

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI

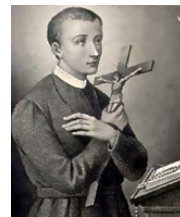
Parish Phone: 9792 4422 Email: dandenongnorth@cam.org.au Address: 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

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 School 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/>

First Sunday of Lent - Mass Readings (Year A) - February 21/22, 2026

Entrance Antiphon: When He calls on me, I will answer Him; I will deliver Him and give Him glory, I will grant Him length of days.

First Reading - Genesis 2: 7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading - Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which He was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But He replied, 'Scripture says: *Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*' The devil then took Him to the holy city and made Him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: *He will put you in His angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.*' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: *You must not put the Lord your God to the test.*' Next, taking Him to a very high mountain, the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: *You must worship the Lord your God, and serve Him alone.*' Then the devil left Him, and angels appeared and looked after Him.

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth 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.



Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained by Dr Edward Sri / RCIA Program - Join us on Thursday, 26th February, beginning at 7:00pm as we explore the topic of - 'A Catholic Moral Vision: Virtue, grace, and the path to happiness'. This beautifully crafted video series provides a deep exploration into our faith that will benefit all who attend. Whether you are considering becoming Catholic, are new to the faith or are an experienced Catholic you are guaranteed to learn something and find it to be a worthwhile experience.

For more information, contact Jeff on 0477 188 883.

Dandenong Deanery Dinner "Listening To: The Voices That Echo the Glory of God through Peace & Mercy, will be held on Wednesday, 4th March 2026. VENUE: Graduate's Restaurant, St. John's Regional College, Caroline Street, Dandenong. TIME: 5.30pm for 5.45pm start. \$48 per person for a three course meal, wine & beer. Guest Speaker: Peter Bellion APM. Please call Paddy to RSVP by February 27th, on 0422 296 961 or email dandenongdeanery@live.com.au.

We congratulate all the newly inducted Altar Servers Michael, Stephen and Hayden and assure them of our prayers as they begin their service at the altar. May the Lord bless and guide them in this sacred ministry. We also invite and encourage interested children and youth to come forward and join the Altar Server ministry.

Please call Ron Maroun on 0412 212 287.

A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple. Time-out for the two of you to focus on your most precious relationship. No group sharing is required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. We are currently offering 2 weekends in 2026. Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend: April 24 - 26th St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South. November 6 - 8th. St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South. Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm.

Information/Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or mail: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

Mazenod College Open Day will be held on Wednesday, 4th March 2026. Bookings are essential. Applications for year 7 for 2028 will close on Friday, 14th August 2026. Visit mazenod.vic.edu.au or call 9560 0911.

During LENT, the **Legion of Mary** will once again lead the **Stations of the Cross, right after the 9:15 am Mass every Monday**, starting from Monday, 23rd February 2026.

Everyone is welcome, please join us.

We will provide the Stations of the Cross pamphlets to be returned after.



Message of Thanks from the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver: Dear Fr Shanthaiah, Thank you very much for having given us the opportunity to be at St Gerard's Parish, North Dandenong last weekend, 14/15 February to promote our work for the missions and distribute our Claver Almanac – Calendar 2026. We were able to distribute 293 Almanacs, Calendars and received \$3,006.10 in donations. This was a most generous response from the Parishioners at St Gerard's, and we would be grateful if you would thank them on our behalf. Being at St Gerard's and joining with all the Parishioners in attending all the Masses is a most wonderful and inspiring experience.

We are all one in Christ, united in Mission as our Holy Father so beautifully stated in his message for World Mission Sunday which will be held later this year. With assurance of prayers for you and all at St Gerard's,

Sincerely in Christ, Sr Columba (Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver)

There is a plan to organise 30 days of consecutive Gregorian Masses and prayers for the repose of the soul of Fr. Michael Shadbolt. Please visit the Piety Stall should you wish to donate.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, 21st February - First Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm For the good health of Karen & Hermione Daniels
and Jenner Raffaut (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, February 22nd - First Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Anthony Joseph Domingo (*Birthday Remembrance* ✚)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 5:30pm Dominic Vien, Theresa Du, Paul Sang, Dominic Thai,
Dominic Ha, Dominic Dat and Theresa Dinh
(*Remembrances* ✚)

Monday, 23rd February

Mass 9:15am Annama Devasia Mundanthadathil

(*4th Death Anniversary* ✚)

and Repose of the soul of Kenneth Joseph Rodrigues ✚

After Mass Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, 24th February

Mass 9:15am Anka & Mijo Sr. Glavacevic (*Remembrance* ✚)

and Jude D'Cunha (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Wednesday, 25th February

