



Media Release

Tuesday October 12, 2021

Families encouraged to tune in to Saint Gerard's blessing

The annual Saint Gerard's Feast Day Blessing will be live streamed on Facebook for the second consecutive year due to COVID-19.

People can view on Saturday from 11am by following our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/MajellanPublications/

St Gerard is the patron saint of mothers, expectant mothers and the unborn. He was born in Italy in 1726 and became a lay brother of the order of the Congregation of the Redeemer or the Redemptorists, as they are more commonly known. The order was started by St Alphonsus Liguori in 1732.

Father Sam Kono will perform the liturgy and the Redemptorist priests and brothers from the Formation House in Kew will sing three hymns. There will also be a special blessing for families and children.

Majellan Media CEO Tony Biviano says COVID-19 has made life difficult for many families. "Sadly, many families have been separated for long periods placing a severe strain on people's wellbeing and mental health.

"In the past, we have had people attend the event at Majellan House, but the pandemic has changed everything. The live stream is one way we can get the message out to the wider community, safely and effectively. The liturgy will include a family blessing, and everyone is welcome.

"We had more than 800 families tune in last year which was tremendous. We are hopeful of an even better response this year, so I would certainly encourage people to watch with their families if possible," says Mr Biviano.

We continue to encourage people to send in their intentions (prayers) for the Redemptorist community to include in their prayer services and Masses. For more details go to: **www.majellan.media/majellan-day/**

Pope Pius X canonised St Gerard in 1904 and his feast day is held on October 16. His shrine at Materdomini in Italy attracts more than one million pilgrims each year.

For the full story about Saturday's blessing go to: www.majellan.media/news

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