



PARK ORCHARDS & WARRANDYTE

Parish of St. Gerard + St. Anne

Celebrating
50+ YEARS

Third Sunday of Lent: 8 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 book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

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

**R. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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. 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 *short form*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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. [text omitted] I see you are a prophet, sir. 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.' [text omitted]

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.'



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: 8 to 15 March 2026

Sun	8 Mar	10:30am	Mass at St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte
Tues	10 Mar	9:00am	Mass at St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte
Sun	15 Mar	10:30am	Mass at St Anne's Church, Park Orchards

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.

Consider adding this Mass to your Lenten discipline this year.

St Gerard's, 3 McCulloch Street, Warrandyte

ROSTER: March 2026

Date	Reader	Commentator	Morning Tea	Welcomers	Flowers
8 Mar	Jill McLean	Saskia Harris	Catarina Brouwer	Elaine Macpherson	LENT, no flowers
15 Mar St Anne 1st Euch	Paul Moritz	Michelle Kearney	Elaine Macpherson	Michelle Kearney	LENT, no flowers
22 Mar 1st Euch	Volunteer Required	Jill McLean	Ellen Holmes	Wilma Bouchier	LENT, no flowers
29 Mar	Saskia Harris	Paul Moritz	Therese Chapman	Barbara Young	LENT, no flowers

Morning Tea for First Eucharist Sundays 15th and 22nd March—HELP!!!!

St Anne's students will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the next two Sunday's, the 15th March at St Anne's and the 22nd at St Gerard's. Current bookings have 117 people coming on the 15th and 41 on the 22nd.

It would be wonderful if the generosity of the congregation for the Commitment Mass morning tea was repeated for these two Sundays!

**Music & Song Event, 5:00pm Sunday 15th March 2026 at
St Stephens Church, 5-7 Stiggant St, Warrandyte.**

This music event will be followed by a sausage sizzle. Come along and get some great exercise by singing in God's praise. All welcome.

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**

Retreats at Holy Cross Retreat, Templestowe

Individual / Personal Retreats – Special Rate Available

As we progress through Lent towards Easter, we invite you to Holy Cross Retreat for a personal time of quiet and introspection. Holy Cross Retreat in Templestowe offers you space for an individual retreat, providing ensuite double bed rooms with reverse cycle airconditioning and continental breakfast included (\$149/night or \$125/night BYO linen), Chapel, a small meditation room, and beautiful grounds and spiritual spaces of quiet. Catering is available for stays of three nights or more, or self-cater. Spiritual Direction can also be arranged (additional fee applies). To book dates at this special rate, call (03) 9846 6014 or email: hcc@passionists.com

Come Away Day, Wednesday 25 March 2026, 9.30am-2.30pm

Come Away Days throughout 2026 offer an oasis of quiet for individuals to fresh away from the busy world. Each Day's variously-themed program from 9.30am-2.30pm will have opportunities for prayer, meditation, silence and group interaction as well as anointing and Eucharist or a Liturgy of the Word and Communion. Held at Holy Cross Retreat, 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe, the first of these in 2026 is to be held on Wednesday 25/3/26. Additional dates in 2026 are: Wednesdays 24/6/26, 16/9/26 and 18/11/26. For more information and bookings, contact Sr Brigid cp, at email: bridget.m64@gmail.com

POWER Group

You are invited to lunch on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 12:30pm at Cherry Hill.

STRAWBERRY FAIR 2026

Congratulations to the winners of the Raffle.

And a huge “thank you” to the many parishioners who worked hard before and on the day to make it a success. Again.



