

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

21st December, 2025



ST AMBROSE 18 Templeton Street
Woodend



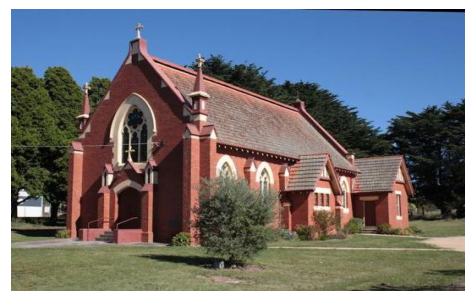
ST AMBROSE 10 Sutherland Street
Riddells Creek



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

21 December 2025

First Reading Is 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the
Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure
heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to
a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

mtate@bigpond.com

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Rosters & Events

Ministers for next weekend's Masses

The Holy Family – Year A

27th & 28th December, 2025

6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's

Reader: F. Murone

Eucharist: K. Aprile

8:00am Mass St. Ambrose's

Welcomer: L. Saunders

Reader: P. Sammut

Flowers:

J. Shumack



9:30am Mass St. Patrick's

Reader: B. O'Callaghan

Eucharist: K. Petherbridge

11:00am Mass St. Brigid's

Reader: B. Myers

Eucharist: V. Firman

Upcoming Parish Masses & Events

Sat 20/12/25 10am – Reconciliation – Gisborne JH

Sat 20/12/25 6pm Mass – Gisborne JH

Sun 21/12/25 8am Mass – Riddells Creek JH

Sun 21/12/25 9:30am Mass – Macedon MF

Sun 21/12/25 11am Mass – Gisborne MF

Tue 23/12/25 NO Weekday Mass

SEE BELOW FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Fri 26/12/25 NO Weekday Mass

WEEKLY SOCIAL CARDS NIGHT

Thank you to all those who have supported the Euchre club this year and enjoyed our Tuesday games nights.

Card night will be taking a break over the holiday season and will resume on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026.

THANK YOU Fr. MARTIN

Our combined parishes extend our appreciation to FR. MARTIN FLEMING who will be celebrating Mass with us during the month of December.

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 Fr, Beth T, Willow O & Jonothan S.

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 *Giuseph Nguyen* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially *Norrie Gardiner, Julia Chicarelli, Mick Seric, Gerard Bailey, Catherine Brennan & Pat Lawry.*

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.

Upcoming Liturgy Schedule

Tuesday 23rd

6pm Mass Woodend JH

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve

No morning Mass

Saturday 27th

5pm Woodend JH

6pm Gisborne MF

6.30pm Lancefield JH

Sunday 28th

8am Riddells Creek JH

9am Romsey JH

9.30am Macedon MF

11am Woodend JH

11am Gisborne MF

Fr. Wahid update

Rest assured Fr. Wahid is well and healthy and is simply taking some personal leave. For those who have his mobile number and are wondering why he is not answering, we remind you that number was for work needs and ask that you respect his privacy at this time and don't make contact.

2025 Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Outdoor Family Mass

Wednesday 24 December – 5pm – Lancefield JH

Christmas Eve Indoor Family Mass

Wednesday 24 December – 6pm – Gisborne MF

Wednesday 24 December – 7pm – Woodend JH

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass with Carols

7:45pm – Carols, 8:30pm – Mass – Macedon JH

9pm – Carols, 10pm – Mass – Woodend JH

10:30pm – Carols, 11pm – Mass – Gisborne MF

Christmas Day Mass

Thursday 25 December – 8:30am – Riddells Creek MF

Thursday 25 December – 8:30am – Romsey JH

Thursday 25 December – 10am – Woodend JH

Thursday 25 December – 10:30am – Gisborne MF

Friday 26th December

No Mass



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.

Please note: The Lancefield Parish office will continue as normal.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

All: Loving God,

You call us all to be your people united in joy, to prepare the way of the Lord. These candles have been lit in peace, the peace that Jesus, our Saviour, gives to the world. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him. Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECRETARY ANNUAL LEAVE

Tam will be taking some time off throughout January.

From now until January 6th the parish office will be open as normal, only being closed on public holidays.

From January 8th to the 21st the parish office will be closed, reopening on the 22nd.

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.

BULLETIN & LIVING WORD

There will be NO bulletin or Living word printed during January.

ROSTERS

As there are no rostered duties during January, please make yourself available at any Mass you attend if you see a need. Thank you.

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD 2026

Preparations are underway for an Archdiocesan Synod, with three key themes to form the focus of the 2026 gathering: young discipleship, missionary leadership, and formation and participation. In a letter addressed the faithful, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli called the synod 'an important moment in the life of our local Church in Melbourne'. Next year's synod has been part of 'an unfolding journey', Archbishop Comensoli explained, with Australia hosting the Fifth Plenary Council from 2021 to 2022, which he said 'arose from a nationwide effort of prayerful listening and discernment'.

More information on the synod will be available in early 2026, and preparations will include the establishment of a Synod Commission, which will help explore the three foundational themes. 'For now, I simply ask for your prayers and your openness to journey together as the Church in Melbourne—across our parishes, apostolates, works and communities.'

OPEN HOUSE

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

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Will be taking a break over the holiday period and recommence on 29th January, 2026

Collections last week

Presbytery \$791

1st collection: Presbytery & Priest

Thanksgiving \$1272

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.

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.



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.