

# St Gerard's

## Catholic Parish

### Dandenong North

5th April, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter into this Holy week, it is a difficult time for many. But let us remember we have a God who continues to be with us in all things. This past week marked the 15th anniversary of the death of Saint John Paul II. We may recall the suffering he endured, especially in his final days. He can certainly be an example to us in our own troubling days. Commenting on the way the saint lived his suffering, Cardinal Angelo Comastri recently said of him, "John Paul II knew that life is a race towards God's Banquet: the Feast of God's embrace, His infinite glory and happiness. John Paul II lived his suffering with this spirit: even in the hardest moments. He never lost his serenity. Why? Because before him he always had the purpose of life." As we journey through this Holy week, may we walk with the same attitude,

As a parish, we continue to strive to stay connected, and I am grateful for the many people who are doing such a great job of keeping in contact with parishioners. We will continue to stream the Sunday Mass online, and you can find the details for the Holy week liturgies in this bulletin. We will also stream daily Mass from Monday. Another online activity we will trial is a Zoom (online meeting) morning tea after Mass on Sunday. If you don't get the link, send me an email.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions, or anything you are in need of, please let me know.

Wishing you a peaceful, and safe Holy week.

God bless,

Fr Dean

### WHAT IS HAPPENING ONLINE?

- *Mass each Sunday,  
10:30am*
- *Zoom morning tea  
Sunday 11:45am*
- *Daily Mass  
9:15am*
- *Meet Our  
Parishioners  
(details soon)*
- *Gospel Reflection  
group (starting soon)*

# HOLY WEEK



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

“All this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled,” Jesus says in today’s Gospel (see Matthew 26:56).

Indeed, we have reached the climax of the liturgical year, the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been anticipated and promised is to be fulfilled.

By the close of today’s long Gospel, the work of our redemption will have been accomplished, the new covenant will be written in the blood of His broken body hanging on the cross at the place called the Skull.

In His Passion, Jesus is “counted among the wicked,” as Isaiah had foretold (see Isaiah 53:12). He is revealed definitively as the Suffering Servant the prophet announced, the long-awaited Messiah whose words of obedience and faith ring out in today’s First Reading and Psalm.

The taunts and torments we hear in these two readings punctuate the Gospel as Jesus is beaten and mocked (see Matthew 27:31), as His hands and feet are pierced, as enemies gamble for His clothes (see Matthew 27:35), and as His enemies dare Him to prove His divinity by saving Himself from suffering (see Matthew 27:39–44).

He remains faithful to God’s will to the end, does not turn back in His trial. He gives Himself freely to His torturers, confident that, as He speaks in today’s First Reading: “The Lord God is My help. . . I shall not be put to shame.”

Destined to sin and death as children of Adam’s disobedience, we have been set free for holiness and life by Christ’s perfect obedience to the Father’s will (see Romans 5:12–14, 17–19; Ephesians 2:2; 5:6).

This is why God greatly exalted Him. This is why we have salvation in His Name. Following His example of humble obedience in the trials and crosses of our lives, we know we will never be forsaken. We know, as the centurion today, that truly this is the Son of God (see Matthew 27:54).

Scott Hahn

## What is an Act of Spiritual Communion?

Catholics have long been encouraged to partake in the practice of “spiritual communion” if they are unable to receive the Eucharist for a particular reason (for instance – being homebound). In making an Act of Spiritual Communion we ask the Lord to give us the graces that would come to us if we were able to receive Him sacramentally. Reciting the prayer written by St. Alphonsus Liguori below is simple and common way of making an Act of Spiritual Communion.

### *An Act of Spiritual Communion*

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love You above all things,*

*and I desire to receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,*

*come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.*

*Never permit me to be separated from You.*

*Amen.*

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

You can keep up to date with the general guidelines from the Archdiocese here:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

## STAY CONNECTED

### WEBSITE

The best way to keep up to date with what’s happening around the parish, please visit:

[www.saintgerardparish.com](http://www.saintgerardparish.com)

### MASS ONLINE

We will continue to stream Sunday Mass online, 10:30am. We hope to start filming daily Mass too as soon as possible.