Strawberry fair 2026

Winner	Prize
1st - Jess Robinson	\$2500 towards school fees or equivalent voucher of your choice - donated by parishioners
2nd - Will Ritchie	\$1000 voucher of your choice
3rd - Olivia Lopardi	\$500 visa voucher - donated by Nicole Werner MP for Warrandyte
4th - Lizzie Read	Treatment voucher and hamper \$200 - donated by Wellness on Hopetoun
5th - Shane Howell	Hamper, coffee vouchers & wine pack \$200 - donated by The Corner 3114
6th - Jo Cleven	Visa voucher valued at \$200
7th - Katherine Harris	Florist voucher \$150 - donated by Flower Pot Florist
8th - Paul Bourke	Restaurant voucher \$100 - donated by Julia's Restaurant

Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, 2026

Convocation of the Melbourne Synod

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4th to 6th December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

Prayer for the Synod Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

**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.**



Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (c. 560 – 4 April 636), this prayer been used at councils, synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the Adsumus Sancte Spiritus prayer.

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 the 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

A GIFT AND A SUMMONS: DIOCESAN DELEGATION WITNESSES

“A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING” IN FRANCE

To read complete article written by *Melbourne Catholic*, published 4 March 2026, click here: [Diocesan delegation witnesses ‘a spiritual...’ | Melbourne Catholic](#)

A recent and timely diocesan delegation to Marseille, Lyon and Paris undertaken just before Melbourne saw a record number of candidates and catechumens gather at this year’s Rite of Election has revealed what Archbishop Peter A Comensoli describes as ‘a profound moment of spiritual awakening’ within the Church in France. The Archbishop was accompanied on the week-long visit by director of mission Teresa Rhynehart, the Parish Priest of Caroline Springs and fluent French-speaker Fr Richard Rosse and the Archdiocese’s Chancellor and Chief of Staff Annie Carrett.

Across the dioceses visited, there has been a striking rise in the number of catechumen, predominantly young adults aged 18 to 35, often with little or no prior formation in the faith beyond Baptism.

‘What we witnessed is not a programmatic success,’ the Archbishop said. ‘It is a movement of the Holy Spirit. Young adults are not returning out of nostalgia or ideology; they are responding to a deeply personal encounter with Christ.’

The growth, which has accelerated since COVID, is widely understood by French Church leaders as a response to cultural fragmentation, isolation, marked life experiences such as illness and death, and a renewed search for identity and meaning.

Mrs Rhynehart observed that ‘people have been talking for a while about what’s going on in France,’ noting that more than 10,000 adults were baptised last Easter and more than 7,400 adolescents (11 to 17 years old), ‘which was an increase of 45% on 2024, which was also a 50% increase on 2023’. It is [estimated](#) that at Easter in 2026, more than 20,000 individuals will be baptised into the Church.

This surge has been observed, she said, in about 13 dioceses (about 10% of all dioceses in France), ‘so it’s not the entire country, but it is a significant portion. They’ve seen more than a doubling of their number of catechumens, year on year, basically since about 2021.’ If you go back to 2019–20 and the years before that, she said, ‘it was basically a straight line for 20 or 30 years.’

This sudden upturn has taken many in the French Church by surprise, prompting questions about what might be driving it.

She admits that when she set off on the delegation, she thought perhaps there had been ‘this whole intentional, incredible renewal process’ happening in France and was surprised to learn that wasn’t necessarily the case. Speaking with bishops, parish priests, lay people on RCIA teams, and some of the catechumens and neophytes (people who’d been catechised the year before), the delegation identified a number of drivers.

The first obvious driver was COVID, an event that prompted ‘existential questioning of meaning and purpose’ among young people as they experienced a loss of community and connection, coupled with experiences of death, illness and instability, ‘like losing jobs or having university degrees delayed’. All this contributed to a renewed hunger for purpose, meaning and connection, Mrs Rhynehart said.

A second important factor was social media, which is increasingly providing a ‘gateway to the Church’. As they begin to explore Catholicism, many young people turn first to their phones, finding their way to ‘the more high-profile kind of influencers, usually clergy or religious, who can tell them about what Catholics believe [and] why they believe it. A very big question that young people are asking is how to be Catholic,’ she said: ‘How do I pray? How do I go to Mass? What do I do when I go to Mass? How do I do Lent?’

