



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 Mass Readings (Year A) - December 27 & 28, 2025

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

First Reading - Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.

Second Reading - Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; and the fullness of His message live within you. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I called my son out of Egypt.* After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: '*He will be called a Nazarene.*'

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.

What is this hope we wish each other? When we wish someone a 'Happy Christmas', there's a quiet gift that comes with those words. Hope is that gift. We are saying, I hope that you and those you love may be well, whatever your circumstances. 'Happy Christmas' is more than a seasonal greeting. It's a small ritual of kindness that says, 'I want what is good for you, even if life is imperfect.' Hope is a kind of glue. It binds our relationships together across time. At Christmas especially, hope takes on a gentle but persistent strength—the belief that peace and joy are possible, even in difficulty. For children, hope at this time of year looks like anticipation: presents, surprises, family moments. It is immediate and tangible. For us adults, especially parents, hope often becomes an intentional responsibility: the desire to provide, to make each day a blessing, even under pressure. For grandparents, and those gone before us, hope is often about peace, endurance and unity. They cherish what they have, knowing how fragile life can be. In our Christian life, hope goes far deeper. It is not merely a feeling; it has become enfleshed in a person. Our hope has a name: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel—God-with-us. At Christmas, we remember not only the child in Bethlehem but the God who came through to us and for us, and who continues to do so. This is hope beyond optimism. It is a light the darkness cannot overcome. Christian hope is the light of the world. The birth of Jesus is part of each of our stories. His coming assures us that this broken world is still destined for goodness and beauty. In your challenges, burdens and suffering, take heart: God's love and peace are truly present for all who thirst for him. So, when someone wishes you a 'happy Christmas' in the Christian sense, they offer more than goodwill. They offer a gift: *You are not alone. Hope is real—today and every day.*

I wish you and your families a joyful and hope-filled Christmas. — Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

New Year's Day - Thursday, 1st January, 2026

9:15am Mass - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God - Please note: No evening Mass

Office Closure: The office will be closed from Wednesday, 24th December 2025 and, will re-open Monday, 5th January 2026.



May God bestow His blessings of peace, joy and love upon you and your family at Christmas and for the New Year ahead - Fr. Shanthaiah and staff.

Reading Rosters for 2026 have been emailed and are also available for collection from the Sacristy. Thank you to all volunteers.

Please note: There will *not* be any confessions heard at St. Gerard's until Saturday 3rd January, 2026.

St. Mary's Parish, Dandenong, under the leadership of Fr. Sebastian Arockia, is organising a pilgrimage (Greece to Turkey) from 5th to 21st May 2026, to walk in the Holy Footsteps of St. Paul's missionary journey. It will be a wonderful opportunity to familiarise the Biblical towns and cities that we read in the Acts of the Apostles, such as Athens, Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi and Thessaloniki. We have already 17 parishioners registered. Few more seats are available we welcome those interested.

Please contact the St Mary's parish office on 9791-4611 or speak directly with Fr. Sebastian.

Millions of Monica's - Please join us on **Tuesday, 6th January, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** as we come together in faith, praying for our children's return to the Church. Please remember to bring your folders and your rosary beads. New participants are always welcome. Come and be part of this prayerful and supportive community that we are building.

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 (you'll know the house!!) When: Tuesday December 16, 2025 to Sunday January 4th, 2026. Times: Mon-Wed: 8:45PM to 11:00PM, Thur-Sun: 8:45PM to 12:00AM. Please feel free to go on the lawn and look around and watch for any cables! Andrew encourages parishioners to come up and introduce themselves. 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.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, 27th December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Mass 5:30pm Thanksgiving on the Wedding Anniversary of Xavier and Shanthi Fernando

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 28th December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Mass 8:30am For the good health of Maria Oblak & family

Mass 10:30am Thanksgiving on the Wedding Anniversary of Sheetal and Trinity Lopez

Mass 5:30pm Pasquale Isabella & Mariangela Stranges
(Remembrance ✕)

and Diamante and Tiodoro Ricci *(Remembrance ✕)*
and Giovanni and Angela Paola *(Remembrance ✕)*

Monday, 29th December

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

and Thanksgiving on the birthday of Sylvester Antony

Tuesday, 30th December

Mass 9:15am Ranasinghe Perera *(Recently Deceased ✕)*

Wednesday, 31st December - *New Year's Eve*

Mass 9:15am For the repose of the soul of Fr Michael Shadbolt ✕

and Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity

and Mass of Thanksgiving from the Lopez Family

Thursday, 1st January - *New Year's Day*

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving for the intentions of Denzil Anthony

and Thanksgiving offering for Our Lady of Vailankanni from Isabelle & Christelle D'Vaz and Luke Lewis

and Efren Adaniel *(Birthday Remembrance ✕)*

Friday, 2nd January - *Saints Basil and Gregory*

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from Nigel and Maria Rodrigues

Saturday, 3rd January

Mass 9:15am Nadesan Moorthy *(Death Anniversary ✕)*

Saturday, 3rd January - *The Epiphany of the Lord*

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

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 4th January - *The Epiphany of the Lord*

Mass 8:30am For the good health of Maria Oblak & family
and François Vidot *(Recently Deceased ✕)*

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Please pray for...

Our sick: Heather Fernandez, Steven & Monica Dickson, Ricky & Katrina, Jeanne Joseph, Colin Hillas, Anne Moorthy, Fr. Brendan Lane, Giuseppina Bonato, Lucia Gatt, Audrey Hoareau, Lynette Mary Whetton, Lucia, Sean VanTwist, Dale Rozario, Mauraad Beshy, Wafaa Farah, Blanca Vazquez, Raymond Mifsud, Maria Oblak, Gratiot Vettivelu, Rocco, Christine Joseph, Cristina de Gallegos, Anne Daley, Manuel Mira, John Keble, Francis Salmon, Carlton Jackson, Gerard Hoareau, Chanelle, Susan McKenna, Therese Kerrins, Marie Bhugon, Deidre, Mathew and Maria Kutty, Dalrene Corera, Michael Bruno, Pamela Chen, Maria Tomaselli, Kevin Guian, Michael Hoare, Derek Chater, Louis Murray

The recently deceased:

Fr. Michael Shadbolt, Maria DeLuca, Tony McIntyre, Rev. Fr. A. John

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Pasquale Isabella, Mary Smith,

Church Cleaning

Saturday, January 3

R. Quyn, Fernando family, T. Bui

Saturday, January 10

Knights of the Southern Cross

Weekly Collection

December 21, 2025

Thanksgiving: \$1,346.50

Presbytery: \$620.50

Reading Roster

Saturday, January 3

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, January 4

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am R. Gonsalves

5:30pm L. Hector

Saturday, January 10

5:30pm J. Fernando

Sunday, January 11

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Daily Antiphons - Monday December 29, 2025 to Saturday January 3, 2026

Monday, December 29 - Fifth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Responsorial Psalm: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of Your people, Israel. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

Tuesday, December 30 - Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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.

Wednesday, December 31 - Seventh day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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.

Thursday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

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.

Friday, January 2 - Saints Basil and 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.

Saturday, January 3 - Saturday before The Epiphany

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