



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"

## Third Sunday of Advent - Mass Readings (Year A) - December 13 & 14, 2025

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

### First Reading - Isaiah 35: 1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, come and save us.

### Second Reading - James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; He sent Me to bring the Good News to the poor. *Alleluia!*

### Gospel Reading - Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. 'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save 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.



### Rest in Peace Fr Michael

It is with great sadness that we announce that our beloved priest, Father Michael Shadbolt, has gone to his eternal home to be with his heavenly Father. Fr. Michael will be greatly missed however, his legacy will live on forever. May he rest in Peace.

## Christmas 2025

Christmas Eve - Wednesday, 24th December

5:30pm - Christmas Family Mass

7:00pm - Maronite Mass

11:30pm - Carols, followed by Midnight Mass

*Christmas Day - Thursday, 25th December*

8.30am and 10.30am Mass - **Please note: No evening Mass on Christmas day.**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Saturday, 27th December - Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Sunday, 28th December - Mass at 8:30am, 10:30am, and 5:30pm

*New Year's Day - Thursday, 1st January 2026 - Please note: No evening Mass*

9:15am Mass - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**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.



Please see the notice board for an announcement from Archbishop Peter Comensoli regarding an Archdiocesan Synod. There will also be printed copies of this letter for you to take home on the table in the Church foyer.

**Thanksgiving envelopes may be collected from the Church foyer. Thank you for your support of our Parish.**

### Church Cleaning Volunteers needed!

**We are in great need of volunteers to help clean the Church. Cleaning is on a Saturday after the morning Mass. Please register your name with the Parish office on 9792 4422. Thank you!**

**Evening of Penitential Rite (Confession) To be held on Friday the 19th of December, 2025.**  
Priests will be available to hear confessions between 6:00pm and 8:00pm throughout this evening.

**Please Note: There will be no confession after the morning Mass on Saturday, 20th December.**

# MASS and INTENTIONS

**Saturday Vigil, 13th December - Third Sunday of Advent**

**Mass 5:30pm** For the health of Michael Bruno & the soul of Carmela Bruno ♣  
*and* Sabato Leone (*Death Anniversary* ♣)

**Mass 7:00pm** Maronite Community

**Sunday, 14th December - Third Sunday of Advent**

**Mass 8:30am** Father Joseph Hynan (*Death Anniversary* ♣)  
*and* For the good health of Maria Oblak & family  
*and* Joseph Robert Wright (*2nd Death Anniversary* ♣)

**Mass 10:30am** Giovanna McKercher (*Remembrance* ♣)  
*and* For the health of Maria Tomaselli  
*and* For the health of Kevin Guian

**Tamil Mass will be at St. Scholastica's Church Bennettswood**

**Mass 5:30pm** Thanksgiving Mass - Janet D'Souza  
*and* For the health of Mathew and Maria Kutty

**Monday 15th December**

**Mass 9:15am** For the health of Michael Bruno & the soul of Carmela Bruno ♣  
*and* Deceased members of the Tomaselli Family ♣

**Tuesday 16th December**

**Mass 9:15am** For the health of Mathew and Maria Kutty  
*and* Thanksgiving to St. Anthony from Belinda, Dominic, Isabelle and Christelle D'Vaz

**Wednesday 17th December**

**Mass 9:15am** For the health of Mathew and Maria Kutty  
*and* For the health of Karen & Hermione Daniels

**Thursday 18th December**

**Mass 9:15am** Margaret Karmarkar (*Death Anniversary* ♣)  
*and* For the health of Mathew and Maria Kutty

**7:00-9:00pm** RCIA - Symbolon Program in the Majellan Hall

**Friday 19th December**

**Mass 9:15am** Repose of the soul of Diago D'Souza (*Remembrance* ♣)  
*and* For the health of Mathew and Maria Kutty

**6:00-8:00pm** **Advent Evening of Reconciliation**

**Saturday 20th December**

**Mass 9:15am** For the health of Mathew and Maria Kutty  
*and* Thanksgiving for the intentions of George Bontemps  
*and* Thanksgiving for the intentions of Dylan DeKauwe

**Saturday Vigil, 20th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Mass 5:30pm** Beverley Deabe (*Death Anniversary* ♣)  
*and* Cecilia and Pasquale Campisi (*Remembrance* ♣)

**Mass 7:00pm** Maronite Community

**Sunday, 21st December - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**Mass 10:30am** Giovanna McKercher (*Remembrance* ♣)  
*and* For the health of Karen and Hermione Daniels

**Mass 3:30pm** French Community

**Mass 5:30pm** Fiore Mete (*Death Anniversary* ♣)

## 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 VanTwest, Dale Rozario, Mauraad Beshy, Wafaa Farah, Blanca Vazquez, Raymond Mifsud, Maria Oblak, Gration 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

## The recently deceased:

Fr Michael Shadbolt, Sofia Vitaliano, Michael Grennan, Pat Joe Keenaghan, Maria DeLuca

## Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Joseph Robert Wright, Sabato Leone, Henry Beling, Angelo Pane, Fiore Mete, Loskley Taylor, Paul Deayton, Joseph Gerald Marmion

## Church Cleaning

**Saturday, December 20**

Legion of Mary

**Saturday, December 27**

Gonsalves Fam, Mario & L. Harper

## Weekly Collection

**December 7, 2025**

Thanksgiving: \$1,572.00

Presbytery: \$713.85

## Reading Roster

**Saturday, December 20**

5:30pm C. Fernando

**Sunday, December 21**

8:30am G. Becerra

10:30am J. Abraham

5:30pm B. Collins

**Saturday, December 27**

5:30pm J. Fernando

**Sunday, December 28**

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am E. Ebert

5:30pm J. Panicker

## Daily Antiphons - Monday December 15 to Saturday December 20, 2025

### Monday of the Third Week of Advent - December 15

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Teach me Your ways, O Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord, show us Your mercy and love, and grant us Your salvation. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before You with a blameless heart.

### Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 16

**Entrance Antiphon:** Behold, the Lord will come, and all His holy ones with Him; and on that day there will be a great light.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, O Lord, do not delay: Forgive the sins of Your people. *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await His coming.

### Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent - December 17

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice, O Heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to His poor.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Justice shall flourish in His time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge! *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.

### Thursday of the Third Week of Advent - December 18

**Entrance Antiphon:** Christ our King is coming, He is the Lamb foretold by John.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Justice shall flourish in His time and fullness of peace for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Leader of ancient Israel, giver of the Law of Moses on Sinai: rescue us with Your mighty power! *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** His name will be called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us.

### Friday of the Third Week of Advent - December 19

**Entrance Antiphon:** He who is to come will come and will not delay, and now there will be no fear within our land for He is our Saviour.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Fill me with Your praise, and I will sing Your glory!

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Flower of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all His people: save us without delay! *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** The Dawn from on high will visit us, guiding our feet in the way of peace.

### Saturday of the Third Week of Advent - December 20

**Entrance Antiphon:** A branch shall sprout from the root of Jesse, and the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth, and all flesh will see the salvation of God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Come, Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: free the prisoners of darkness! *Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** The Angel said to Mary: Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.