



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
PILGRIM MASS
IN MEMORY OF
FR GERALD WARD

FOUNDER OF
THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works



MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2024
MELBOURNE GENERAL
CEMETERY



FATHER GERALD WARD

Fr Gerald Ward was born in London in 1806, of Irish parents. He was ordained at St Cuthbert's College, Ushaw, in County Durham in 1839.

Following parish work in Cheshire during the 1840s, he volunteered for the Melbourne Mission during a recruiting drive for priests in Europe by Melbourne's pioneer priest, Fr Patrick Geoghegan.

Upon arriving in Melbourne in September 1850 he had a brief stint at St Francis' Church before being posted to Geelong from 1851 to 1853 and Williamstown in 1853, then back to St Francis'.

Fr Ward had a great love for St Vincent de Paul and knew the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, which had arrived in England in 1844.

Soon after returning to St Francis', Fr Ward founded Australia's first conference, on 5th March 1854. He had been long concerned about the plight of the orphan children of Melbourne; a problem since the early 1840s, but exacerbated by the upheaval of the gold rushes. As a result, he decided to establish an orphanage in Melbourne, first in a few cottages in Prahran, then the St Vincent de Paul Orphanage in Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne), which first took in orphans in 1857.

This was the first special work of the Society in Australia and was the primary focus of the Melbourne Conference.

In April 1857, Fr Ward was transferred to Heidelberg. In delicate health for much of his life, Fr Ward's health declined rapidly. He died on 16th January, 1858 and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery on 18th January, 1858. When the crypt was built in August 1871, his remains were disinterred and relocated there.

CELEBRANT

Fr. Tony Kerin

Spiritual Advisor to Victorian State Council

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Hymn | Gather Your People

(Bob Hurd)

Refrain:

**Gather your people, O Lord.
Gather your people, O Lord.
One bread, one body, one spirit of love.
Gather your people, O Lord.**

Draw us forth to the table of life:
brothers and sisters,
each of us called to walk in your light.

Refrain

We are parts of the body of Christ,
needing each other,
each of the gifts the Spirit provides.

Refrain

No more harm on the mountain of God;
swords into plowshares.
Free us, O Lord, from hardness of heart.

Refrain

Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life;
waters of mercy,
waters of hope that flow from your side.

Refrain

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: A reading from the second book of Kings

(2 Kings 5:1-15)

Naaman, army commander to the king of Aram, was a man who enjoyed his master's respect and favour, since through him the Lord had granted victory to the Aramaeans. But the man was a leper.

Now on one of their raids, the Aramaeans had carried off from the land of Israel a little girl who had become a servant of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would approach the prophet of Samaria. He would cure him of his leprosy.' Naaman went and told his master. 'This and this' he reported 'is what the girl from the land of Israel said.'

'Go by all means,' said the king of Aram 'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.' So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten festal robes. He presented the letter to the king of Israel. It read: 'With this letter, I am sending my servant Naaman to you for you to cure him of his leprosy'.

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his garments. 'Am I a god to give death and life,' he said 'that he sends a man to me and asks me to cure him of his leprosy? Listen to this, and take note of it and see how he intends to pick a quarrel with me.'

When Elisha heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, he sent word to the king, 'Why did you tear your garments? Let him come to me, and he will find there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his team and chariot and drew up at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent him a messenger to say, 'Go and bathe seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will become clean once more'.

But Naaman was indignant and went off, saying, 'Here was I thinking he would be sure to come out to me, and stand there, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the spot and cure the leprous part. Surely Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, are better than any water in Israel? Could I not bathe in them and become clean?' And he turned round and went off in a rage.

But his servants approached him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had asked you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? All the more reason, then, when he says to you, "Bathe, and you will become clean".' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Psalm 42: 2, 3; 43: 3, 4)

Reader:

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?

**All: My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?**

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.

**All: My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?**

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?

**All: My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?**

O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell.

**All: My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?**

And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God.

**All: My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.

Sung: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading: (Luke 4: 24-30)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to Nazara and spoke to the people in the synagogue: 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY: Fr Tony Kerin

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: God of love and mercy, you guide us and bless us in our lives and in our ministry. So, with confidence we turn to you as we place our intentions before you.

Reader: It is now 170 years since Fr Gerald Ward founded the first St Vincent de Paul Society conference in Australia. Let us thank God for the life of our founder and pray, in this special place, that he is enjoying the fruits of his labour. Lord hear us

All: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: Fr Ward had a great love for the Apostle of Charity, St Vincent de Paul. St Vincent said, "In serving the poor you are serving Jesus Christ." Let us continually remember those words as we serve people in need today. Lord hear us.

