



ST. GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr. Shanthaiah Marneni

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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

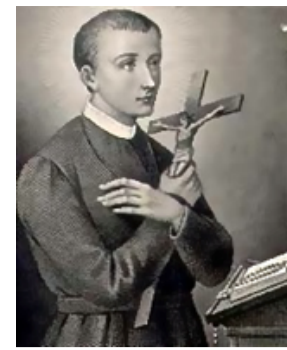
Parish Secretary: Sinthia Stellato (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

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



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Readings for Mass (Year C) - 26 January 2025

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

First Reading - Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people, said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

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

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:12-130

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything? Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.' What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

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

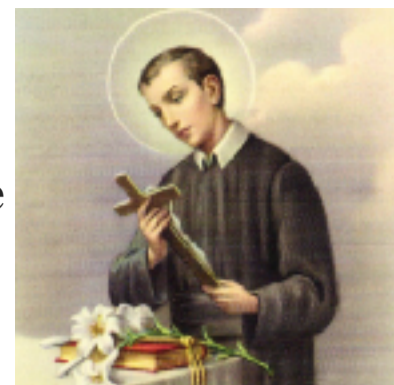
Gospel - Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in Him, returned to Galilee; and His reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised Him. He came to Nazara, where He had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as He usually did. He stood up to read and they handed Him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll He found the place where it is written: *The spirit of the Lord has been given to Me, for He has anointed Me. He has sent Me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.* He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on Him. Then He began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

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. Everyone is welcome to join every Sunday and pray a Rosary devoted to babies in danger of abortion. Together, let's pray to end abortion.

RCIA Program - Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained

Join us Sundays 9:30am – 11:00am 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 **THE SACRAMENTS: Baptism & Confirmation** and next week we explore **THE EUCHARIST: Source & Summit of Christian Life**.

Contact: Jeff Zaher 0477188883. All are welcome.

Please note; Fr. Shanthaiah will be visiting family in India from Monday 3rd February and will return on Friday 21st February. Fr. Michael, Fr Martin and Fr Raju will celebrate Masses in his absence.



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Blessing of candles and procession will be on 2nd February beginning at 10:00am from the grotto. Mass will then commence at 10:30am.

Altar Server training will resume Thursday 13th February. We welcome new Altar Boys to join. Training will be from 5:30pm-6:30pm every Thursday. Please call Ron Maroun should you have any queries on 0412 212 287.

Volunteers needed for Church cleaning and for morning tea roster please.

Please email your availability to dandenongnorth@cam.org.au. Thank you in advance for your support.

New Day Dawns: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The meaning of today's liturgy is subtle and many-layered. We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading. Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15–17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3–4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6); and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading. Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16–17, 21 and Nehemiah 8:2–6, 8–10).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10).

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, January 25 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, January 26 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Mass 10:30am For the soul of Gamini Kumarasingha (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

Welcome Rite Blessing - Congratulations to the following children who will be baptised next weekend:

Amelia Lauretta, Jaziel Jagon and Lenny Makris

Mass 5:30pm Aubery Buultjenz (*Recently Deceased* ✝)

Monday, January 27 - Australia Day Public Holiday - Office Closed

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Tuesday, January 28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Wednesday, January 29

Mass 9:15am For the repose of the souls of Antonette & Charles Henry Vettivelu ✝

Thursday, January 30

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Friday, January 31 - Saint John Bosco

Mass 9:15am Ivan & Zora Skoblar (*Remembrance* ✝)

and Malcolm Antony (*Death Anniversary* ✝) *and* for the souls of Royston Lopez and Antonette Antony ✝

Saturday, February 1

Mass 9:15am Victor Anthony (*6th Death Anniversary* ✝)

Saturday Vigil, February 1 - The Presentation of the Lord

Mass 5:30pm Candice, Annesley and Rita Fernando (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, February 2 - The Presentation of the Lord

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

and Antonietta Tucci (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Candelaria Adaniel (*Birthday Remembrance* ✝)

and Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes from Wendy & Leandar Lewis and family

12:00pm Congratulations to the following children who will be baptised: *Amelia Lauretta, Jaziel Hosana Jagon and Lenny Makris*. May God Bless you all.

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, Audrey Hoareau, Lynette Mary Whetton, Maree Kipping

The recently deceased:

Joelle Lebrasse, Serge David, Gina Caglioti, Rose Poss, Joseph D'Costa, Fr. Bruno Carrera, Louisa D'Silva, Gamini Kumarasingha, Aubery Buultjenz, Karl Le'maire

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Marcel Donaldson

Church Cleaning

Saturday, February 1

Knights of the Southern Cross

Saturday, February 8

Moses Family, Vincent, Mary, Rebecca

Reading Roster

Saturday, February 1

5:30pm B. Collins

Sunday, February 2

8:30am D. Naidoo

10:30am J. Abraham

5:30pm L. Hector

Saturday, February 8

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, February 9

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am E. Ebert

5:30pm M. Yallapa

St Gerard's Parish Pastoral Team Nomination

St Gerard's is looking to form a Parish Pastoral Team (PPT) to address the pastoral responsibilities of the parish.

We are asking parishioners to begin to consider nominating members who would help the parish be the best that it can be.

Forms will be made available from next weekend, 2nd February.

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"

Daily Antiphons - Monday, January 27 to Saturday, February 1, 2025

Monday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time - January 27th - Australia Day

Entrance Antiphon: I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples, among the nations sing psalms to You, for Your mercy reaches to the heavens, and Your truth to the skies.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord speaks of peace to His people.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, my soul, and never forget all His benefits.

Tuesday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time - January 28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas

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: Here am I, Lord; I come to do Your will.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

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

Wednesday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time - January 29

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

Responsorial Psalm: You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to Him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Thursday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time - January 30

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, this is the people that longs to see Your face.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Friday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time - January 31 - Saint John Bosco

Entrance Antiphon: Let the children come to Me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Responsorial Psalm: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, says the Lord.

Saturday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time - February 1

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; He has come to His people.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much; He gave us His only Son, that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

