

# St Gerard's

## Catholic Parish

### Dandenong North

24th May, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It's been just over a week since we have started to celebrate Mass with small groups of ten. Although this is far from how things should be it has been wonderful to see many parishioners (almost two hundred who were able to come over this short time). It has certainly been an unusual experience, but I found a reflection from Cardinal Sarah rather helpful in regard to the current situation:

"It has sometimes been said that, because of the epidemic and the confinement ordered by the civil authorities, public worship was suspended. This is not correct. Public worship is the worship rendered to God by the whole Mystical Body, Head and members, as the Second Vatican Council recalls: "Indeed, for the accomplishment of this great work by which God is perfectly glorified and men sanctified, Christ always associates with the Church, his beloved Bride, who invokes her as his Lord and who passes through him to render his worship to the Eternal Father.' .... Thus, each time a priest celebrates the mass or the liturgy of the hours, even if he is alone, he offers public and official worship of the Church in union with its Head, Christ and on behalf of the whole Body. It is necessary to recall this truth." You can read the whole reflection by searching, "Letter from Cardinal Robert Sarah on Catholic Worship in These Times of Trial"

Two things I would like to draw to your attention:

**Church Open** - Tuesdays, Thursdays - 10am-5pm, Sundays 11:30am - 5:30pm

**AND**

**50 Hours Adoration** - 3pm Friday 29th - 5pm Sunday 31st May (Sign up at

[www.trybooking.com/BJSAW](http://www.trybooking.com/BJSAW)

God bless,

Fr Dean

#### MASS TIMES

Monday  
9:15am, 10:45am

Tuesday  
9:15am, 6pm

Wednesday  
9:15am, 10:45am

Thursday  
9:15am, 6pm

Friday  
9:15am, 10:45am

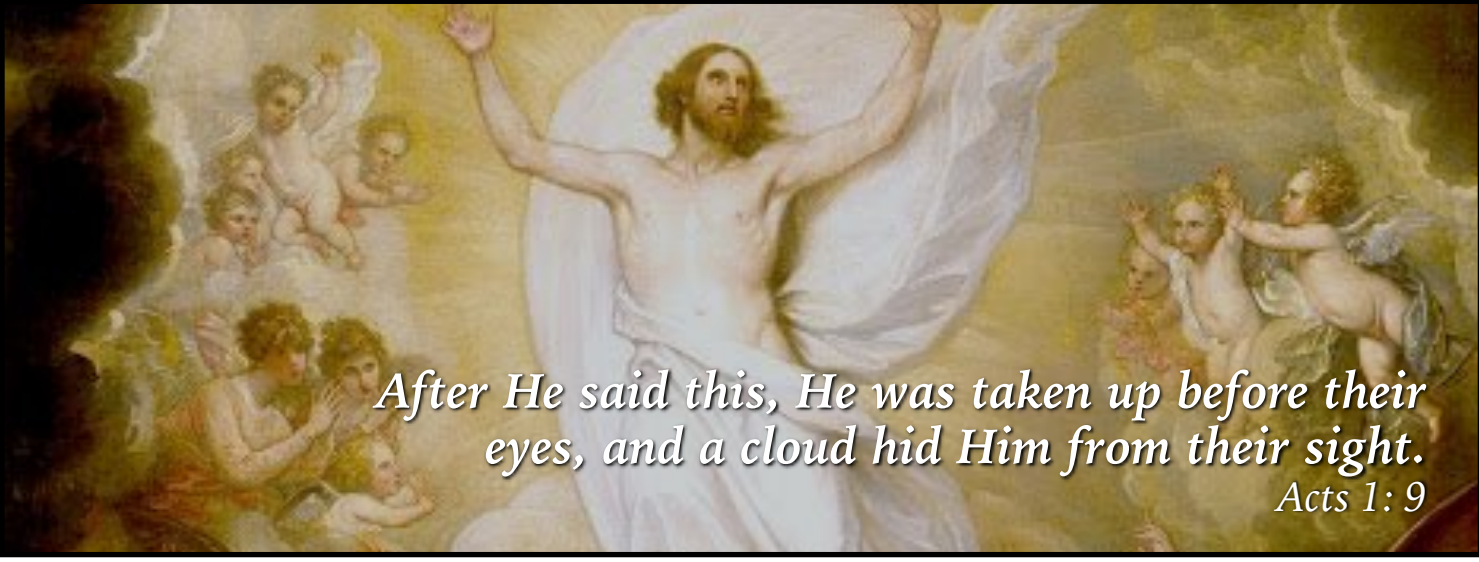
Saturday  
9:15am, 5:30pm

Sunday  
10:30am, 5:30pm

\*Please book your place using the trybooking link in the parish email, or call the office during office hours

#### Adoration

Sunday, 11:30am - 5:30pm



*After He said this, He was taken up before their eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.*

*Acts 1: 9*

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

In today's First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and He has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf.

