

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

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7th December, 2025



ST AMBROSE 18 Templeton Street
Woodend



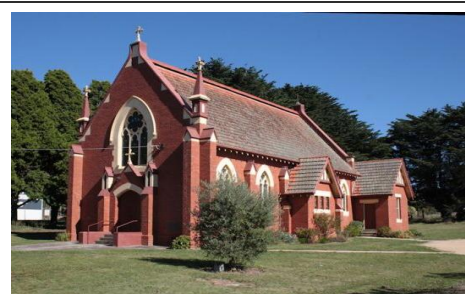
ST AMBROSE 10 Sutherland Street
Riddells Creek



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: 03 54272690

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

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

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

Parish Secretary Gisborne: Tammie Dagleish 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

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7 December 2025

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:**

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the coming towards us ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

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Rosters & Events

Ministers for next weekend's Masses

3rd Sunday of Advent – Year A

13th & 14th December, 2025

6:00pm Mass	St. Brigid's	8:00am Mass	St. Ambrose's	Flowers: T. Armstrong 
Reader:	B. Floreani	Welcomer:	L. Saunders	
Eucharist:	N. Spiers	Reader:	A-M. Drummond	
9:30am Mass	St. Patrick's	11:00am Mass	St. Brigid's	
Reader:	K. Petherbridge	Reader:	K. Page	
Eucharist:	R. Fisher	Eucharist:	T. Armstrong	

Upcoming Parish Masses & Events

Sat 06/12/25	10:30am – Anointing Mass – Romsey	JH
Sat 06/12/25	6pm Mass – Gisborne	MF
Sun 07/12/25	8am Mass – Riddells Creek	JH
Sun 07/12/25	9:30am Mass – Macedon	MF
Sun 07/12/25	11am Mass – Gisborne	MF
Sun 07/12/25	2-4pm Carols in the Hall	
Mon 08/12/25	8am Mass – Romsey	JH
<i>(Celebrating St Mary's Church Romsey under the title of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception)</i>		
Tue 09/12/25	5pm – Weekday Mass – Gisborne	JH
Wed 10/12/25	NO Weekday Mass	
Thu 11/12/25	NO Weekday Mass	
Fri 12/12/25	NO Weekday Mass	
Fri 12/12/25	10am – Arcare visits	JH
Fri 12/12/25	10:45am – Holy Cross Mass	JH
Sat 13/12/25	10am – Reconciliation – Woodend	JH
Sat 13/12/25	6pm Mass – Gisborne	MF
Sun 14/12/25	8am Mass – Riddells Creek	JH
Sun 14/12/25	9:30am Mass – Macedon	MF
Sun 14/12/25	11am Mass – Gisborne	JH
Sun 14/12/25	12pm – Baptism - Gisborne	JH

Message from Fr John

Dear Friends,

Fr. Wahid is currently on extend leave and I invite you to keep him in your prayers. During this time, I will cover the weekday schedule, which will have some changes over the next few weeks with the end of school year Masses and Graduations. Please check the bulletin for the amended schedule.

During December Fr. Martin Fleming will be helping with the celebrations of our weekend Masses. Our weekend schedule will also have a slight change. During the month of December, the 9am Mass that usually alternates between Lancefield and Romsey will be celebrated at Romsey each week. In adjusting the schedule for December, I will be celebrating the 8am Mass at Riddells Creek and then come through to Romsey for the 9am Mass. As the Romsey church is the closest to Riddells Creek this will make it easier for me to travel between the Churches. I hope you understand the need for these changes at this present time.

Fr. John



CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for those who are in ill health:

**Eileen S, Corrine V, Anthony S,
Fran S, Helen K, Diane M, Marg P,
Zoe F, Beth T, Willow O & Steve O.**

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 and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Nell Templeton, Joseph & Melita Bugeja, Joseph & David Consiglio, Darren Nisbett, Maria Consiglio & Megan Branigan.** †

Please join in the parish Prayer.

St. BRIGID'S GISBORNE PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, we thank you for all the blessings we enjoy in our parish family of St. Brigid's Gisborne.

Many have laboured to build our parish. May we all work together and hand in hand stand together.

May our parish be filled with holiness and prayer, faith and love.

May all who come here find a welcoming home, comfort in their needs and strength for their journey.

St. Brigid, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose and St. Colmcille watch over us always we pray, that with faith we grow and learn.

