

Fifth Sunday of Lent: 22 March 2026



The Parish of St Gerard & St Anne

Parish Priest: Fr. Arsenio Tuazon
Pastor Emeritus: Fr. John Dupuche

St Anne's 54 Knees Road, Park Orchards 3114
St Gerard's McCulloch Street, Warrandyte 3113

Mass Times: St Gerard & St Anne

Sundays 10.30am

Third Sunday of each month St Anne's Park Orchards
All other Sundays St Gerard's Warrandyte

Tuesdays 9.00am

St Gerard's Warrandyte

Mass Times: Holy Spirit Ringwood North

Wednesday 9.15am Mass

Friday 9.15am Mass

Saturday 6.00pm Mass

Sunday 9.00am Mass

Sunday 5.00pm Mass (*in the Chapel*)

St Anne Parish Office 54 Knees Road, Park Orchards

Phone: 7064 3922

Email: parkorchards@cam.org.au

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office for:

Baptisms: Every 2nd Sunday at St Anne's Chapel

Reconciliation: Holy Spirit Church, Nth Ringwood

Weddings: By appointment

St Anne's Primary School

Principal: Michael Edmonds **Ph:** (03) 9876 1533

Child Safe Committee: Private Mailbox

parkorchards.safeguarding@cam.org.au

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

**R. With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ear be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.



Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling

because he has the light of this world to see by;

but if he walks at night he stumbles,

because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

Gospel (continued)

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



NEWS FROM ST GERARD'S/ST ANNE'S PARISH

Reaching out in Prayer, Hospitality and Action

Committed to a Child Safe Environment

Private Mailbox: parkorchards.safeguarding@cam.org.au



The Parish of St Gerard & St Anne acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of this land.

EVENTS THIS COMING WEEK: 22 to 29 March 2026

Sun	22 Mar	10:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte
Tues	24 Mar	9:00am	Mass at St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte
Sun	29 Mar	10:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte

Experience Mass in the peace and beauty of Warrandyte

We warmly welcome everyone to join us for **Mass at St Gerard's in Warrandyte every Tuesday morning at 9:00am**. 3 McCulloch Street, Warrandyte
Consider adding this Mass to your Lenten discipline this year.

ANOINTING MASS - as from Tuesday 7th April, the 9:00am Tuesday Mass will be an Anointing Mass. This will occur every first Tuesday of the month except for January and November (Melbourne Cup).



ROSTER: March and April 2026

Date	Reader	Commentator	Morning Tea	Welcomers	Flowers
22 Mar 1st Euch	First Eucharist candidates	Jill McLean	Ellen Holmes	Wilma Bouchier	LENT, no flowers
29 Mar	Saskia Harris	Paul Moritz	Therese Chapman	Barbara Young	LENT, no flowers
5 April	EASTER MASSES: Volunteers required. Sign up sheets at St Gerard's				Anne-Marie Stevenson
12 April	Carmel Murphy	Nada Whittle	Caterina Brouwer	Elaine Macpherson	Anne-Marie Stevenson

Morning Tea for First Eucharist Sunday 22nd March—HELP!!!!

St Anne's students will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion this Sunday, the 22nd at St Gerard's. Current bookings are for 41 guests.

It would be wonderful if the generosity of the congregation for last Sunday's First Eucharist Mass morning tea was repeated for this Sunday!

Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 10:30am 3rd April at Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte.

Our Parish has been asked to provide Readers for the Opening Prayer, Stations, 4, 8, and 12. Ann Serong will do the Opening Prayer. **If you can do one of the Station Readings, please let Michelle know. 7064 3922 OR parkorchards@cam.org.au**

Synod Corner For context, Parishes have been requested to have a spot in their Bulletins, a “Synod Corner”, where a weekly message from Bishop Ramirez can be included. There are 50 weekly messages. The second is:

2. 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.

PALM SUNDAY EVENT organised by the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

This event is in the long tradition of calling for peace and social justice on Palm Sunday.

It will affirm the strength of our multicultural and diverse communities. We all need to feel we belong, be confident that we will be treated fairly, and that our human rights will be respected, by the government, and by other community members. We will also be calling for a fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.



*1:00pm: **Gather** on Princes Bridge with banners and placards*

*1.30pm: **Walk** to Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr (near the ‘Angel’ sculpture) [See map here](#) (Ctrl + Click on link)*

*2:00pm - 3.30pm: **Main program** - speakers, music and stalls at Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr*

Speakers will include Alice Pung (author “Growing up Asian in Australia”) and Cr Mohamed Semra, (now Mayor of Maribyrnong), a young Sudanese Australian who arrived as a child refugee. The program will also include musicians and refugee speakers.