### EMAIL

We will send regular emails in order to keep in touch. We are still trying to gather as many emails and phone numbers as possible. If you know of anyone who is not receiving any communication, please get in touch so that we can add people to the list.

### ONLINE PRAYER GROUP

We have plans to organise online gatherings for Gospel reflections etc. You can register your interest on the website and we’ll send you details.

## PASSION SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7

*I did not cover my face against insult: I know I shall not be shamed*

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 21 (22):

8-9, 17-20, 23-24

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

Second Reading - Philippians 2:6-11

*Christ humbled himself but God raised him high*

Gospel - Matthew 26:14-27:66

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

*From a video message from Pope Francis for Holy Week*

Dear friends!

This evening I have the chance to enter your homes in a different way than usual. If you allow me, I would like to have a conversation with you for a few moments, in this time of difficulty and of suffering.

I can imagine you in your families, living an unusual life to avoid contagion. I am thinking of the liveliness of children and young people, who cannot go out, attend school, live their lives. I have in my heart all the families, especially those who have a loved one who is sick or who have unfortunately experienced mourning due to the coronavirus or other causes. These days I often think about people who are alone, and for whom it is more difficult to face these moments. Above all I think of the elderly, who are very dear to me. ....

We will celebrate Holy Week in a truly unusual way, which manifests and sums up the message of the Gospel, that of God's boundless love. And in the silence of our cities, the Easter Gospel will resound. The Apostle Paul says: "And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him Who died for them and was raised again" (2 Cor 5:15). In the risen Jesus, life conquered death. This Paschal faith nourishes our hope. I would like to share it with you this evening. It is the hope of a better time, in which we can be better, finally freed from evil and from this pandemic. It is a hope: hope does not disappoint; it is not an illusion, it is a hope.

To view the whole video:

<https://youtu.be/xMJDCnmdhRg>



## Holy Week

ONLINE FROM ST GERARD'S, DANDENONG NORTH

PASSION SUNDAY MASS | 10.30AM  
SUNDAY

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | 7PM  
THURSDAY

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION | 3PM  
FRIDAY

EASTER VIGIL MASS | 8PM  
SATURDAY

Excerpt from the “Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, In time of Covid-19” 25.03.2020

1 - Palm Sunday. The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; in parish churches and in other places the third form is to be used.

2 – The Chrism Mass. Evaluating the concrete situation in different countries, the Episcopal Conferences will be able to give indications about a possible transfer to another date.

3 – Holy Thursday. The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. On this day the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priests.

4 – Good Friday. In the Universal Prayer, Bishops will arrange to have a special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick, the dead, (cf. Missale Romanum). The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the celebrant.

5 – The Easter Vigil: Is to be celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches. For the “Baptismal Liturgy” only the “Renewal of Baptismal Promises” is maintained (cf. Missale Romanum).

*From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 25 March 2020, on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.*

*Robert Card. Sarah*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

*Sunday 5 April  
Harold Scanlon RIP*

*Tuesday 7 April  
Vivian MacDonald (RIP)*

*Wednesday 8 April  
Jeanne Nella Healey (RIP)*

**Please remember to pray for:**

**Our sick:**

*Neil Biggins, Peter Lister, Ines Araujo, Giovanna McKercher,  
Hercules Pillay, Kateri Byrnes, Victoria Briglia, William Issaeff, Karen Daniells,  
Myrline Hennequin, Annemarie Bonica, Joe Maranzo, Brian Edwards,  
Ninette Loos, Jim Powell*

**The recently deceased:**

*Brigida Cardamone, Maria Jeronimo, Grazia Gangemi*

*“Faith tells us that God has given his Son for our sakes and gives us the victorious certainty that it is really true: God is love! It thus transforms our impatience and our doubts into the sure hope that God holds the world in his hands and that, as the dramatic imagery of the end of the Book of Revelation points out, in spite of all darkness he ultimately triumphs in glory. Faith, which sees the love of God revealed in the pierced heart of Jesus on the Cross, gives rise to love.”*

*Pope Benedict XVI*