We make our prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

Collections at Sunday Mass.

Please note recent changes to our collection process - as per Archdiocese Policy, our collections will be in the order of:

1st Collection – Priest & Presbytery

2nd Collection – Thanksgiving & Church.

Next weeks readings: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Giving Tree 2025

The St. Brigid's Parish Giving Tree will support the Gisborne branch of St. Vincent de Paul.

They are asking for donations of Food Gift Cards, which can be purchased from Foodworks, IGA, Coles & Aldi in Gisborne and Foodworks in Riddells Creek to any value. Also included is a "Pennies from Heaven" option, and any monies collected will be used to purchase Gift Cards.

The Gift Cards will be used to support families in need over the Christmas period. All donations will be greatly appreciated. The Giving Tree program will commence on the first week of Advent – 29th / 30th November. Could donations please be returned no later than Sunday 14th December, so the Gift Cards can be distributed to families for Christmas. Gift cards can be returned at any Mass, the Parish Office and both Schools.



Feast Days this Week

Sunday 7th December: St. Ambrose was a gifted writer and speaker, later known as the "Honey-Tongued Doctor" and patron saint of bees, beekeepers, and candlemakers. He tirelessly preached that Jesus is everything for us. He believed this so much that it is reflected in his generosity to the poor.

He donated all of his land and possessions until he had nothing but basic provisions. Ambrose is famous for being a spiritual father to St. Augustine of Hippo, whom he mentored and baptized into the faith. He died in 397 on Holy Saturday, after receiving the Eucharist for the last time.

Monday 8th December: The story of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, however, is not so straightforward as this timetable suggests. Like all Christian feasts it is most deeply about Jesus.



Mary's conception of Jesus matters to Catholics because Jesus matters. And, of course, Mary matters to us because she mattered to Jesus as he carried out the plan of God's joining us. The feast reminds us that God prepared Mary's path to become mother of God's Son from her own conception, and assures us that God also prepares our own unique path to a faithful human life from our conception. Our birth and our life are not accidents but represent invitations and paths to God.

That explains why, in the early Church, Christians became so interested in the people described in the Gospels as friends and companions of Jesus. Mary and the Apostles become part of Gospels written for different communities which gave a life of their own to figures hardly mentioned like Ann and Joachim, Mary's parents. By imagining the lives of the saints, we can recognise ways in which God is present in our own lives. They become companions for us. So, it is easy to see why Mary was revered as the Mother of God and why the story of her conceiving Jesus as a virgin became so important in the early Church. That Mary gave birth to Jesus testified to his being human; that Jesus was born of a virgin testified to his being divine. Both aspects of Jesus' conception speak of God's gift in Jesus, a gift that goes back behind his life to its makings.

The belief that Jesus was sinless, though tempted like us, was then extended to Mary. God had prepared Jesus' birth by giving him a mother who was also without sin.

CHILD PROTECTION is everyone's responsibility

The St. Brigid's 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.

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.

Christmas Carols @ St Brigid's Hall

Sunday 7th December
2:00 to 4:00pm

ALL WELCOME! Bring a plate to share!
No Hot food please as reheating is not available



2025 Christmas Services



Advent Penitential Service of Forgiveness

Thursday 18 December – 7pm – Gisborne

Christmas Eve Family Mass

Wednesday 24 December – 6pm – Gisborne

Christmas Eve Mass with Carols

7:45pm – carols, 8:30pm – Mass – Macedon

Christmas Eve Mass with Carols

10:30pm – carols, 11pm – Mass – Gisborne

Christmas Day Mass

Thursday 25 December – 8:30am – Riddells Creek

Thursday 25 December – 10:30am – Gisborne

Celebrating Birthday's and Anniversaries

Congratulations and special blessings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the month of **December**. May your journey through life be filled with daily treasures, and may you always be open, willing and ready to share your blessings with others.



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

OPEN HOUSE

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

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

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

Collections last week

Presbytery \$791
1st collection: Presbytery & Priest

Thanksgiving \$1005
2nd collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)

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.



Choir of the Anglican Parish of Gisborne,
Young Voices of Macedon, with singers from St Patrick's,
Macedon & St Ambrose, Woodend.

Dianne Gome & Jessica Demare - Conductors
Alan Grinton - Organ
Dan Rigby - Flute & Organ

Sunday 14 December at 7.30pm

Church of the Resurrection
Corner of Honour Ave and Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon