

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAI AH MARNENI

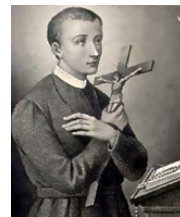
Parish Phone: 9792 4422 Email: dandenongnorth@cam.org.au Address: 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

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: Tues, Wed, 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



Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)- Mass Readings (Year A) - March 14 & 15, 2026

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading - 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows Me will have the light of life. *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel Reading - John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.' So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

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.



God and Beer - Monday 16th March - The Social Reign of Christ the King. We are pleased to announce that Fr Brendan Arthur will be speaking at our next God and Beer evening. In a culture that often seeks to confine faith to the private sphere, what does it mean to proclaim Christ not only as King of our hearts, but as King of families, communities, and nations? Fr. Brendan will explore the meaning of the Social Reign of Christ the King and what it asks of Catholics today. How should Christians think about society, politics, culture, and public life in light of Christ's kingship? Is 'Christendom' just a relic of the past, or our hope for the future? Fr Arthur is the Assistant Priest at St. John Henry Newman Parish in Caulfield. This promises to be an evening of good conversation, fellowship, and faith. We hope you'll join us, Monday 16th March, 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk. At the Notting Hill Hotel, [Steakhouse Room](#), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd., Notting Hill. Tickets: Free.

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained by Dr Edward Sri / RCIA Program - Join us on Thursday, March 19th, beginning at 7:00pm as we explore the topic of - 'Catholic Social Teaching - Building a Civilisation of Love.' 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

Last Sunday, the Archbishop formally signed the Decree of Convocation of the Melbourne Synod. With this important step now taken, it is now up to all of us to make the most of this opportunity for our Archdiocese.

Through our shared efforts, we can understand the significance of this moment and encourage participation in the synodal journey. Each week we will share more with you.

What is a Synod? A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

Where does the word "Synod" come from? The word Synod comes from the Greek syn-hodos, meaning "walking together on the road." This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ. **Synodality is not new** - Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Please note: Mass on Thursday 19th March will begin at 8:30am

Saturday Vigil, 14th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Giovanna McKercher (*Remembrance* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 15th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Nada Skoblar (*Remembrance* ✚)

and Private Intention

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm James Hansen (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Monday, 16th March

Mass 9:15am Ive Glavan (*Remembrance* ✚)

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

Tuesday, 17th March - Saint Patrick

Mass 9:15am For Nikita to perform well in her 12th board exam

Wednesday, 18th March

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving on the Birthday of Christine Donald

and Thanksgiving on the 21st Birthday of Joshua

Francis

and In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Thursday, 19th March - Saint Joseph

****Morning Mass time change****

Mass 8:30am Brigida Cardamone (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

and Josephine Binny (*Remembrance* ✚)

7:00pm Symbolon - RCIA Program

Friday, 20th March

Mass 9:15am Marissa Skoblar (*Remembrance* ✚)

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by

Mass at 7:00pm Intentions of the Parish

Saturday, 21st March

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to St. Anthony and Thanksgiving on

Nigel Rodrigues Birthday

and Diana De Souza (*Birthday Remembrance* ✚)

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* ✚)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

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, Robyn Coffey

The recently deceased:

David Rainbow, Anacorita Cruz, Thomas Marneni, Mavis Braganza, Veronica, Chris Antony, Katrina Fagan, Phillip Deayton, James Hansen

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Douglas Perera, John Mark Gubbins

Church Cleaning

Saturday, March 21

Mulipola Family

Saturday, March 28

Frank, Zenon, Betty, Robert, Kim

Weekly Collection

March 8, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,363.50

Presbytery: \$729.70

Reading Roster

Saturday, March 21

5:30pm B. Collins

Sunday, March 22

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

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

Evening of confession at St. Gerard's to be held on Monday, 23rd March, between 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please see the posters and www.stgerards.org.au for more information.

Daily Antiphons - Season of Lent

Monday March 16th — Saturday March 21st, 2026



Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 16

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, I trust in the Lord. Let me be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have seen my affliction.

Responsorial Psalm: I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and the Lord will be with you. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: I will place my spirit within you and make you walk according to my laws; and my judgements you shall keep and observe, says the Lord.

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 17 - Saint Patrick

Entrance Antiphon: Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

Responsorial Psalm: Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord, what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 18

Entrance Antiphon: I pray to You, O Lord, for a time of Your favour. In Your great mercy, answer me, O God, with Your salvation that never fails.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

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!*

Communion Antiphon: God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 19 - Saint Joseph

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, a faithful and prudent steward, whom the Lord set over His household.

Responsorial Psalm: The Son of David will live for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* How happy they who dwell in Your house, O Lord; continually they sing Your praise! *Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy.

Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 20

Entrance Antiphon: O God, save me by Your name; by Your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is near to broken hearts.

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!*

Communion Antiphon: In Christ, we have redemption by His Blood, and forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the riches of His grace.

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent - March 21

Entrance Antiphon: The waves of death rose about me; the pains of the netherworld surrounded me. In my anguish I called to the Lord, and from His holy temple He heard my voice.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, my God, I take shelter in You.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: By the precious Blood of Christ, the Blood of a spotless and unblemished Lamb, we have been redeemed.