



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 Epiphany of the Lord **Mass Readings (Year A) - January 3 & 4, 2026**

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in His grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

Second Reading - Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* We have seen His star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 2: 1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.*' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Communion Antiphon: We have seen His star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

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.

What is this hope we wish each other? When we wish someone a 'Happy Christmas', there's a quiet gift that comes with those words. Hope is that gift. We are saying, I hope that you and those you love may be well, whatever your circumstances. 'Happy Christmas' is more than a seasonal greeting. It's a small ritual of kindness that says, 'I want what is good for you, even if life is imperfect.' Hope is a kind of glue. It binds our relationships together across time. At Christmas especially, hope takes on a gentle but persistent strength—the belief that peace and joy are possible, even in difficulty. For children, hope at this time of year looks like anticipation: presents, surprises, family moments. It is immediate and tangible. For us adults, especially parents, hope often becomes an intentional responsibility: the desire to provide, to make each day a blessing, even under pressure. For grandparents, and those gone before us, hope is often about peace, endurance and unity. They cherish what they have, knowing how fragile life can be. In our Christian life, hope goes far deeper. It is not merely a feeling; it has become enfleshed in a person. Our hope has a name: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel—God-with-us. At Christmas, we remember not only the child in Bethlehem but the God who came through to us and for us, and who continues to do so. This is hope beyond optimism. It is a light the darkness cannot overcome. Christian hope is the light of the world. The birth of Jesus is part of each of our stories. His coming assures us that this broken world is still destined for goodness and beauty. In your challenges, burdens and suffering, take heart: God's love and peace are truly present for all who thirst for him. So, when someone wishes you a 'happy Christmas' in the Christian sense, they offer more than goodwill. They offer a gift: *You are not alone. Hope is real—today and every day.*

I wish you and your families a joyful and hope-filled Christmas. — Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Millions of Monica's

Please join us on **Tuesday, 6th January at 6:30 p.m.** as we come together in faith, praying for our children's return to the Church. Please remember to bring your folders and your rosary beads. New participants are always welcome. Come and be part of this prayerful and supportive community that we are building.

Beginning this weekend, and continuing every weekend hereafter, the Mass on Sunday at 10:30am, will be Pro Populo, meaning that there will not be any personal intentions and the Mass will be offered for the entire Parish and their intentions.

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

You are invited to view St. Gerard's parishioner Andrew Vaccaro's Christmas Lights Display, which features a beautiful Nativity as its centrepiece. Where: Ring Court, Dandenong North (you'll know the house!!), ending this Sunday January 4th, 2026. Please feel free to go on the lawn and look around and watch for any cables! Andrew encourages parishioners to come up and introduce themselves. Andrew also recommends the Christmas Lights Display of his friends the Scanlon Family, Parishioners of St. Elizabeth's, at 6 Neasham Drive, Dandenong North, at the same times and dates as above. Again, this display features a beautiful Nativity.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, 3rd January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass 5:30pm Marc Mantel (*Death Anniversary* ✕)

Maronite Mass will be held tomorrow, on Sunday 4th January at 7:00pm, instead of Saturday, January 3rd.

Sunday, 4th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass 8:30am For the good health of Maria Oblak & family
and François Vidot (*Recently Deceased* ✕)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 5:30pm Teresa Minutolo Bunesse (*Recently Deceased* ✕)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Monday, 5th January

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to Saint Anthony and Thanksgiving on the birthday of Maria Rodrigues

Tuesday, 6th January

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving for special intentions of Ana Rodriguez
6:30pm Millions of Monica's prayer group in the Church

Wednesday, 7th January

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes and
Thanksgiving on the Wedding Anniversary of Wendy and Leandar Lewis

Thursday, 8th January

Mass 9:15am Warren Michael D'Cruz (*1st Death Anniversary* ✕)
and Private Intention and for Protection in 2026
and For the Souls in Purgatory

Friday, 9th January

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Saturday, 10th January

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving on the birthday of Zarah Adaniel

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 Bunesse (*Recently Deceased* ✕)

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 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 and Maria Kutty, Dalrene Corera, Michael Bruno, Pamela Chen, Maria Tomaselli, Kevin Guian, Michael Hoare, Derek Chater, Louis Murray

The recently deceased:

Fr. Michael Shadbolt, François Vidot, Teresa Bunesse

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Jerson Pereira, Marc Mantel, Shawn Pio Taylor, Warren Michael D'Cruz, Rogelio Reyes

Weekly Collection

December 28, 2025

Thanksgiving: \$1,192.00

Presbytery: \$597.30

Reading Roster

Saturday, January 10

5:30pm J. Fernando

Sunday, January 11

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, January 17

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, January 18

8:30am G. Becerra

10:30am D. Naidoo

5:30pm J. Panicker

Church Cleaning

Saturday, January 10

Knights of the Southern Cross

Saturday, January 17

Legion of Mary

Daily Antiphons - Monday January 5 to Saturday January 10, 2026

January 5 - Monday after the Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon: A holy day has dawned upon us: Come, you nations, and adore the Lord, for a great light has come down upon the earth.

Responsorial Psalm: I will give you all the nations for your heritage.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: We have seen His glory, the glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with grace and truth.

January 6 - Tuesday after the Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord: The Lord is God and has given us light.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

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

Communion Antiphon: Because of that great love of His with which God loved us, He sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.

January 7 - Wednesday after the Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon: A people who walked in darkness has seen a great light; for those dwelling in a land of deep gloom, a light has shone.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Glory to Christ who is proclaimed to the world: glory from all who believe in Him! *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: That life which was with the Father became visible, and has appeared to us.

January 8 - Thursday after the Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon: In the beginning and before all ages, the Word was God and He humbled Himself to be born the Saviour of the world.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

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

Communion Antiphon: God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

January 9 - Friday after the Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon: A light has risen in the darkness for the upright of heart; the Lord is generous, merciful and just.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: By this the love of God was revealed to us: God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him.

January 10 - Saturday after the Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon: God sent His Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord takes delight in His people.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* A people in darkness have seen a great light; a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.