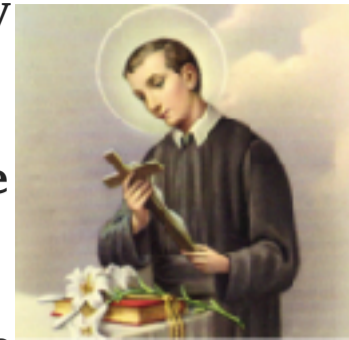
#### Gospel - Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

## 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.

**Rosary for Life continues after the 8:30am Mass from this Sunday 12th January.** Everyone is welcome to join every Sunday and pray a Rosary devoted to those babies in danger of abortion. Together, let's pray to end abortion.

**Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained** returns next Sunday 19 January at 9:30am in the Majellan room where we will explore Catholic teaching through a video presentation featuring Dr Edward Sri exploring the topic, 'The Last Things: What happens after we die?.' Contact: Jeff Zaher 0477 188 883. All are welcome.

### Archbishop's Campaign - Thank you from Archbishop Peter

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 **\$811,178.00** 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.

**Catholic Mission** thanks the parish of St Gerard's for your generous support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal. Through your contribution of \$1,144.40, you have empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses to share a message of hope and compassion with communities around the world. Your partnership with Catholic Mission makes an incredible difference. Thanks to you, Cardinal Giorgio Marengo and Brother Andrew in Mongolia can continue delivering life-saving care, essential resources, and educational support. Your gift not only uplifts individuals but also strengthens global mission programs, reaching countless others who need our support. Thank you for being a light of hope to those in need!

### The Anointing: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolised by the Magi, have been made "coheirs" to the blessings promised to Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus"—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see Genesis 22:2; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob" (see 2 Samuel 23:1–17; Psalm 18:51; 132:10, 17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see Isaiah 11:1–2; Daniel 9:25).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see Luke 1:32–33).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as a fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom—a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.

## MASS and INTENTIONS

### **Saturday Vigil, January 11 - The Baptism of the Lord**

Mass 5:30pm Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni and  
Thanksgiving on the Wedding Anniversary of  
Belinda and Dominic D'Vaz

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### **Sunday, January 12 - The Baptism of the Lord**

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

and David Scanlon (Death Anniversary ✝)

Mass 10:30am Thanksgiving Mass from Family Glavacevic  
and Luigi Rea (First Death Anniversary ✝)

and Gerry Duff (Recently Deceased ✝)

Mass 5:30pm Thanksgiving on the 25th Wedding  
Anniversary of Lloyd and Loretta Ferreira

### **Monday, January 13**

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

11:00am Funeral of Rose Poss

### **Tuesday, January 14**

#### **Fr. Shanthaiah's 40th Year Ordination Anniversary**

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving on the birthday of Claris  
Sebestiampillai

### **Wednesday, January 15**

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

### **Thursday, January 16**

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

### **Friday, January 17 - Saint Anthony**

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

### **Saturday, January 18**

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

### **Saturday Vigil, January 18**

#### **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

### **Sunday, January 19 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

Mass 10:30am Francesca Campisano  
(First Year Death Anniversary ✝)

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

### 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, Lucia Gatt

#### **The recently deceased:**

Joelle Lebrasse, Gerry Duff, Guida  
Maria DaCosta Borges, Gina Caglioti,  
Rose Poss, Fr. Denis Carabott, Fr.  
Babu Varghese Kattikattu

#### **Anniversaries/Remembrances:**

David Scanlon, Luigi Rea

### Church Cleaning

**Saturday, January 18**

Ratika and Veronica

**Saturday, January 25**

Q. Roland, X. Fernando, T. Bui

### Reading Roster

**Saturday, January 18**

5:30pm P. Kroon

**Sunday, January 19**

8:30am M. Naidoo

10:30am J. Panicker

5:30pm M. Yallapa

**Saturday, January 25**

5:30pm D. Franklin

**Sunday, January 26**

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am M. Jose

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

Dear Parishioners, Fr. Shanthaiah  
will be celebrating a special  
milestone on Tuesday, 14th January  
2025. This day is his entry into 40th  
Anniversary of Ordination. We will  
have a celebration mid-year  
however, until then, please join us in  
congratulating and praying for him  
on this very special and sacred day.

### Confession

**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.**

## Daily Antiphons - Monday, January 13 to Saturday, January 18, 2025

### Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time - January 13

**Entrance Antiphon:** Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let all His angels worship Him.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Kingdom of God is near: repent and believe the Good News! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

### Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time - January 14

**Entrance Antiphon:** Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

**Responsorial Psalm:** You gave Your Son authority over all Your creation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Receive this message not as human words, but as truly the word of God. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

### Wednesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time - January 15

**Entrance Antiphon:** Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord remembers His covenant for ever.

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

**Communion Antiphon:** With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

### Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time - January 16

**Entrance Antiphon:** Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

**Responsorial Psalm:** If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

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

**Communion Antiphon:** With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.

### Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time - January 17 - Saint Anthony

**Entrance Antiphon:** The just will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar, planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited His people. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** If you would be perfect, go, sell what you have, sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow Me, says the Lord.

### Saturday of the First Week in Ordinary Time - January 18

**Entrance Antiphon:** Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison: Behold Him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.