

ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. SHANTHAIAH MARNENI

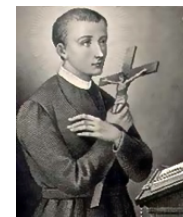
Parish Phone: 9792 4422 **Email:** dandenongnorth@cam.org.au **Address:** 71 Gladstone Road, Dandenong North, Victoria, 3175

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"

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Mass Readings (Year A) - August 16, 2026

Entrance Antiphon: Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of Your anointed one; one day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading - Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm: O God, let all the nations praise You!

Second Reading - Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed all who were sick. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

Please Note: Father Shanthaiah will be on annual leave from Monday, 24th August and will return 21st September. In his absence, visiting priests will be saying daily mass and confession times will vary. Please visit the website and check the bulletin notices for any changes.

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.

From Monday, 17th August, the Church will be locked each weekday at 2:00pm.

Should you wish to pray in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, please visit the parish office to be issued with the code.

The code will not be provided by email or over the phone. Thank you.

Melbourne Synod - Archbishop Comensoli has formally convoked a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. A synod is a gathering of God's people – bishops, priests and lay faithful – who come and discern together about matters regarding faith, governance, and pastoral care. This process involves prayer, dialogue, and consultation, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of the Church's mission in the contemporary world. You have been invited to contribute towards the synod by submitting your reflections on the themes: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation & Participation. Please access the synod papers and make your submission via <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026> by Friday 21 August 2026.

Pre Father's Day Dinner Dance - St. Mary's Social Club invites all dads, families, and friends to join us for a special Pre Father's Day Dinner Dance. Friday, 4 September 2026 at 7:00 PM till late at St. Mary's Community Centre, 26 New Street, Dandenong. Enjoy a delicious dinner, live music by Matrix Dance Band, and a wonderful evening of celebration and fellowship. Tickets: Adults \$40 (dinner included). Children 5–12 years \$20. BYO Drinks. Dress Code: Smart Casual. For tickets, please contact: Bernard Barr 0412 372 566 | Brian David 0430 076 691 | Melanie Watts 0402 709 406. All are welcome! We look forward to celebrating with you.

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 again this weekend. 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.

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco
We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.
Applications close October 31st, 2026. Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

A Foreigner's Faith: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Most of us are the foreigners, the non-Israelites, about whom today's First Reading prophesies. Coming to worship the God of Israel, we stand in the line of faith epitomised by the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. Calling to Jesus as Lord and Son of David, this foreigner shows her great faith in God's covenant with Israel. Jesus tests her faith three times. He refuses to answer her cry. Then, He tells her His mission is only to Israelites. Finally, He uses "dog," an epithet used to disparage non-Israelites (see Matthew 7:6). Yet she persists, believing that He alone offers salvation. In this family drama, we see fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and the promise we sing of in today's Psalm. In Jesus, God makes known among all the nations His way and His salvation (see John 14:6). At the start of salvation history, God called Abraham (see Genesis 12:2). He chose his offspring, Israel, from all the nations on the face of the earth to build His covenant kingdom (see Deuteronomy 7:6–8; Isaiah 41:8). In God's plan, Abraham was to be the father of many nations (see Romans 4:16–17). Israel was to be the firstborn of a worldwide family of God, made up of all who believe what the Canaanite professes; that Jesus is Lord (see Exodus 4:22–23; Romans 5:13–24). Jesus came first to restore the kingdom to Israel (see Acts 1:6; 13:46). But His ultimate mission was the reconciliation of the world, as Paul declares in today's Epistle. In the Mass we join all peoples in doing Him homage. As Isaiah foretold, we come to His holy mountain, the heavenly Jerusalem, to offer sacrifice at His altar (see Hebrews 12:22–24, 28). With the Canaanite, we take our place at the Master's table to be fed as His children.

