

WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST AMBROSE WOODEND, ST AMBROSE RIDDELLS CREEK, ST BRIGID'S GISBORNE, ST MARY'S LANCEFIELD & ROMSEY & ST PATRICK'S MACEDON

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

14th December, 2025



ST AMBROSE 18 Templeton Street
Woodend



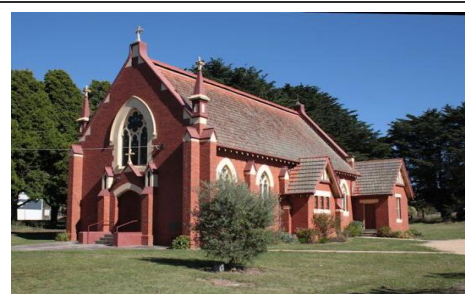
ST AMBROSE 10 Sutherland Street
Riddells Creek



ST BRIGID'S 66 Aitken Street
Gisborne



ST MARY'S (Our Lady of Lourdes)
27 Chauncey St Lancefield



ST MARY'S (Immaculate Conception)
85 Main St Romsey



ST PATRICK'S Victoria Street
Macedon

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday - 5pm Woodend, 6pm Gisborne, 6.30pm Lancefield

Sunday - 8am Riddells Creek, 9am 1st & 3rd Romsey, 2nd, 4th & 5th Lancefield, 9.30am Macedon, 11am Woodend & Gisborne

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday - 5pm Gisborne, 6pm Woodend followed by the Rosary

Wednesday - 9.15am Gisborne, 9.30am Woodend; **Thursday** - 9.15am Gisborne, 9.30am Romsey

Friday - 9.15am Gisborne, 9.30am Lancefield, **Anointing Mass Romsey**: 1st Saturday of the month 10.30am

Reconciliation

Woodend: 2nd Saturday of the month 10am-10.30am, Gisborne 3rd Saturday of the month 10am- 10.30,

Lancefield: 4th Saturday of the month 10am-10.30am

Parish Staff

Parish Priest: Fr John Healy PO Box 397, 47 Urquhart St Woodend. Mobile: 0439 033 750 john.healy@cam.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Wahid Riad 66 Aitken Street, Gisborne

Parish Secretary Woodend: Bernadette Petruccelli PO Box 397, 47 Urquhart St Woodend. Ph: 0409 436 441

Email: bernadette.petruccelli@cam.org.au **Website Woodend**: www.stambrosewoodend.com.au

Parish Secretary Lancefield: Tammie Dalgleish 27 Chauncey Lancefield. Ph 03 54292130

Email: lancefield@cam.org.au **Website Lancefield**: www.melbcatholic.org/s/lancefield

Parish Secretary Gisborne: Tammie Dalgleish 66 Aitken Street Gisborne. Ph 03 54282591

Email: gisborne@cam.org.au **Website Gisborne**: www.melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne

Office Hours

Woodend Monday 9am - 4pm & Friday 9am - 4pm **Email**: woodend@cam.org.au

Lancefield Wednesday 8am - 5pm & Friday 8am - 5pm **Email**: lancefield@cam.org.au

Gisborne Tuesday 9am -5pm & Thursday 9am-5pm **Email**: gisborne@cam.org.au

School Communities

St Ambrose Woodend Principal: Bronwyn Phillips Ph 03 54271285

Email office@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au **Website**: www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Lancefield Principal: Gabe Agius Ph 03 54291359

Email office@smlancefield.catholic.edu.au **Website**: www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School: Principal: Melanie Daly Ph 03 54282220

Email: office@sbgisborne.catholic.edu.au **Website**: www.sbgisborne.edu.au

Holy Cross New Gisborne principal: Eloise Meyer Ph 03 54208100

Email: holycross@hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au **Website**: www.hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

14 December 2025

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the

spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

mtate@bigpond.com

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Ministry	13/12/25 6:30pm	14/12/25 9am	20/12/25 6:30pm	21/12/25 9am	24/12/25 5pm	25/12/25 8:30am
Priest	Fr. John	Fr. John	Fr. Martin	Fr. John	Fr. John	Fr. John
Musician	Rosalie	Agnes	Rosalie	Christine	Louise	-----
Reader	Joan	Eileen	Tony	Anne B	Children	Joanne
Collector	<i>Vol req</i>	Barry	<i>Vol req</i>	Rob	McCarthy	<i>Vol req</i>
Spec Min	Julie	Marie	Julie	Kerry	Kerry	<i>Vol req</i>
Set up	Rosalie/Julie	Eileen	Rosalie/Julie	Joanne	All	<i>Vol req</i>
Cleaner	-----	Anne T	-----	Anne N	-----	-----
Location	LF	Rom	LF	Rom	LF	Rom

Could those listed on the roster please advise if you are unavailable.

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for the following who are in continuing need of our prayers:
Christine C & Brendan C.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – RESPONSE: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

R: We pray for ourselves and the special needs of all in our parish community. We pray for those who are sick, those on our parish prayer list – the frail, and for all who care for them. For the faithful departed: for those who have died recently, especially and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially *Lenny Connors, Patrick Connors, Chloe Morse, Veronica O'Brien & Margaret Mulvihill.*

We pray to the Lord

Lord, hear our prayer.

All

HAIL MARY

CELEBRANT

LET US BRING OUR PRAYERS TOGETHER BY SAYING THE JUBILEE PRAYER.

