

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.
‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. O Lord, our God, who once established these created things to sustain us in our frailty, grant, we pray, that they may become for us now the Sacrament of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant us, we pray, so to live that, made one in Christ, we may joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go in peace.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

SALT AND LIGHT

Today’s Gospel continues with Matthew’s teaching in the ‘Sermon on the Mount’. After identifying the disciples’ blessedness in all kinds of situations with which the Gospel audience would be familiar, Matthew now highlights two images with which they can identify: salt and light. ‘You are the salt of the earth’ (5:13) and ‘You are the light of the world’ (5:14).

In Matthew’s world salt was an important commodity and valuable trading product. It was used in cooking and for preserving foods (meat and fish) before refrigeration. Salt was shipped across the Mediterranean Sea and then carted into all of Rome’s provinces along specially built salt roads. Salt’s need was universal and, in times of scarcity, so precious that it became a means of bartering and currency substitute, hence the modern term ‘salary’. But there is one quality of salt scarcely known. In a world of outdoor ovens with little or no wood to fire them, salt was mixed with dung to produce the chemical reaction that created the necessary heat required for baking bread. In Jesus’ reminder to the disciples that they are the ‘salt of the earth’, he is speaking more than about them being agents of preservation. Their presence in the Greco-Roman world meant at times that they will find themselves in disagreeable situations. These times requires fidelity or ‘saltiness’. Their capacity to engage their world will also make them the ‘light of the world’. The richness of these two metaphors, salt and light, finds their realisation with us, Jesus’ contemporary disciples.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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ST MARY’S PARISH, DANDENONG—160 FOSTER STREET, DANDENONG
OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM TUESDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

8 FEBRUARY 2026

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE! We all have our special gifts, but sometimes we fail to recognise this. We may feel that we have little to offer others. That is never true. As Jesus says: ‘You are the salt of the earth! You are the light of the world!’ Let us ask Jesus to help us recognise our unique gifts and share them with others.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 94:6-7
O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor;
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then your light will shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, ‘I am here.’

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 111:4-9. R. v. 4

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright. (or Alleluia!)

1. He is light in the darkness for the upright: / he is generous, merciful and just. / The good man takes pity and lends. / he conducts his affairs with honour. **R.**

2. The just man will never waver: / he will be remembered for ever. / He has no fear of evil news; / with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R.**

3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; / open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands firm for ever. / His head will be raised in glory. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great ‘fear and trembling’ and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:13-16

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
You are the light of the world.

ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia **ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Fr. Vincent Nguyen
Parish Website: <https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong> **Facebook:** St Mary's Parish Dandenong
Parish Phone: 9791-4611 **Email:** dandenong@cam.org.au **Address:** 160 Foster Street, Dandenong
PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel **FINANCE OFFICER:** Deslene de Niese
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm (Mondays office closed)
PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER: Mr. Miguel Matamala
St. Mary's Community Centre Tel: 7064 3928 or 0402 155 192

St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John's Regional College Phone: 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am
Saturday Evening: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am
Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANNOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat (Fridays will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE OR HOUSE BLESSING

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

REGULAR GROUP MEETING ST MARY'S PARISH

LEGION OF MARY:

Saturday mornings after 9:15am mass in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

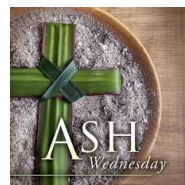
3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

BINGO AT ST MARY'S

St. Mary's Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in St Mary's Community Centre, New St, Dandenong

OFFICE HOURS

Commencing 9th February the parish office will be closed on Mondays.
Office hours will be Tuesday –Friday 9:00am-3:00pm



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES 18th March 2026

will be celebrated at 7:00 am, 9.15am and 7.00pm

COMMISSIONING OF ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF

At the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, will be the commissioning of the teachers and staff of our parish school as they begin a new year of service. This is a special opportunity to acknowledge and affirm the vital role our teachers and staff play in the faith, learning, and wellbeing of our children.

We invite all parishioners to keep our school staff in their prayers as they continue their important work of education and formation, inspired by the Gospel and supported by our parish community.



