

# ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

**PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI**

**Parish Phone:** 9792 4422 **Parish Email:** dandenongnorth@cam.org.au **Address:** 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

**Website:** www.stgerards.org.au **Facebook:** facebook.com/saintgerardparish

**Confession: Tuesday to Saturday 8:20am-8:50am also Saturday prior to & after Mass until 10:30am**

**Parish Secretary & Safeguarding Officer:** Sumitha Moses **Parish Secretary:** Sinthia Stellato

**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday 9:00am - 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

### Mass Readings (Year A) - January 10 & 11, 2026

**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 42: 1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord will bless His people with peace.

#### Second Reading - Acts 10: 34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is My beloved Son, hear Him. *Alleluia!*

#### Gospel Reading - Matthew 3: 13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

**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.



## The Baptism of the Lord

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate. In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the 'Messiah' or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God.

The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification,' Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind.

The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men' (Lk2:52).

In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ. The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Gen 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. 'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realised what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners' (Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI),

Jesus of Nazareth, Bloomsbury 2007, p 18). Excerpted from the Congregation for the Clergy





# MASS and INTENTIONS

## Saturday, 10th January - The Baptism of the Lord

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

## Sunday, 11th January - The Baptism of the Lord

Mass 8:30am David Scanlon (*Death Anniversary* ✙)

*and* For the good health of Maria Oblak and family

*and* Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni and  
Thanksgiving on the Wedding Anniversary of  
Belinda and Dominic D’Vaz

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Mass

Mass 5:30pm Teresa Minutolo Bonesse (*Recently Deceased* ✙)

## Monday, 12th January

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving for the safe delivery of a baby girl

## Tuesday, 13th January

Mass 9:15am Florence Guerra (*Recently Deceased* ✙)

## Wednesday, 14th January

Mass 9:15am Giovanna McKercher (*Remembrance* ✙)

## Thursday, 15th January

Mass 9:15am Rodney D’Lima (*Recently Deceased* ✙)

## Friday, 16th January

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

## Saturday, 17th January - Saint Anthony

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

## Saturday Vigil, 17th January - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Teresa Minutolo Bonesse (*Recently Deceased* ✙)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

## Sunday, 18th January - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 3:30pm French Mass

Mass 5:30pm Grenville Francis (*Birthday Remembrance* ✙)

**St. Mary’s Parish, Dandenong**, under the leadership of Fr. Sebastian Arockia, is organising a pilgrimage (Greece to Turkey) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 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 and we welcome those interested. Please contact the St Mary’s parish office on 9791 4611 or speak directly with Fr. Sebastian.

## 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 Whetton, Lucia, Sean VanTwist, 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 & Maria Kutty, Dalrene Corera, Michael Bruno, Pamela Chen, Maria Tomaselli, Kevin Guian, Michael Hoare, Derek Chater, Pina Lidonici

## The recently deceased:

Teresa Bonesse, Monica Kelly, Leonard Mannas, Liam Tailor, John Gott, Rodney D’Lima, Louis Murray, Florence Guerra, Vincenzo Tarallo, Maria Pham

## Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Bernard Shaw, Warren Michael D’Cruz, George DosRemedios

## Church Cleaning

Saturday, January 17

Legion of Mary

Saturday, January 24

Gonsalves Family, Mario, L. Harper

## Weekly Collection

January 4, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,405.00

Presbytery: \$768.00

## Reading Roster

Saturday, January 17

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, January 18

8:30am G. Becerra

10:30am D. Naidoo

5:30pm J. Panicker

Saturday, January 24

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, January 25

8:30am C. Becerra

10:30am S. Moses

5:30pm B. Collins

## Daily Antiphons - Monday January 12 to Saturday January 17, 2026

### Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time - January 12

**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:** To You, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

**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 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:** My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

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

**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 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:** Save us Lord, in Your mercy.

**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 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:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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

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

### Saturday 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:** Lord, Your strength gives joy to the king.

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

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