

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI

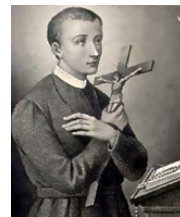
Parish Phone: 9792 4422 Email: dandenongnorth@cam.org.au Address: 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

Website: www.stgerards.org.au Facebook: facebook.com/saintgerardparish

Confession: Until April 7th, NO weekday Confession only Saturday prior to & after Mass until 10:30am *check website *

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent - Mass Readings (Year A) - March 21 & 22, 2026

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for You, O God, are my strength.

First Reading - Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading - Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in Me will not die for ever. ***Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Gospel Reading - John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who lives and believes in Me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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"

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.



Evening of confession at St. Gerard's will be held this Monday, 23rd March, between 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please see the posters and website www.stgerards.org.au for more information. Confession will only be heard on a Saturday after Mass, until April 7th.

The Good Friday Holy Land Collection will be taken up on Good Friday, the 3rd of April. We thank you in advance for your generosity. Your donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in the Holy Land.

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained by Dr Edward Sri / RCIA Program - On Thursday, March 26th, beginning at 7:00pm we explore the topic of - 'Catholic Social Teaching - Protecting the Dignity of the Human Race.' 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.

Holy Week & Easter Mass Times, 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

St. Gerard's Parish Vigil Mass - Saturday, 28th March at 5:30pm

Maronite Community Palm Sunday Mass, 28th March at 7:00pm

Palm Sunday, March 29th - Mass at 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm

Monday 30th & Tuesday March 31st & Wednesday April 1st

Parish Mass at 9:15am and No confessions

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday - April 2nd

No morning Mass and No Confessions

7:00pm - The Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until midnight

Good Friday - April 3rd - No Confessions

9:00am - Stations of the Cross

11:00am - Maronite Community Good Friday Service

3:00pm - Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - April 4th

9:00am until 10:00am - Confessions

6:00pm - Maronite Community Easter Vigil Mass

8:30pm - St. Gerard's Easter Vigil Mass

The Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Sunday - April 5th

8:30am Mass and 10:30am Mass - No Evening Mass

The Archbishop formally signed the Decree of Convocation of the Melbourne Synod a few weeks back. Each week we will share frequently asked questions regarding Synods with you.

A Synod is not a parliament: The Church is not a democracy where truth is decided by majority vote. A Synod is not about winning arguments or pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual process of listening deeply—to God, to Scripture, to tradition, and to one another—so that decisions are shaped by faith and mission, not ideology.

Why listening matters in the Church: Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys, and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom.

Who participates in a Synod?: A Synod involves the whole People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all share responsibility for the Church's mission. Synodality does not blur roles—it helps each vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.

Synodality and bishops: Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith: Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, 21st March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 22nd March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Ive & Zora Skoblar (*Remembrance* ✝)

and Donata Mercy Emmanuel (*3rd Death Anniversary* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Monday, 23rd March - Evening of Reconciliation tonight

Mass 9:15am Josephine Blom (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

and For Nikita to perform well in her 12th board exam

After Mass, Stations of the Cross led by the Legion of Mary

6:30pm to 7:30pm Confessions

Tuesday, 24th March

Mass 9:15am Ante Skoblar (*Remembrance* ✝)

and Gloria DeSilva (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

and Olga Kroon (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

Wednesday, 25th March - The Annunciation of the Lord

Mass 9:15am Bruno and Maria Missaglia (*Remembrance* ✝)

and For the deceased members of the Lonetti family
and for the souls in Purgatory

Thursday, 26th March

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit for favour granted
and for the abandoned souls in Purgatory

7:00pm Symbolon - RCIA Program

Friday, 27th March

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving on the birthday of Valerie Tsang

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

Saturday, 28th March

Mass 9:15am Repose of the souls of F.X. Pereira and Emily
Pereira (*Remembrance* ✝) *and* for the abandoned
Souls in Purgatory

and Thanksgiving on the birthday of Griselda Lopez

Saturday Vigil, 28th March

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Mass 5:30pm Marcienne Rivet and Denise Pélicier
(*Death Anniversary* ✝)

and Thanksgiving Mass from the Fernando Family

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community Palm Sunday

Sunday, 29th March - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Mass 8:30am Repose of the souls of Antonette & Charles Henry
Vettivelu (*Remembrance* ✝)

and Angela Chmielewski (*2nd Death Anniversary* ✝)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 5:30pm Sandra Wickremesooriya (*Death Anniversary* ✝)

Please pray for...

Our sick: Heather Fernandez, Maria Tomaselli, Ricky Fagan, Jeanne Joseph, Anne Moorthy, Lynette Whetton, Lucia, Gration Vettivelu, John Keble, Pamela Chen, Michael Bruno, Steven Dickson, Derek Chater, Franca Rechichi, Robyn Coffee, Marion Quyn, David Naidoo, Barbara Daniells

The recently deceased:

Phillip Deayton, Maria Farry

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Josephine Blom, John Pieters, Brigida Cardamone, Robert Ryan, Helen & Rudy Watts, Jacqueline James

Church Cleaning

Saturday, March 28

Frank, Zenon, Betty, Robert, Kim

Saturday, April 4

R. Quyn, Xavier Fam., T. Bui, Sheela

Weekly Collection

March 15, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,412.50

Presbytery: \$791.50

Reading Roster

Saturday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am R. Gonsalves

5:30pm L. Hector

Readers for Easter

Holy Thursday - 2nd April

R. Gonsalves, M. Naidoo and

J. D'Souza

Good Friday - 3rd April

I. Muliopola, J. D'Souza, A. Miranda

C. Becerra, Fr. Shanthaiah,

M. Lourdunathan and Choir

Easter Vigil Saturday - 4th April

J. Fernando, R. Rodrigues,

D. Franklin/Catechists,

B. Collins/Catechists, C. Fernando,

and E. Ebert

Easter Sunday - 5th April

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am A. Pacifique

No Evening Mass Easter Sunday

All readers for Holy Week and Easter will be contacted and will be provided with details of readings.

Daily Antiphons - Season of Lent

Monday March 23rd — Saturday March 28th, 2026



Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent - March 23

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O God, for people assail me; they fight me all day long and oppress me.

Responsorial Psalm: Though I walk in the valley of darkness I fear no evil, for You are with me.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord, but to turn to Me and live. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent - March 24

Entrance Antiphon: Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord!

Responsorial Psalm: O Lord hear my prayer, and let my cry come to You.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to Him will live for ever. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon: When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself, says the Lord.

Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent - March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord said, as He entered the world: Behold, I come to do Your will, O God.

Responsorial Psalm: Here am I, Lord; I come to do Your will.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Emmanuel.

Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent - March 26

Entrance Antiphon: Christ is mediator of a New Covenant, so that by means of His death, those who are called may receive the promise of an eternal inheritance.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord remembers His covenant for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: God did not spare His own Son, but handed Him over for us all; with Him, He has given us all things.

Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent - March 27

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in distress. Deliver me from the hands of my enemies and those who pursue me. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on You.

Responsorial Psalm: In my distress I called upon the Lord, and He heard my voice.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the cross, so that dead to sin, we might live for righteousness. By His wounds we have been healed.

Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent - March 28

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me! For I am a worm and no man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock.

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: Christ was handed over, to gather into one the scattered children of God.