*Bless our teachers, educators, and administrators.
Thank You for calling them to work with our children.
Give them a spirit of grace and compassion.
Bless them with strength and endurance to perform their
many tasks, and may they know and feel the deep gratitude of
those whom they teach and serve.*



ST MARY'S PARISH—FUNERAL NOTICE COSIMO CICONTE MONDAY 9/02/2026 at 11:00 AM

St John's Regional College Dandenong School Reunion – Class of 1975–1980

Did you commence Year 7 at St John's in 1975? If so, you are warmly invited to a school reunion being held in February 2026.

This reunion is for former students who attended:

Year 7 – 1975 Year 8 – 1976 Year 9 – 1977

Year 10 – 1978 Year 11 – 1979 Year 12 – 1980

The Reunion will be held on Saturday, 21 February 2026 from 6pm on-wards at a venue in Rowville. To receive full details and stay informed, please email schoolreunionfeb26@gmail.com with your name, email address, and mobile number. If you are still in contact with classmates from this era, please help spread the word. For enquiries, contact

Steve Cavalot on 0449 196 328 or Lina Di Prisa on 0434 079 754

We look forward to reconnecting after all these years.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Cosimo Cicone

Anniversaries: Francis Regis Perera, Anna De Cruze

Sick: Kulandhai Therese, Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Katrina, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatre-bornes, Sandra Wills, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D'Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Keith Reynolds, Robyn, Fr Brendan Lane, Anne Richards, Gervais Tourmentin, Ashleigh Wills, Anthony Morri, Lyma Payne, Eva Salvacion Satuito, Fr Michael Willemsen, Vreni Bien, Rosario Giaquinta, Joanna Van Der Ven *(The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed)in the Marian.* **(IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE)**

Sacramental Preparation Classes for Confirmation 2026.

Sacramental Preparation Classes are open to any child, in Year 6 and above, who attends any school and lives within our Parish of St Mary's Dandenong

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, will commence at a Commitment Mass on Sunday 15 February 2026 at 5:30pm at St Mary's Church Dandenong.

The program continues on Thursday 19 February 2026 from 4:30pm until 5:30pm, in the Fellowship Room.

To enrol your child into these classes, there will be a Registration Day on Thursday 12 February 2026 from 4:30pm to 5:00pm, in the Church, Fellowship Room.

Please contact **the Parish Office** on (03) 9791 4611 or dandenong@cam.org.au for further details, if you wish for your child to attend these classes.

God and Beer Monday 16th February—How Christians Can Succeed Today

The first Christians confronted a cultural environment vastly more hostile than today's. They had no powerful backers, very little money and numbered no more than a few hundred. Yet they revolutionised the ancient world and spread their movement far and wide.

There is a deep, pervasive crisis of meaning and purpose across all Western societies today. Greg Sheridan encourages us to listen to the voices of the early Christians and emulate their commitment, integrity, resilience and smarts. He shows how early Christians built communities, met persecution with courage and grace, dispensed universal mercy during plagues, pioneered equality for women, and redefined the nature and purpose of the human experience, always with Jesus Christ at the centre of their lives.

Greg Sheridan is one of Australia's best-known journalists. This is his ninth book. His most recent books include the bestselling Christians, God is Good for You, and When We Were Young and Foolish.

This promises to be an evening of good conversation, fellowship, and faith. We hope you'll join us!

Topic: How Christians Can Succeed Today **Speaker:** Greg Sheridan

Date: Monday 16th February **Time:** 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk

Venue: Notting Hill Hotel, [Steakhouse Room](#), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd., Notting Hill



Congratulations to **Miron (Mick) & Geraldine Kokoszka** as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, 7th February — fifty years of love, commitment, and shared memories. What a wonderful milestone!

Contributions toward altar flowers are welcome. Envelopes are available in the church foyer and may be returned to the office or placed in the collection basket during Mass.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$678.90 **Presbytery** \$292.50 **Loose:** \$869.00

Support our Parish If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:

St Mary's General Account: (Thanksgiving & Donations) NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 483196852

For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese:

Presbytery Account: NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 460761193

St. Mary's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult