

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI

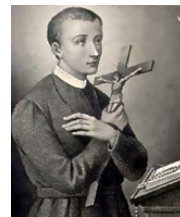
Parish Phone: 9792 4422 Email: dandenongnorth@cam.org.au Address: 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

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: 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



Third Sunday of Lent - Mass Readings (Year A) - March 7 & 8, 2026

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for He rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading - Exodus 17:3-7 - Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading - Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 - Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!* Lord, You are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. ***Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

Gospel Reading - John 4:5-42 - Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

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.



Thanksgiving Financial Statements for 2025

The Thanksgiving Financial Statement for 2025 has been prepared and is available for collection from the foyer of the church. We sincerely acknowledge and thank all parishioners for their generous contributions and ongoing support of the Church.

Please note that from next year, the Financial Statements will be sent to you by email.

Please ensure your email address is provided to us either by contacting the office on 9792 4422 or by sending an email to dandenongnorth@cam.org.au, to enable future correspondence. Thank you.

KSC Football Tipping Competition - The Knights of the Southern Cross Dandenong North Branch would like to invite all parishioners to participate in its Football Tipping Competition in 2026. Cost to participate is \$50 for the entire season, where 50% of funds raised go to prizes, and the other 50% to the Branch in its support of the local Parishes. Those who guess all 9 tips correctly win \$30 for the round, and the overall winner of the season will receive over \$1,000 in prize money. The rules for the 2026 KSC Footy Tipping Competition can be found on the Parish Bulletin board. Please contact Carmine Miranda on 0412 817 995 or carmine.miranda@bigpond.com for any queries and expressions of interest. Round 1 commences on Thursday March 5, with Sydney vs. Carlton. Parishioners can encourage friends and relatives to participate. This is one of KSC Dandenong North Branch's biggest fundraisers, with over 140 participants and \$3,500 raised last year, which funds our projects and donations within the surrounding parishes. Tips to be lodged via internet <http://www.footytips.com.au> Login/username/password.

Melbourne Synod 2026 - Preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026 are now underway. Please visit melbournecatholic.org/synod2026 or collect the Archbishop's Pastoral letter from the foyer.

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained by Dr Edward Sri / RCIA Program - Join us on Thursday, March 12th, beginning at 7:00pm as we explore the topic of - 'A Love that Lasts: God's plan for sexuality.' 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.

Mary Magdalene – The Musical An uplifting Lenten production retelling the journey of Mary Magdalene through music and story. Presented by **COG Theatre Group** and directed by **Beth Mondragon Williams**, this moving work reflects on redemption, grace, and hope. **When:** Friday & Saturday 13–14 March, 7:00 pm Saturday & Sunday 14–15 March, 1:00 pm. **Where:** Renaissance Theatre, High Street, Kew **Tickets:** trybooking.com/DHZPD

Please discard any unused thanksgiving envelopes you may have from previous years. Many thanksgiving numbers have been changed and the envelopes from the last few years have been updated. Thank you for your support of our parish.

Please note that the parish office will be closed on a Monday and Thursday until March 16.

Please inform the office by the 10th of March if you wish a name to remain in the sick list. Thank you.

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, 7th March - Third Sunday of Lent

Mass 5:30pm Repose of the soul of Chris Antony
(Recently Deceased ✝)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, 8th March - Third Sunday of Lent

Mass 8:30am Angelina Sacco *(Death Anniversary ✝)*
and Thanksgiving on the birthday of Rita Ghosh

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community

Mass 5:30pm Roydon J. Fernandez *(Remembrance ✝)*

Monday, 9th March - Labour Day Public Holiday - Office Closed

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

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

Tuesday, 10th March

Mass 9:15am David Rainbow *(Recently Deceased ✝)*
and Mavis Braganza *(Recently Deceased ✝)*

Wednesday, 11th March

Mass 9:15am Simone Valadon *(Death Anniversary ✝)*
and Philomena Edmonds *(Remembrance ✝)*

Thursday, 12th March

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

7:00pm Symbolon - RCIA Program

Friday, 13th March

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving for recovery & healing of Vijayan Francis

and For Nikita to perform well in her 12th board exam
and Anacorita Cruz *(Recently Deceased ✝)*

6:30pm Stations of the Cross followed by

Mass at 7:00pm Repose of the soul of Chris Antony
(Recently Deceased ✝)

Saturday, 14th March

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes - Isabelle, Christelle, and Rosabelle D'Vaz & Luke Lewis

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 ✝)*

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 3:30pm French Community

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Please pray for...

Our sick: Heather Fernandez, Steven Dickson, Ricky Fagan, Jeanne Joseph, Colin Hillas, Dale Rozario, Lucia Gatt, Anne Moorthy, Giuseppina Bonato, Audrey Hoareau, Lynette Whetton, Lucia, Sean VanTwist, Mauraad Beshy, Wafaa Farah, Blanca Vazquez, Raymond Mifsud, Maria Oblak, Gration 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, Michael Bruno, Pamela Chen, Maria Tomaselli, Kevin Guian, Michael Hoare, Derek Chater, Libby Wilson, Kulandhai Therese, Andre, Anthony Cheng, Ella Cardozo
Please inform the office by the 10th of March if you wish a name to remain in this sick list. Thank you.

The recently deceased:

Chris Antony, Liam & Hayden Taylor, David Rainbow, Anacorita Cruz, Katrina Fagan, Thomas Marneni, Mavis Braganza, Veronica

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Simone Valadon, Anna Kshevena, Angelina Sacco, Elisa Vaccaro

Church Cleaning

Saturday, March 14

Tamil Community

Saturday, March 21

Frank, Zenon, Betty, Robert, Kim

Weekly Collection

March 1, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,681.00

Presbytery: \$759.50

Reading Roster

Saturday, March 14

5:30pm J. D'Souza

Sunday, March 15

8:30am G. Becerra

10:30am J. Panicker

5:30pm Janet D'Souza

Saturday, March 21

5:30pm B. Collins

Sunday, March 22

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am A. Pacifique

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Daily Antiphons

Monday March 9th – Saturday March 14th, 2026



Monday of the Third Week of Lent - March 9

Entrance Antiphon: My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see Him face to face?

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* I hope in the Lord, I trust in His word; with Him there is mercy and fullness of redemption. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: O praise the Lord, all you nations, for His merciful love towards us is great.

Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent - March 10

Entrance Antiphon: To You I call, for You will surely heed me, O God; turn Your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of Your eye; in the shadow of Your wings protect me.

Responsorial Psalm: Remember Your mercies, O Lord.

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: Lord, who may abide in Your tent, and dwell on Your holy mountain? Whoever walks without fault and does what is just.

Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent - March 11

Entrance Antiphon: Let my steps be guided by Your promise; may evil never rule me.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

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: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in Your presence, O Lord.

Thursday of the Third Week of Lent - March 12

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to Me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* With all your heart turn to Me, for I am tender and compassionate. *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down Your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping Your statutes.

Friday of the Third Week of Lent - March 13

Entrance Antiphon: Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord, for You are great and do marvellous deeds; You alone are God.

Responsorial Psalm: I am the Lord, Your God: hear My voice.

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. *Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: To love God with all your heart, and your neighbour as yourself, is worth more than any sacrifice.

Saturday of the Third Week of Lent - March 14

Entrance Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all His benefits; it is He who forgives all your sins.

Responsorial Psalm: It is steadfast love, not sacrifice, that God desires.

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: The tax collector stood at a distance, beating his breast and saying: O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.