MASS and 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* ✙)

and For the health of Marie Talary

and Rufina Cynthia Còelho and John Còelho (*Death Anniversaries* ✙)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

****French Mass will be held next Sunday, 23rd August, at 3:30pm****

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

Mass 7:00pm Maronite Community

Monday, August 17

Mass 9:15am For the health of Hermione and Karen Daniells

and For the health of Roma Walles

and For deceased members of the Lonetti Family ✙

Tuesday, August 18

Mass 9:15am Jean-Claude Dedans, Jean Loup Gontran, Roger Christophe and Daniel Chung Chin (*Remembrance* ✙)

and Charles Lovett (*Death Anniversary* ✙)

Wednesday, August 19

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving on the birthday of Steby Rodrigues

and Thanksgiving and blessings to Amanda Collins on her birthday

Thursday, August 20 - Saint Bernard

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

and Lily Anne Mary Alfred (*Birthday Remembrance* ✙)

Friday, August 21 - Saint Pius X

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

Saturday, August 21

Feast of The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass 9:15am Thanksgiving on the Birthday of Ron Maroun

and Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni from Anne Moorthy & repose of the soul of Nadesan Moorthy

and Clive Akom (*Recently Deceased* ✙) and for the abandoned souls in Purgatory

Saturday Vigil, August 22 - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 5:30pm Sarah Cleary (*3rd Death Anniversary* ✙)

Sunday, August 23 - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 8:30am Ina Adams (*Remembrance* ✙)

and Bruno Lebrasse, Joelle Lebrasse, Nadege Atchia & Hans Vydilingum (*Remembrance* ✙)

Mass 10:30am Pro Populo - No Mass Intentions

Mass 3:30pm French Mass

Mass 5:30pm Louis Charles Kerver (*Death Anniversary* ✙)

and Intercessory Prayers from St. Scholastica for Private Intention

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, Shaan, Christopher Patterson, Marie Thomas, Frances Dos Remedios, Antonimary, Rosalie Wright, Michael DePenha, Margaret Rose Rochecouste, Gerard, Rev. Fr. Patolo Matiasi, Peter D'Silva

The recently deceased:

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

Anniversaries/Remembrances:

Jacqueline James, Ilma Watts, Charles Lovett, Sabatino Tucci, Dolly Azzopardi, Cynthia Còelho, John Còelho, Victor Anthony

Church Cleaning

Saturday, August 22

Legion of Mary

Saturday, August 29

Gonsalves Family, Mario, Linda and Ignatius

Weekly Collection

August 9, 2026

Thanksgiving: \$1,422.90

Presbytery: \$755.10

Reading Roster

Saturday, August 22

5:30pm D. Franklin

Sunday, August 23

8:30am I. Mulipola

10:30am M. Naidoo

5:30pm M. Yallapa

Saturday, August 29

5:30pm P. Kroon

Sunday, August 30

8:30am C. Becerra

10:30am E. Ebert

5:30pm S. Antony

Daily Antiphons - Monday August 17, to Saturday August 22, 2026

Monday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 17

Entrance Antiphon: Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of Your anointed one; one day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Responsorial Psalm: You have forgotten God who gave you birth.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 18

Entrance Antiphon: Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of Your anointed one; one day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus Christ was rich but He became poor, to make you rich out of His poverty. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

Wednesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 19

Entrance Antiphon: Turn Your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of Your anointed one; one day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in Him is plentiful redemption.

Thursday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 20 - Saint Bernard

Entrance Antiphon: Filled by the Lord with a spirit of understanding, blessed Bernard ministered streams of clear teaching to the people of God.

Responsorial Psalm: I will pour out clean water on you and wash away all your sins.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: As the Father loves Me, so I also love you; remain in My love, says the Lord.

Friday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 21 - Saint Pius X

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord chose him for Himself as high priest, and, opening His treasure house, made him rich in all good things.

Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord, His love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* Teach me Your paths, my God, and lead me in Your truth. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has laid down His life for His sheep.

Saturday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time - August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon: At Your right stands the queen in robes of gold, finely arrayed.

Responsorial Psalm: The glory of the Lord will dwell in our land.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. *Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are you who have believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord will be fulfilled.