Indeed, His intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the First Reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). The Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through Baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" because of the light that came with God's saving grace (see, for example, Hebrews 10:32). Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinisation of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with Him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

Scott Hahn

## P E N T E C O S T

# 50 HOURS ADORATION

OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 29TH, 3PM TO  
SUNDAY 31ST, 5PM

ST GERARD'S, DANDENONG NORTH

WWW.SAINTGERARDPARISH.COM  
FOR BOOKING DETAILS

SIGN UP AT:

[www.trybooking.com/BJSAW](http://www.trybooking.com/BJSAW)

From this week, the church will be open:

**Tuesdays, Thursdays - 10am-5pm**

**Sundays 11:30am - 5:30pm**

If you can volunteer to monitor the door during these hours, please let us know.

## WEBSITE

The best way to keep up to date with what's happening around the parish is to visit:

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

## 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.*



### READINGS

#### *The Ascension of the Lord*

First Reading - Acts 1: 11

Resp. Psalm - Psalm 46: 2-3, 6-9

Second Reading - Ephesians 1: 17-23

Gospel - Matthew 28: 16-20

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

#### **Monday 25 May**

**9.15am - Jane Cassar  
(Anniversary of Death)**

**10.45am - Donat Family  
(Thanksgiving)**

#### **Tuesday 26 May**

**9.15am - Maisie De Kauwe  
(Anniversary of Death)**

**6.00pm - Maria Giaquinta  
(Recently Deceased)**

#### **Wednesday 27 May**

**10.45am - Maria Brasacchio  
(Anniversary of Death)**

#### **Thursday 28 May**

**9.15am - Bonavanture Fernando  
(Anniversary of Death)**

#### **Friday 29 May**

**9.15am - William Blevins  
(Birthday Thanksgiving)**

**10.45am - In honour of Saint Rita**

#### **Saturday 30 May**

**9.15am - Mr Emile Dias  
(Anniversary of Death)**

### St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was the prior of the Benedictine Monastery of St. Andrew in Rome. Pope Gregory decided he needed to send missionaries to England. Augustine and 30 monks were who he chose to send. The mission was to unite the Christians after the Saxon conquest of England.

The King of England listened with curiosity to what the missionaries had to say. On Pentecost Sunday in 597, King Ethelbert was baptised. He believed in religious freedom and did not make his new religion mandatory however many followed his example and were baptised. St. Augustine was not successful in uniting the Anglo-Saxon Christians with the original Briton Christians (Celts). He followed Pope Gregory's advice to purify rather than destroy pagan temples and customs. As much as possible pagan rites and festivals were changed into Christian feasts.

St. Augustine died eight years after arriving in England. He died on May 26.

### ***Please remember to pray for...***

#### **Our sick:**

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

#### **The recently deceased:**

Ronald Bolch, Ines babo deAraujo, Ligaya Garcia, Victorine Wylie, Pasquale Costanzo

#### **Anniversaries that occur at this time:**

Bonavanture Fernando, Wayne Deabe

## A message from the Bishops of Australia

Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive...to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing...to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

You can read the full message here:

<https://www.catholic.org.au/acbc-media/media-centre/media-releases-new/2266-word-of-encouragement-to-the-catholic-people-of-australia/file>





P E N T E C O S T

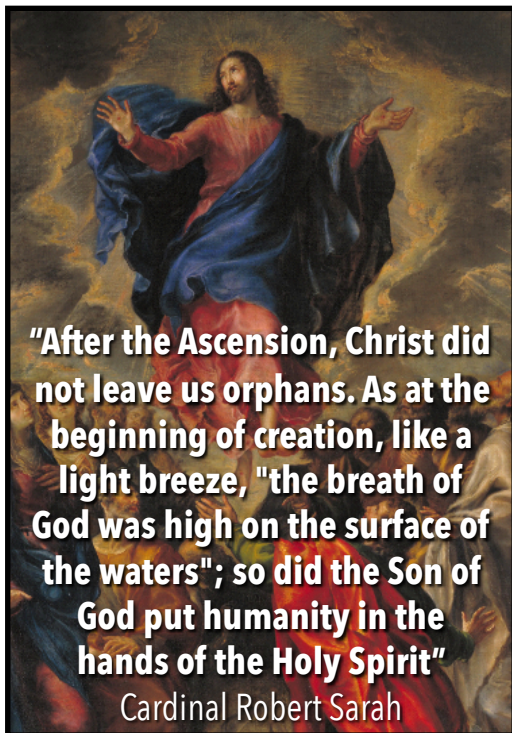
# 50 HOURS ADORATION

O F T H E B L E S S E D S A C R A M E N T

F R I D A Y 2 9 T H , 3 P M T O  
S U N D A Y 3 1 S T , 5 P M

S T G E R A R D ' S , D A N D E N O N G N O R T H

W W W . S A I N T G E R A R D P A R I S H . C O M  
F O R B O O K I N G D E T A I L S



**"After the Ascension, Christ did not leave us orphans. As at the beginning of creation, like a light breeze, "the breath of God was high on the surface of the waters"; so did the Son of God put humanity in the hands of the Holy Spirit"**

Cardinal Robert Sarah

## A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial. You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:

may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father,  
Thy will be done.

Amen

## ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr Dean Mathieson

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/saintgerardparish](https://facebook.com/saintgerardparish)

Office hours: Tues-Friday 9:30am-1:30pm