

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 *Visit website for updates*

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/> or see the Safeguarding Officer. "Child Safety is Everyone's Responsibility"

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Mass Readings (Year A) - August 2nd, 2026

Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading - Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm: The hand of the Lord feeds us: He answers all our needs.

Second Reading - Romans 8:35, 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 14: 13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

Communion Antiphon: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Prayer to Saint Gerard Majella



Great protector of the family, Saint 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.

Saints of Italy (2nd-16th October 2026) - Fr Franco Filipetto from St. Mary's Parish in Warrick, invites you on a 14-day pilgrimage to Milan, Padua, Florence, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo, and Rome, walking in the footsteps of the saints. All-inclusive price: \$9,990 (20+ pilgrims). **Footsteps of St Paul (5th–19th October 2026)** - Fr Sebastian A.M from St. Mary's Parish, Dandenong invites you on a 15-day pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, visiting Athens, Corinth, Meteora, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Gallipoli, Ephesus, Istanbul and Cappadocia. All-inclusive price: \$9,790 (20+ pilgrims). The tour cost includes return economy airfares, local transfers in deluxe coaches, accommodation in 4-star premium hotels, daily meals, English-speaking professional guides, and entrance fees. Enquiries: 03 8839 6615 | pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

Food in Due Season: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In Jesus and the Church, Isaiah's promises in today's First Reading are fulfilled. All who are thirsty come to the living waters of Baptism (see John 4:14). The hungry delight in rich fare—given bread to eat and wine to drink at the Eucharistic table. This is the point, too, of today's Gospel. The story of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 brims with allusions to the Old Testament. Jesus is portrayed as a David-like shepherd who leads His flock to lie down on green grass as He spreads the table of the Messiah's banquet before them (see Psalm 23). Jesus is shown as a new Moses, who likewise feeds vast crowds in a deserted place. Finally, Jesus is shown doing what the prophet Elisha did—satisfying the hunger of the crowd with a few loaves and having some left over (see 2 Kings 4:42–44). Matthew also wants us to see the feeding of the 5,000 as a sign of the Eucharist. Notice that Jesus performs the same actions in the same sequence as at the Last Supper—He takes bread, says a blessing, breaks it, and gives it (see Matthew 26:26). Jesus instructed His Apostles to celebrate the Eucharist in memory of Him. And the ministry of the Twelve is subtly stressed in today's account. Before He performs the miracle, Jesus instructs the Twelve to give the crowd “some food yourselves.” Indeed, the Apostles themselves distribute the bread blessed by Jesus (see Matthew 15:36). And the leftovers are enough to fill precisely 12 baskets—corresponding to each of the Apostles, the pillars of the Church (see Galatians 2:9; Revelation 21:14). In the Church, as we sing in today's Psalm, God gives us food in due season, opens His hands and satisfies the desires of every living thing. Now, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark “Catholic” in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

National Vocations Awareness Week – Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has launched the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign, calling on Melbourne's Catholic faithful to be stewards of the Church's mission by supporting seminarians, retired priests and vital ministries across the Archdiocese. This year, the campaign aims to raise \$2 million to strengthen key ministries including the CatholicCare Chaplaincy Program, the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf and Melbourne Overseas Mission. The collection will be held next weekend the 8th and 9th of August. Gifts may be made online or by completing the tear-off pledge card attached to campaign envelopes with cash, credit card or cheque. This will begin as of next weekend.

Please visit the Piety stall to place your order for 'God's Word' for 2027. Thank you.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday Vigil, August 1 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Bruno Lebrasse, Joelle Lebrasse, Nadege Atchia & Hans Vydilingum (*Remembrance* ✚)
and Rev. Fr. Michael Patrick (*4th Death Anniversary* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Sunday, August 2 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Repose of the soul of, and Thanksgiving to, Marie-Claire De Chalain ✚

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 5:30pm Romano Parmigioni (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Monday, August 3 - Saint Dominic

Mass 9:15am Denzil Hookens (*Remembrance* ✚)