All

JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. *Amen.*

Collections last week

Presbytery \$421

Thanksgiving \$780

1st collection: Presbytery & Priest

2nd collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

All: Loving God, you sent John the Baptist as a voice crying in the desert, open our ears to hear his message and shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you. We light this pink candle of joy, the joy that we have in Jesus, our Saviour the one who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed, the bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners. Let us prepare then the way of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Celebrating Advent and Christmas

The Advent and Christmas season is a wonderful time in the life of our Church. Advent and Christmas are different celebrations, with Advent leading us to the Feast of Christmas. To highlight the significance of these two seasons in the Church, we need celebrate Advent in its fullness. This means that our crib and the decorating of our Christmas tree takes place for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, in this way we give Advent its purpose of preparing us for the birth of the Messiah. The same is with Christmas carols, they are not sung till the first Mass for Christmas. Our liturgical seasons are rich in symbol and prayer. Advent leads us to the first Mass celebrating the birth of the Messiah. *Fr John*

CHILD PROTECTION

is everyone's responsibility

Safety of Children and All Vulnerable People

The St. Mary's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy is on display on the church noticeboards or via the parish office.

All children leaving the church during Mass must be accompanied by a parent.

Child Safety Committee

Fr. John Healy
Tammie Dalglish
Michael Mooney

Baptism

As arranged with the Parish Secretary on the 1st Sunday of the month

Marriages

Arranged by appointment with at least 6 months' notice. Please contact parish office.

Funerals

Contact Fr. John directly.

Thanksgiving

Any parishioner wishing to join the Thanksgiving program is invited to contact Tammie at the parish office to arrange some Thanksgiving envelopes. Thanksgiving contributions by Direct Debit or Credit Card welcome.

Welcome

St. Mary's Parish community warmly welcomes visitors and new parishioners. We invite new parishioners to introduce yourself to Fr. John, fill in a census card located in the church foyer and place in either collection or contact Tammie directly at the parish office.

Volunteering Ministries

A current Working with Children Check is required to volunteer within the parish.

Help is always welcome!

Power Point operator at Mass
Reader of the Word
Church Cleaning & Gardening

Upcoming Liturgy Schedule

Tuesday 16th - 10am -

Graduation Liturgy – LF

Wednesday 17th - 12pm - End of Year Mass St Mary's – LF

7.30pm Penitential Service **Wood Thursday 18th**

NO Mass Gisb or Rom

7pm Penitential Service Gisb

Friday 19th

NO morning Mass Lancefield

News across the Parishes



Woodend: The Parish now has a mobile number **0409 436 441**. Even though the Parish still has a land line this is the preferred number as it will allow you to leave message. In using the land line, you are unable to leave a message. Please make note of the new number.

Lancefield/Gisborne: With moving the Gisborne Parish Office back into the presbytery, there is a need to look at the needs of Parish and accommodation for the Assistant Priest. Currently the presbytery at Lancefield is vacant, so the plan is have the Assistant priest live at Lancefield and turn the Gisborne presbytery into a Parish office and meeting facilities. This move will also ensure privacy for the Assistant Priest. With turning the Gisborne presbytery into a Parish office, we will have a place for the secretary to work, storage, a meeting space and a place to have a cuppa after Mass. The main bedroom and bathroom of the house will be kept as accommodation for supply priests on the weekend when needed. It is suggested we call the Parish Office: Colmcille House, after the one of our early Churches that was closed.

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

5pm on Wednesday 24th December, 2025.

We are delighted that Fr. John will be celebrating the Christmas Eve Outdoor Family Mass this year in the Lancefield Church grounds.

The setting will be similar to last year, simple and family friendly. Those attending are asked to bring their own chairs or picnic rug and be suitably attired and equipped for the weather – hats, sunscreen, water, coats etc!! Should the weather be wet or very cold, of course, the Mass will need to be moved into the Church.

Children are encouraged to dress in character as part of the Nativity Scene; we hope to see lots of angels, shepherds, Wise Men or Women and even Mary and Joseph among the crowd. As it is a Mass focused on the Children they will be heavily involved in all aspects of the celebration.

To ensure the safety of everybody, children and adults, the entrance to the west end of the Church yard will be blocked off, no cars will be permitted to be parked in the Church grounds, there will no climbing on the tree and any child needing to use the toilet must be accompanied by an adult.

Anyone needing mobility assistance please contact the office for parking arrangements to made.

St Mary's – Lancefield & Romsey

A huge congratulations to our boys' softball team (Josh, Ethan, Ashton, Ben B., Darcy, Jake, Ben G., Blake, Zane & Chase J.) on their outstanding achievement in making it all the way through the different competition levels to get to the state finals. This is a fantastic accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of the way the boys represented our school with teamwork, determination, and great sportsmanship.



We played 3 different games, each with 3 innings. We were a bit nervous in the first game and lost by just two runs. In the 2nd game we lifted our performance, but the other team proved too strong. By the 3rd game all our hard work and team spirit came together, and we finished with a big win. A huge thank-you to our parents and to Mrs Giles for all her support and for coaching us.
(written by Ben and Zane)

PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

Anyone not already contributing to the Priest & Presbytery expenses who would like to contribute may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

**St. Mary's Presbytery Account
NAB**

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 64151 8467

Please use your surname as the reference.

THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

Anyone not already on the Thanksgiving Program who would like to contribute to the Church may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

**St. Mary's Church Account
NAB**

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 64150 3257

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

Advent Week 3

Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