LIGHT INTO THE CITY— THE RESTORATION OF ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL

Delivering the Patrick Oration on Tuesday evening, **Archbishop Comensoli launched the Light into the City project** which aims to restore St Patrick’s Cathedral. The Cathedral welcomes close to one million people every year. St Pat’s is 130 years old and needs repairs and restoration to the sandstone, the roof and the floors to keep serving the people of Melbourne. **Light into the City will be a once-in-a-generation effort to renew St Patrick’s and the Cathedral precinct.** The project requires vision and conviction, he said, and a total investment of \$190 million. The federal government and donors have already provided \$90 million, and Archbishop Comensoli invited the community to be part of this vision by participating in the public campaign to raise the needed funds. ‘I now need your help, your prayers and your support,’ he said. ‘Tonight, I am asking you and, through you, all of our local Church—prayerfully, confidently and with great hope—to consider how you might be part of this vision, whether as individuals, parishes, organisations or community groups.’

‘Just as the Cathedral was first built through the generosity of many, so this new chapter will also depend on the generosity of those who believe in its mission.’

Source: Melbourne Catholic, 17 March 2026 Full article here: [‘Something luminous’: Archbishop launches vision... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

PARISH AGM 2026

The 2026 Parish Annual General Meeting will be held immediately after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 19th April at St Anne's Church.

PARKING AT ST ANNE'S

The resurfacing of the School's basketball court was completed on Monday. The new surface is not trafficable, the concern being that vehicle tyres could lift the surface and/or break the joins. **The basketball court is no longer available for parking** and the School intends to padlock the gates. Both Father Arsenio and the Parish Secretary will have keys to the padlock.

Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, 2026

Prayer for the Synod: *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*

Prayer to be said after Communion.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.



EASTER 2026

Timetable for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 29th March

10:30am St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte.

Forgiveness Service 31st March

7:30pm Tuesday Holy Spirit, North Ringwood

Holy Thursday 2nd April

Mass of the Last Supper 7:30pm Holy Spirit Church, Ringwood North

Good Friday 3rd April

The Passion of the Christ 3:00pm St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte

Holy Saturday 4th April

Easter Vigil 7:30pm Holy Spirit Church, Ringwood North

Easter Sunday 5th April

Dawn Vigil 6:00am St Anne's Chapel, Park Orchards

Easter Mass 10:30am St Gerard's, Warrandyte

Sign up sheets for Good Friday and Easter Sunday are at the back of St Gerard's Church for those who can help.

An invitation to the Easter Sunday Dawn Service

The Parish of St. Gerard and St. Anne extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come and join us for the Easter Sunday Dawn Service to be held in St. Anne's Chapel. The Chapel aspect offers a stunning and spiritual atmosphere as the sun rises over the nearby hills. This very special Mass will commence at 6:00am (sunrise will be at approximately 6:37am). We will follow the Mass with a light breakfast.

To assist us with catering, can you please indicate if you will be attending and staying for breakfast by contacting Jill McLean on jillianmclean25@gmail.com or 0408 405733 or leave a message at the Parish Office 7064 3922.

Fr Arsenio Tuazon, Parish Priest

The Parish of St. Gerard and St. Anne Liturgy Committee

The Extra Chair

It started with a chair. Not a special chair. Just one of those spare plastic ones that somehow appear in classrooms, meeting rooms and parish halls. This one had been sitting against the wall for weeks. The kind of chair everyone walks past without noticing. Until someone moved it.

At a school staff meeting one afternoon, a teacher quietly pulled the chair into the circle. “Just in case someone needs a place,” she said. People smiled politely. The meeting continued. But the chair stayed there.

The next day, a student who had been having a rough week came to talk after class. The teacher dragged the same chair across the room and said, “Sit for a minute.” No lecture. No fixing everything. Just a moment to sit and talk.

Later that week, the same chair appeared in the parish hall during a small group gathering. Someone who had lost their partner recently wandered in late, unsure if they should stay. There was a chair ready. They sat down.

Something about an open chair sends a message: there’s room for you here. Not just physically. Humanly.

We live in a world that moves fast. Class bells ring. Emails arrive. Parish meetings start and finish. Families rush from one commitment to the next. It’s easy to move through our days without really noticing who might be standing just outside the circle.

But the Gospel keeps reminding us that Jesus was always making space for people.

For the person everyone else had overlooked.
For the one carrying quiet grief.
For the one who wasn’t sure they belonged.

He noticed. He paused. He made room. And when people saw that, they didn’t talk first about his teaching or his miracles. They said something simpler. *“See how he loved.”*

Maybe the challenge for all of us – teachers, school staff, parishioners, families – is to keep an extra chair in the circle. Not literally, although that’s not a bad start. But in our attention. In our patience. In the way we choose to notice the people around us.

Because sometimes the most powerful thing we can offer another person is simple: A place to sit. A moment to be heard. And the quiet message that says: *There’s room for you here.*

We Pray

God living among us, slow us down enough to notice the people around us.
Open our eyes to the ones who feel left out, unheard, or invisible.
Give us the courage to make space – in our time, our words, and our hearts.
And let the way we live quietly say to others: *there’s room for you here.*
Amen