Tuesday, August 4 - Saint John Vianney

Mass 9:15am Fr. Michael Shadbolt (*8 month Death Anniversary* ✚)

and The Prayer intentions of the St. Gerard's Monica Prayer Group

and Barbara Adolphus (*Remembrance* ✚)

6:30pm Millions of Monica's Prayer Group (*meet in the Church*)

Wednesday, August 5

Mass 9:15am Repose of the soul of Serge Savanah (*Remembrance* ✚)

Thursday, August 6 - The Transfiguration of the Lord

Mass 9:15am Intentions of the Parish

Friday, August 7

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to St. Anthony - Nigel and Maria Rodrigues

Saturday, August 8 - Saint Mary of the Cross

Mass 9:15am Lovett Dos Remedios (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

and Ravi K. (*Remembrance* ✚) and for the repose of the abandoned souls in purgatory

and Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni from Dominic and Belinda D'Vaz and family

and Thanksgiving on the birthday of Cecilia Donald

Saturday Vigil, August 8 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Jean-Claude Dedans, Jean Loup Gontran, Roger Christophe and Daniel Chung Chin (*Remembrance* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

****Please note that the Maronite Mass will be held on **Sunday**, 16th August and **Sunday**, 23rd August at 7:00pm instead of Saturday, 15th and Saturday, 22nd August ****

Sunday, August 9 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Glen Latchford (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

and Stefano Giacomini (*16th Death Anniversary* ✚)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 3:30pm Tamil Community

Mass 5:30pm Bruno Lebrasse, Joelle Lebrasse, Nadege Atchia & Hans Vydilingum (*Remembrance* ✚)

Please pray for...

Our sick: Fr Brendan Lane, Maria Tomaselli, Ricky Fagan, Anne Moorthy, Lynette Whetton, Lucia, Gration Vettivelu, John Keble, Gabby Vettivelu, Pamela Chen, Michael Bruno, Steven Dickson, Derek Chater, Franca Rechichi, Marion Quyn, David Naidoo, Barbara Daniells, Sean VanTwist, Damien Gerard Misquith, Christopher Patterson, Gerard, Marie Thomas, Frances Dos Remedios, Antonimary, Rosalie Wright, Michael DePenha, Margaret Rose Rochecouste, Fr Patolo Matiasi, Shaan, Peter D'Silva

The recently deceased:

Lovett Dos Remedios, Fiorina Miranda, Marie Therese Leclerc, Romano Parmigioni, Jackie Foulstone, Raju Padikkala

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Fr. Michael Shadbolt, Marie-Claire De Chalain, Trevin De Kauwe, Fr. Michael Patrick, Barbara Adolphus

Church Cleaning

Saturday, August 8

R. Quyn, Xavier Family, T. Bui, and Sheela

Saturday, August 15

Knights of the Southern Cross

Weekly Collection

July 26, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,208.50

Presbytery: \$657.15

Reading Roster

Saturday, August 8

5:30pm J. Fernando

Sunday, August 9

8:30am G. Dos Remedios

10:30am K. Lopez

5:30pm H. Dennis

Saturday, August 15

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, August 16

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am M. Jose

5:30pm B. Collins

Daily Antiphons - Monday August 3, to Saturday, August 8, 2026

Monday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 3 - Saint Dominic

Entrance Antiphon: In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

Responsorial Psalm: Teach me Your laws, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: This is the steward, faithful and prudent, whom the Lord set over His household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time.

Tuesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 4 - Saint John Vianney

Entrance Antiphon: Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; Your holy ones shall ring out their joy.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord will build up Zion again, and appear in all His glory.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Master, You are the Son of God, You are the king of Israel. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when He comes. Amen I say to you: He will put that servant in charge of all His property.

Wednesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 5

Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited His people. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Thursday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* This is My Son, My beloved, in whom is all My delight: listen to Him. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: When Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Friday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 7

Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

Responsorial Psalm: It is I who deal death and give life.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Happy are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Saturday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 8 - Saint Mary of the Cross

Entrance Antiphon: Come, you blessed of My Father, says the Lord: I was sick, and you visited Me. Amen, I say to you: whatever you did for one of the least of My brethren, you did it for Me.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul clings to You; Your right hand holds me fast.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after Him. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another, says the Lord.