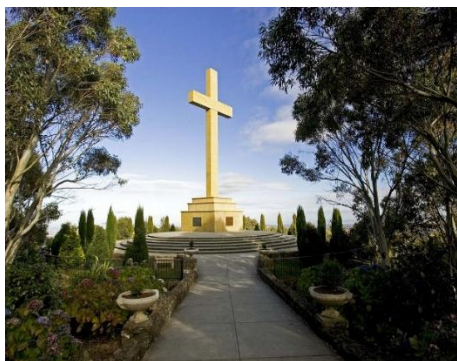




**WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST AMBROSE WOODEND,
ST AMBROSE RIDDELLS CREEK,
ST BRIGIDS GISBORNE,
ST MARY'S LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY &
ST PATRICK'S MACEDON**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

22nd March, 2026

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

Sunday - 8am Riddells Creek, 9am Romsey, 11am Woodend and Gisborne

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please see the Mass schedule below

ANointing MASS – 1st Saturday of the month 10.30am St Mary's Romsey

RECONCILIATION 10am – 10.30am 2nd Saturday of the month Woodend, 3rd Saturday of the month Gisborne, 4th Saturday of the month Lancefield

HOLY HOUR AND EVENING PRAYER 7pm – 8pm 1st Friday of the month. See Mass schedule for church

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr John Healy, 0439 033 750, john.healy@cam.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Zaher Al Mhanna, Zaher.Almhanna@cam.org.au

WOODEND: Secretary Bernadette Petruccelli, PO Box 347, 47 Urquhart St Woodend. Ph: 0409 436 441, bernadette.petruccelli@cam.org.au

LANCEFIELD: Secretary Tammie Dalglish, 27 Chauncey Lancefield. Ph: 03 54292130, lancefield@cam.org.au

GISBORNE: Secretary Tammie Dalglish, PO Box 467, 66 Aitken St Gisborne. Ph: 03 54282591, gisborne@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Woodend: Monday and Friday 9am – 4pm, **Lancefield:** Wednesday and Friday 8am – 5pm,

Gisborne: Tuesday and Thursday 8am – 5pm

PARISH WEBSITES

Woodend: www.stambrosewoodend.com.au

Lancefield: www.melbcatholic.org/s/lancefield

Gisborne: www.melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne

SCHOOL COMMUNITIES St Ambrose Woodend: www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au , St Mary's Lancefield: www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au , St Brigid's Gisborne: www.sbgisborne.catholic.edu.au , Holy Cross New Gisborne: www.hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK ACROSS OUR PARISHES

Tuesday 24th: 5pm Mass Gisborne 6pm Mass Woodend 7:30pm RCIA Lancefield

Wednesday 25th: 9:15am Mass Gisborne, 9:30am Mass Woodend
12.30pm First Reconciliation Woodend 5.30pm First Reconciliation Lancefield

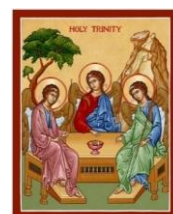
Thursday 26th: 9:15am Mass Gisborne 10.30am Mass Romsey Aged Care

Friday 27th: 8:30am Boarders Mass Assumption College Kilmore 10am Healing Mass Gisborne
7pm Stations of the Cross – Romsey

Saturday 28th 10:00am-10:30am Reconciliation – Lancefield

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During 2026 our focus as a community of faith will be based on the image of the Trinity. An image reflecting the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, calling us to be community of
WELCOME and HOSPITALITY.



The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year: Alternate Readings, Year A

22 March 2026

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

*(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption*

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25, 26

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.*

Gospel Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 or longer form Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

*If anyone believes in me, even though he dies
he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.*

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

*I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak*

*for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'*

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God.

You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.

We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be *the Resurrection and the Life*.

mtate@bigpond.com

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Rosters & Events

Ministers for next weekend's Masses

Palm Sunday – Year A

28th & 29th March, 2026

6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's Reader: N. Spiers Eucharist: L. Scott	8:00am Mass St. Ambrose's Welcomer: L. Saunders Reader: P. Lawry	Flowers: J. Shumack <i>Macedon volunteers are listed as Mass could be reinstated at short notice.</i>
9:30am Mass St. Patrick's Reader: K. Petherbridge Eucharist: K. Vandenberg	11:00am Mass St. Brigid's Reader: T. Kelly Eucharist: V. Firman	

Upcoming Parish Masses & Events

Sat 21/03/26 10:00am – Reconciliation – **Gis**
Sat 21/03/26 6pm Mass – **Gis**
Sun 22/03/26 8am Mass – **RC** & 11am Mass **Gis**
Sun 22/03/26 12pm Baptism's **Gis**
Tue 24/03/26 5pm – Weekday Mass **Gis**
Wed 25/03/26 9:15am Mass **Gis**
Thu 26/03/26 9.15am – Weekday Mass – **Gis**
Thu 26/03/26 7pm – Liturgy Meeting – **Gis**
Fri 27/03/26 10am – Healing Mass – **Gis**
Fri 27/03/26 7pm Stations of the Cross – **Rom**
Sat 28/03/26 10am Reconciliation – **LF**
Sat 28/03/26 6pm Mass – **Gis**
Sun 29/03/26 8am Mass – **RC** & 11am Mass – **Gis**

Collections at Sunday Mass.

1st Collection – Priest & Presbytery
 2nd Collection – Thanksgiving & Church.