All: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: Fr Ward was known as a friend to the orphan in his time. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs." Let us pray for all homeless children and those not in a stable family environment. Lord hear us.

All: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: Fr Ward was one of Melbourne's first immigrant priests. Let us pray for all immigrants and particularly for refugees as they attempt to settle in this country. Lord hear us.

All: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: The Melbourne of Fr Ward's time was socially and economically divided between the haves and the have-nots. In Australia today there is also an uneven spread of wealth. Let us pray that God will assist us in working towards a more just and compassionate society. Lord hear us.

All: **Lord hear our prayer**

Reader: We pray for all the clergy buried in this crypt. We thank God for their spiritual guidance and support over the past 170 years. Lord hear us.

All: **Lord hear our prayer**

Celebrant: Loving God, we ask you to hear and answer these prayers, which we make in confidence and hope, through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

OFFERTORY HYMN | Prayer of St Francis

(Sebastian Temple)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

SANCTUS

(Mass of St Francis)

**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.**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

(Mass of St Francis)

**All: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection
until you come again”**

GREAT AMEN

(Mass of St Francis)

LAMB OF GOD

(Mass of St Francis)

Communion Hymn | Come to the Water

(John Foley)

O let all who thirst,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without price.
Why should you pay the price,
except for the Lord?

And let all who seek,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without strife.
Why should you spend your life,
except for the Lord?

And let all who toil,
let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary,
let them come to the Lord:
all who labour, without rest.
How can your soul find rest,
except for the Lord?

And let all the poor,
let them come to the water,
Bring the ones who are laden,
bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light:
come to the Lord.

Recessional Hymn | Bring Forth the Kingdom

(Marty Haugen)

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!**

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

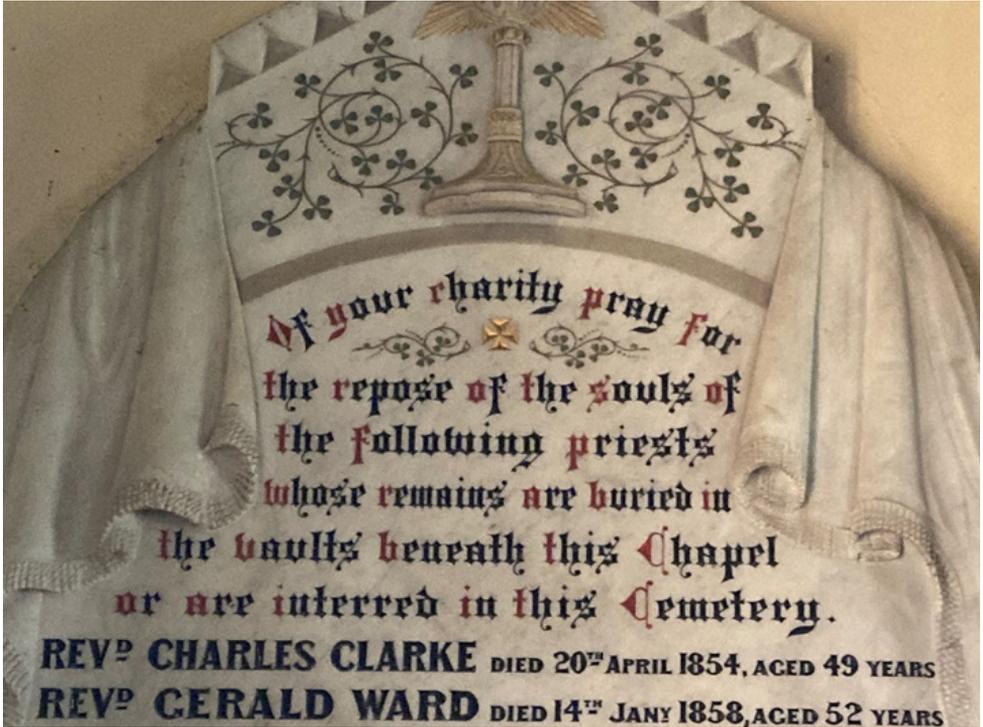
Refrain

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God!

Refrain



Australian founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Fr Gerald Ward (1806-1858), is buried at Melbourne Cemetery's crypt.



READERS

Margaret Gearon

President, Eastern Central Council

Maria Minto-Cahill

Vice-President, Victorian State Council

MUSIC

Rohan Smith

Mission & Spirituality Team Leader

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