



PARK ORCHARDS & WARRANDYTE

Parish of St. Gerard + St. Anne

Celebrating
50
+YEARS

Palm Sunday: 29 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 Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me

a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,

so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint;

I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel (Short form from the latter section of the Gospel)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgment, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

Gospel (continued)

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him: it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way. From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me!' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

All kneel and pause a moment.

At that, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'



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: 29 March to 5 April 2026

Sun 29 Mar 10:30am Mass at St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte

Timetable for Holy Week—please see page 6 of the Bulletin

Tues 31 Mar 9:00am Mass at St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte

Sun 5 Apr 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 attending this Mass during Holy Week.

ANOINTING MASS

Starting on Tuesday 7th April, the 9:00am Tuesday Mass will be an Anointing Mass on the first Tuesday of the month except for the months of January and November (Melbourne Cup).



ROSTER: March and April 2026

Date	Reader	Commentator	Morning Tea	Welcomers	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
19 Apr St Anne's	Anita Lynch	Saskia Harris	Anita Lynch	Michelle Kearney	Therese Chapman

Morning Tea for First Eucharist Sundays

A huge "thank you" to all who catered for morning teas at the First Eucharist Masses.
Your work was greatly appreciated by all who partook!

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

We need **ONE** more reader. **If you can be that reader, please let Michelle know.**

7064 3922 OR parkorchards@cam.org.au

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.

REMINDERS:

HOLY LAND COLLECTION—GOOD FRIDAY 3rd APRIL 2026

A collection for the Holy Places will be taken up on Good Friday. Please see the last page of the bulletin for further information.

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS ON EASTER SUNDAY, 5th APRIL 2026

Daylight Saving ends at 3:00AM Sunday 5th April. Turn your clocks back one hour before retiring on Saturday night.

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 last week. 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.

There is an old Catholic habit of 'offering' things up, and maybe this is what it means: the cross cannot be solved but it can be offered. We can offer our defeats and insufficiencies, uniting our cross with Christ's, praying that it makes us holy, trusting that it sows the seeds of future resurrection and glory.

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

Please note that Daylight Saving ends on Easter Sunday.

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

Synod Corner

For context, Parishes have been requested to maintain a spot in their Bulletins, a "Synod Corner", where a weekly message from Bishop Ramirez is included. There are 50 weekly messages. The third is:

3. Synodality is not new

Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

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.**

HOLY LAND COMMISSARIAT

Franciscan Provincial Office

47 Victoria Street, Waverley NSW 2024, Australia

Tel: (02) 9369 9300 • Email: holyland@franciscans.org.au

To the people of the Church in Australia, for the Holy Land Collection 2026

As many of you are aware, for 800 years the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care and practical support. Over recent years, with the Covid Pandemic, wars in Syria and Gaza, and now the war with Iran, the people of the Holy Land have endured great turmoil. Until now, the hope for a lasting peace in Gaza remains uncertain and the task of rebuilding lives and infrastructure seems overwhelming. Just recently last November, I had the privilege of attending the international meeting of Holy Land Commissaries in Jerusalem. There, our group heard from the local people and of what the Franciscan Friars are doing (and have never stopped doing) in support of them. We heard stories of courage and resilience and encountered Christians yearning for a future for their children. From them and Church leaders came the plea for peace and hope. They also pleaded for pilgrims to return, but now the hope for this has been set back by the fear created by the war with Iran. Pilgrims are vital as they generate income that allows the Friars and local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places, running parishes and schools, and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless, and other social projects. Pilgrims also give much needed employment to local people, allowing Christian families to remain present in the land where Christianity was born. This year, Fr Francesco Ielpo OFM, the Franciscan leader of the Holy Land Custody reminds us of the urgent need to continue supporting the Holy Land, especially in the light of recent happenings:

The last few years have been particularly difficult for the Christian communities of the Middle East. The war has brought death, destruction, and fear, not only to Gaza, but also to the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. The suffering caused by the conflict has been compounded by the prolonged absence of pilgrims, which has exacerbated an already profound economic and employment crisis. Many Christian families, who once relied on the Holy Places and pilgrimage-related activities, are now experiencing great difficulty.

We have just concluded the Jubilee Year of Hope, and hope itself appears to be damaged: in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Northern Israel, as well as in the Christian communities of Lebanon and Syria. The lack of security and employment makes it increasingly difficult to support families and, even more so, to imagine a future for young people and the new generations.

Brothers and sisters, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection remains extremely important and a mission in which we can all participate. The hope is that our Australian parishioners, Parish Priests and Bishops will again be as generous as they have always been. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus in the face of great difficulty. On their behalf, I humbly and wholeheartedly thank you all.

Friar Mario Debattista OFM

Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia)

<https://www.franciscans.org.au/holy-land-commissariat/>