Mass 9:15am Muriel DeSilva (*Birthday Remembrance* ✚)

and Raymond Fernandes (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Thursday, 26th February

Mass 9:15am For health, peace & prosperity for the family of
Mato Glavacevic

7:00pm Symbolon - RCIA Program

Friday, 27th February

Mass 9:15am Pia Valentino (*First Year Death Anniversary* ✚)

and Lakmani Siriwardene (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

and Claire Wickramasuriya and Michelle Parker

(*Death Anniversaries* ✚)

and For the souls in Purgatory

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass at 7:00pm

Saturday, 28th February

Mass 9:15am Repose of the souls of Antonette & Charles Henry
Vettivelu ✚

Saturday Vigil, 28th February - Second Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm For health, peace & prosperity for the family of Mara
Begovic

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, March 1st - Second Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Patrick Collins Jnr (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

and Giovanni & Brigida Cardamone (*Remembrance* ✚)

and Giuseppe Cardamone (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Parish Baptisms - Congratulations Daniel Morgano

Mass 5:30pm Maria Bonfante (*7th Death Anniversary* ✚)

Please pray for...

Our sick: Heather Fernandez, Steven Dickson, Ricky, Jeanne Joseph, Colin Hillas, Anne Moorthy, Fr. Brendan Lane, Giuseppina Bonato, Lucia Gatt, Audrey Hoareau, Lynette Whetton, Lucia, Sean VanTwest, Dale Rozario, Mauraad Beshy, Wafaa Farah, Blanca Vazquez, Raymond Mifsud, Maria Oblak, Gratton Vettivelu, 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, Libby Wilson, Kulandhai Therese, Andre, Anthony Cheng, Chris Antony

The recently deceased:

Holy Innocent Olivia, Marlene Ann Guinan, Thomas Marneni, Katrina Fagan, Abdou Abdou, Jenner Raffaut, Jude D'Cunha, Raymond Fernandes

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Anthony Domingo, Monica Kelly, John Pieters, Jenny Harter, Jack Lovett

Church Cleaning

Saturday, February 28

Maronite Community

Saturday, March 7

French Community

Weekly Collection

February 15, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,232.50

Presbytery: \$687.20

Reading Roster

Saturday, February 28

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, March 1

8:30am C. Becerra

10:30am E. Ebert

5:30pm B. Collins

Saturday, March 7

5:30pm J. Fernando

Sunday, March 8

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am Catechists

5:30pm L. Hector

Lenten Retreat - A 2-day Retreat for Children and Teens (ages 5 - 15) on March 14 and 15, 2026 Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Venue: St Agatha's Church, Cranbourne. Visit www.divinekids.com.au

Daily Antiphons - Monday February 23 – Saturday February 28, 2026

Monday of the First Week of Lent - February 23

Entrance Antiphon: Like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords, so our eyes are on the Lord our God, till He show us His mercy. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon: Amen, I say to you: Whatever you did for one of the least of My brethren, you did it for Me, says the Lord. Come, you blessed of My Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Tuesday of the First Week of Lent - February 24

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, You have been our refuge, from generation to generation; from age to age, You are.

Responsorial Psalm: From all their afflictions God will deliver the just.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: When I called, the God of justice gave me answer; from anguish You released me; have mercy, O Lord, and hear my prayer!

Wednesday of the First Week of Lent - February 25

Entrance Antiphon: Remember Your compassion, O Lord, and Your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

Responsorial Psalm: A broken, humbled heart, O God, You will not scorn.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* With all your heart turn to Me, for I am tender and compassionate. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: All who take refuge in You shall be glad, O Lord, and ever cry out their joy, and You shall dwell among them.

Thursday of the First Week of Lent - February 26

Entrance Antiphon: To my words give ear, O Lord; give heed to my sighs. Attend to the sound of my cry, my King and my God.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, on the day I called for help, You answered me.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* Create a clean heart in me, O God; give back to me the joy of Your salvation. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Friday of the First Week of Lent - February 27

Entrance Antiphon: Set me free from my distress, O Lord. See my lowliness and suffering, and take away all my sins.

Responsorial Psalm: If You, O Lord, laid bare our guilt, who could endure it?

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* Rid yourselves of all your sins and make a new heart and a new spirit. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon: As I live, says the Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he turn back and live.

Saturday of the First Week of Lent - February 28

Entrance Antiphon: The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the Lord are steadfast: they give wisdom to the simple.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect, says the Lord.