SECRETARY ANNUAL LEAVE

From March 27th to April 10th the parish office will be closed, reopening on the 14th.
 For matters of urgency during this time, please contact Fr. John directly.
 All non urgent enquiries can be sent via email and will be answered upon my return.

BAPTISM PRAYER

We ask our God, the giver of life, to bless you,
 Isabelle, Hudson, Orlando, Livia, Valentina & Darcy
 who will be baptised today.

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for those who are in ill health: **Eileen S, Corrine V, Anthony S, Fran S, Jonathan S, Helen K, Diane M, Marg P, Beth T, Willow O, Anne G, Fleur H, Thomas C & Michael W.**

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 and for all who care for them. For the faithful departed: for those who have died recently, especially **Julie Antoine-Salay & Raphael Soosay** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Michael Haire, Leslie Brown & Malachi Carroll**. May they be comforted in the knowledge that the Lord God, in Jesus, offers eternal life and is full of mercy.



CELEBRANT We bring our prayers to a close as we pray,

All **GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

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.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be celebrated on a rotation through our Mass Centres at 7pm on a Friday evening.

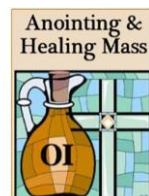
March 27th Romsey.

HEALING MASS – Friday 27th March, 2026 – 10am

As part of our preparation for Easter you are invited to attend the **Healing Mass** at St Brigid's Gisborne. During this Mass you be invited to come forward to be anointed, placing before the Lord whatever it is you are asking for healing. This will be the only Mass across the Parishes on Friday.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH MACEDON

St Patrick is still closed for the time being due to the recent storm damage. Currently part of the ceiling is being replaced, then the carpet will be replaced. Some work on sky lights needs to be done as well as some electrical work. We will keep you update when Sunday Mass can return to Macedon.



EASTER SERVICES 2026

Palm Sunday: usual Sunday Mass, except Macedon

Thursday 2nd April - Holy Thursday

7pm - St. Brigids Gisborne & 7pm - St. Ambrose Woodend *with the Church staying open till 9.30pm*

Friday 3rd April - Stations of the Cross

10am - St. Brigids Gisborne & 10am - St. Ambrose Woodend

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday - Passion of the Lord

3pm - St. Mary's Lancefield & 3pm - St. Brigids Gisborne

Saturday 4th April - Holy Saturday

7pm - St. Brigids Gisborne & 7pm - St. Mary's Lancefield

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday

8am Riddells Creek, 9am Romsey, 11am Woodend & 11am Gisborne

You will notice that for Woodend, Lancefield and Romsey the Holy Week ceremonies are alternating.
After looking at the attendance numbers last year and the demand on the priest to do double ceremonies,
Fr John has decided that each year the ceremonies will alternate between the church.



FEAST OF ST PATRICK

Thank you to all those who came along to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick last Tuesday. There are about 70 at Mass and 60 gathered for the meal in the Macedon Hotel. It was a great gathering of parishioners from across our three Parishes. Looks like we have started a new tradition.



RCIA

This weekend our elect, those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil in Lancefield will receive a copy of the Lord's Prayer. This is a symbolic action acknowledging this great prayer given to us by Jesus, that unites all Christians and that we pray each time we gather around the table of the Lord.

St. AMBROSE SCHOOL FETE

This coming Saturday St Ambrose School is holding its fete, 9am – 1pm.
Stalls, food and fun for all.

It is rumored that Fr John is lining up for the dunking machine!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Today, exactly nine months before Christmas, is the Feast of the Annunciation. Mary was invited by God, through the Archangel Gabriel, to be the mother of God's Son. Although very perplexed and not fully able to comprehend the enormity of what was happening, Mary said yes! She trusts God. Mary puts her faith in God. This is the sacred Incarnation! The Word of God became flesh for us and for our salvation. The one through whom all things were made becomes human. Mary is a great and unique model of faith and trust in God for us. God's incredible and infinite love for us becomes this great sacrament of God—namely, our Lord and brother, Jesus! Mary continued to trust throughout her life, even as she faced many challenges, including witnessing her Son die on the cross. Yet she continued to trust! As a mother, given to us by Jesus, she helps us on our own journey... we are also helped and invited to say to God: 'Your will be done in my life.'

WEEKLY SOCIAL CARDS NIGHT

St. Brigid's Hall – Tuesday 7:30pm start -
Entry \$10 per player
Light supper served on completion of play
EVERYONE WELCOME

KARATE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Thursday evenings 6pm - *1st TWO lessons free then \$5 per class*
No term commitment required;
pay as you come.
Enq: Kathryn Aprile—0404 340 892

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday – 10am
For all enquiries please contact
Bernie 0414 890 377

OPEN HOUSE

Meet after 11am Sunday Mass at the
Kaffeine Bar for a coffee and chat.
Everyone Welcome!

Collections last week

Presbytery \$744
1st collection: Presbytery & Priest

Thanksgiving \$1231
2nd collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)

CHILD PROTECTION

is everyone's responsibility

The St. Brigids Safeguarding
Children and Young People
Policy can be found on the Parish
Website or via the parish office.
*All children leaving the church
during Mass must be
accompanied by a parent.*

Baptism

As arranged with the Parish Secretary on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Marriages

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

Funerals

Contact Fr. John directly.

PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Priest & Presbytery expenses, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Presbytery Account NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6672 72303

Please use your surname as the reference.

THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving Program, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Church Account NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6742 95773

Please use your surname and your TG number as the reference.