

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI

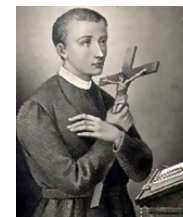
Parish Phone: 9792 4422 **Email:** dandenongnorth@cam.org.au **Address:** 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

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"

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Mass Readings (Year A) - August 9, 2026

Entrance Antiphon: Look to Your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of Your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend Your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek You.

First Reading - 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, show us Your mercy and love, and grant us Your salvation.

Second Reading - Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* I hope in the Lord, I trust in His word. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Communion Antiphon: O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

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

Sinking Fear: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

How do we find God in the storms and struggles of our lives, in the trials we encounter in trying to do His will? God commands Elijah in today's First Reading to stand on the mountain and await His passing by. And in the Gospel, Jesus makes the disciples set out across the waters to meet Him. In each case, the Lord makes Himself present amid frightening tumult—heavy winds and high waves, fire and earthquakes. Elijah hides his face. Perhaps he remembers Moses, who met God on the same mountain, also amid fire, thunder, and smoke (see Deuteronomy 4:10–15; Exodus 19:17–19). God told Moses no one could see His face and live, and He sheltered Moses in the hollow of a rock, as He shelters Elijah in a cave (see Exodus 33:18–23). The disciples, likewise, are too terrified to look on the face of God. Today's Gospel is a revelation of Jesus' divine identity. Only God treads across the crest of the sea (see Job 9:8) and rules the raging waters (see Psalm 89:9–10). And the words of assurance that Jesus speaks—"It is I"—are those God used to identify Himself to Moses (see Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 43:10). Even Peter is too overcome by fear to imitate his Lord. His fears, Jesus tells him, are a sign of his lack of faith. And so it often is with us. Our fears make us doubt, make it hard to see His glory dwelling in our midst. Yet, we should know, as we sing in today's Psalm, that His salvation is near to those who hope in Him. By faith we should know, as Paul asserts in today's Epistle, that we are heirs to the promises made to His children, Israel. We must trust that He whispers to us in the trials of our lives—that He who has called us to walk along the way of His steps—save us whenever we begin to sink.

Supporting the persecuted: Help rebuild a Cathedral in the Philippines with Aid to the Church in Need

In 2017, Christians in the city of Marawi in the southern Philippines faced brutal persecution from Islamist militants. More than 800 people were killed and thousands of families were displaced. During the five months of violence, the Cathedral of St Mary was bombed, desecrated and destroyed. Nine years on, there is a growing desire for healing and reconciliation. The poor and faithful people of Marawi have asked for our help to rebuild their beloved cathedral so they can once again gather, pray, and be witnesses of Christ in this Muslim-majority region.

To learn more or provide your support, please visit: aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject

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 this weekend on 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. Thank you.

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.

MASS and INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 8 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Jean-Claude Dedans, Jean Loup Gontran, Roger Christophe and Daniel Chung Chin (*Remembrance* ✚)
and Repose of the souls of Paul Rajiah Fernando and Rani Fernando (*Remembrance* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

****Please note, the Maronite Mass will change to Sunday from next weekend for two weeks only. ****

Sunday, August 9 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Glen Latchford (*Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Stefano Giacomini (*16th Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Mary Abrew (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

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* ✚)

Monday, August 10 - Saint Lawrence

Mass 9:15am Private Intention of Thanksgiving
and Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni from Anne Moorthy and repose of the soul of Nadesan Moorthy

Tuesday, August 11 - Saint Claire

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni from Anne Moorthy & repose of the soul of Nadesan Moorthy
and Ansley Gero (*Recently Deceased* ✚)

Wednesday, August 12

Mass 9:15am Hedley Simonet (*Death Anniversary* ✚)
and Jeanne Joseph & Heather DeKrester & Ganam Joseph (*Remembrance* ✚)

Thursday, August 13

Mass 9:15am Denis Domingo & Pamela Francis (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Friday, August 14 - Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Mass 9:15am Giovanna McKercher (*Remembrance* ✚)
and Maurice Blom (*Remembrance* ✚)

Saturday, August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation

Mass 9:15am No Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil, August 15

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Intentions of the Parish

Sunday, August 16 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Please note: French Mass will be held next Sunday, 23rd August at the same time of 3:30pm

Mass 5:30pm Peter and Elizabeth Panicker (*Death Anniversary* ✚)

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community



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:

Jackie Foulstone, Raju Padikkala, Mary Abrew, Ansley Gero, Antonette Augustus

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Paul Rajiah Fernando, Rani Fernando, Rita Harbour

Church Cleaning

Saturday, August 15

Knights of the Southern Cross

Saturday, August 22

Legion of Mary

Weekly Collection

August 2, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,790.50

Presbytery: \$864.50

Reading Roster

Saturday, August 15

5:30pm C. Fernando

Sunday, August 16

8:30am G. Van Hees

10:30am M. Jose

5:30pm B. Collins

Saturday, August 22

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, August 23

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am M. Naidoo

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Please Note:

No confessions will be heard during the week from Monday 10th August until Friday 14th August. Confession will be heard Saturday 15th August before the Mass only, from 8:15am-9:00am. No confessions after the Mass.

Daily Antiphons - Monday August 10, to Saturday August 15, 2026

Monday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 10 - Saint Lawrence

Entrance Antiphon: This is the blessed Lawrence who gave himself up for the treasure of the Church: for this he earned the suffering of martyrdom to ascend with joy to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy the merciful who give to those in need.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows Me will have the light of life. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Whoever serves Me must follow Me and where I am there also will My servant be, says the Lord.

Tuesday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 11 - Saint Clare

Entrance Antiphon: I despised the kingdom of the world and all worldly finery for love of my Lord, Jesus Christ, whom I have seen, whom I have loved, in whom I have believed, in whom has been my delight.

Responsorial Psalm: How sweet to my taste is Your promise!

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Take My yoke upon you; learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: One thing is necessary: she has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Wednesday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 12

Entrance Antiphon: Look to Your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of Your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend Your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek You.

Responsorial Psalm: The glory of the Lord is higher than the skies.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to Himself; and the Good News of reconciliation He has entrusted to us. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Thursday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 13

Entrance Antiphon: Look to Your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of Your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend Your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek You.

Responsorial Psalm: Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Let Your face shine on Your servant, and teach me Your laws. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Friday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 14 - Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe

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

Responsorial Psalm: You have turned from your anger to comfort me.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Receive this message not as human words, but as truly the word of God. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Greater love has no one than to lay down his life for his friends, says the Lord.

Saturday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time - August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon: A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Responsorial Psalm: The queen stands at Your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: All generations will call me blessed, for He who is mighty has done great things for me.