While COVID and social media influence are important drivers, they don’t completely explain everything that is happening. Church leaders genuinely believed they were seeing a movement of the Holy Spirit in their Church. As Cardinal Archbishop Jean-Marc Aveline of Marseille said, ‘We opened the doors and they came in from the windows.’

Church leaders told the delegation they had thought they were doing the right things, using the right language, inviting people in, ‘but they came in through the windows, and not the way at all that we thought people were going to be coming into faith ... It’s not the people that we thought; it’s not the age group that we thought.’ ‘Faith was once considered something private and muted,’ the Archbishop observed. ‘Now young people are asking how to live their Christian identity visibly and confidently—not aggressively, but authentically.’

Another dominant theme throughout the visit was identity. In a secular and often polarised culture, many young people are seeking visible markers of belonging. Traditional practices such as Eucharistic adoration, the Rosary, and classical expressions of worship have become newly attractive.

Repeatedly, French Church leaders spoke of grandparents, particularly grandmothers, as the quiet carriers of faith memory. When young people were wondering about how to become Catholic, ‘the person they almost always turned to was a grandparent, a grandmother, because they [thought], Oh, I remember Grandma used to take me to Mass. I remember she used to pray the Rosary. I can go and ask her,’ Mrs Rhynehart said.

‘It is deeply moving,’ the Archbishop said, ‘to hear young adults speak of a grandmother who planted a seed of faith decades ago. We may be witnessing the fruit of fidelity from a previous generation.’

Mrs Rhynehart finds it interesting that young people don’t seem to need the kinds of ‘soft approaches’ we often assume are necessary, like ‘a cafe space where people can come and ask questions. They’ve already found a soft entry point via social media,’ she said. They are looking for a place where they feel they can belong. ‘Sometimes that’s physical, sometimes that’s liturgical, and sometimes that’s the community of believers and the welcome. It can be one or all of those things. It’s different for different people.’

Mrs Rhynehart also noted how important it was to make space for the Holy Spirit to work, giving the example of Axel, a young university student who met with the delegation. The first time Axel went to Mass, after first exploring the faith through social media, the priest asked each person to share their prayer intention for the day with the person next to them. Taking a deep breath, Axel turned to the lady next to him, who was perhaps 65 to 70 years old. ‘She then shared that she had just received a terminal diagnosis for cancer and her prayer intention for today was just that the Lord would help her with whatever was going to come her way, and that she’d be at peace with that,’ Mrs Rhynehart said. ‘That was his conversion moment. He was seeing someone who had had such a diagnosis and the depth of faith that she expressed in those two minutes of interaction. At the end of Mass, he [said to] the priest, “I want to be baptised. How do I make that happen?”

Catechumens consistently expressed a longing not for private belief but for lived community, shared prayer, meals, fraternity and visible Christian life. ‘If the digital world is where questions begin,’ the Archbishop said, ‘then our parishes must be ready to respond immediately, personally and warmly. Digital curiosity must meet real Christian friendship.’

Increasingly, French parishes are shifting from simply preparing candidates for sacraments to forming missionary disciples integrated into the community.

‘The most challenging moment is not the Easter Vigil,’ the Archbishop observed. ‘It is what happens after. The real work begins in sustaining neophytes in belonging, mission and friendship.’

Responding has not been without its challenges. Given how quickly and unexpectedly numbers have surged, the French Church, at both a diocesan and parish level, has often found itself scrambling to find ways to welcome and accompany such large numbers of catechumens.

Over time, though, as people have learnt to adjust, the surge in catechumens is reshaping parish culture in France. Dioceses are strengthening accompaniment, forming lay companions, creating distinct offices for catechumens and neophytes, and fostering what they call a ‘culture of welcome’.

On International Women’s Day 2026 to all the grandmothers, thank you for being a “quiet carrier of faith memory”.