

# 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

14<sup>th</sup> December, 2025



ST AMBROSE 18 Templeton Street  
Woodend



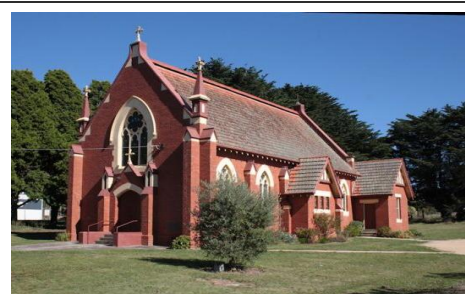
ST AMBROSE 10 Sutherland Street  
Riddells Creek



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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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**: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 10.30am

## Reconciliation

Woodend: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 10am-10.30am, Gisborne 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month 10am- 10.30,  
Lancefield: 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:bernadette.petruccelli@cam.org.au) **Website Woodend**: [www.stambrosewoodend.com.au](http://www.stambrosewoodend.com.au)

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

Email: [lancefield@cam.org.au](mailto:lancefield@cam.org.au) **Website Lancefield**: [www.melbcatholic.org/s/lancefield](http://www.melbcatholic.org/s/lancefield)

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

Email: [gisborne@cam.org.au](mailto:gisborne@cam.org.au) **Website Gisborne**: [www.melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne](http://www.melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne)

## Office Hours

**Woodend** Monday 9am - 4pm & Friday 9am - 4pm Email: [woodend@cam.org.au](mailto:woodend@cam.org.au)

**Lancefield** Wednesday 8am - 5pm & Friday 8am - 5pm Email: [lancefield@cam.org.au](mailto:lancefield@cam.org.au)

**Gisborne** Tuesday 9am -5pm & Thursday 9am-5pm Email: [gisborne@cam.org.au](mailto:gisborne@cam.org.au)

## School Communities

**St Ambrose Woodend Principal**: Bronwyn Phillips Ph 03 54271285

Email [office@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au) **Website**: [www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au)

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

Email [office@smlancefield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@smlancefield.catholic.edu.au) **Website**: [www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au)

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

Email: [office@sbgisborne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@sbgisborne.catholic.edu.au) **Website**: [www.sbgisborne.edu.au](http://www.sbgisborne.edu.au)

**Holy Cross New Gisborne principal**: Eloise Meyer Ph 03 54208100

Email: [holycross@hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au) **Website**: [www.hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au](http://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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# Rosters & Events

Ministers for next weekend's Masses

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Year A

20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2025

|                    |                      |                     |                       |                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6:00pm Mass</b> | <b>St. Brigid's</b>  | <b>8:00am Mass</b>  | <b>St. Ambrose's</b>  | <b>Flowers:</b><br>K. Page & L. DeBono<br> |
| <b>Reader:</b>     | K. Aprile            | <b>Welcomer:</b>    | L. Saunders           |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Eucharist:</b>  | L. Scott             | <b>Reader:</b>      | M. Hall               |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>9:30am Mass</b> | <b>St. Patrick's</b> | <b>11:00am Mass</b> | <b>St. Brigid's</b>   |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Reader:</b>     | M. Redman            | <b>Reader:</b>      | J. Holmes & C. Holmes |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Eucharist:</b>  | D. Briffa            | <b>Eucharist:</b>   | D. Egan               |                                                                                                                               |

## Upcoming Parish Masses & Events

|                     |                                        |    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Sat 13/12/25</b> | 10am – Reconciliation – Woodend        | JH |
| <b>Sat 13/12/25</b> | 6pm Mass – Gisborne                    | MF |
| <b>Sun 14/12/25</b> | 8am Mass – Riddells Creek              | JH |
| <b>Sun 14/12/25</b> | 9:30am Mass – Macedon                  | MF |
| <b>Sun 14/12/25</b> | 11am Mass – Gisborne                   | JH |
| <b>Sun 14/12/25</b> | 12pm – Baptism - Gisborne              | JH |
| <b>Tue 16/12/25</b> | <b>NO Weekday Mass</b>                 |    |
| <b>Tue 16/12/25</b> | 6pm St. Brigids Graduation Liturgy     | JH |
| <b>Wed 17/12/25</b> | 9:15am - Whole School end of year Mass |    |
| <b>Wed 17/12/25</b> | 7:30pm – Penitential Service Woodend   | JH |
| <b>Wed 18/12/25</b> | 10:30am – Funeral – Gisborne           | JH |
| <b>Thu 18/12/25</b> | <b>NO Weekday Mass</b>                 |    |
| <b>Thu 18/12/25</b> | 7pm – Penitential Service – Gisborne   | JH |
| <b>Fri 19/12/25</b> | 9:15am Mass – Gisborne                 | JH |
| <b>Fri 19/12/25</b> | 10am – Warrina Nursing Home            | JH |
| <b>Sat 20/12/25</b> | 10am – Reconciliation – Gisborne       | JH |
| <b>Sat 20/12/25</b> | 6pm Mass – Gisborne                    | JH |
| <b>Sun 21/12/25</b> | 8am Mass – Riddells Creek              | JH |
| <b>Sun 21/12/25</b> | 9:30am Mass – Macedon                  | MF |
| <b>Sun 21/12/25</b> | 11am Mass – Gisborne                   | MF |

## Collections at Sunday Mass.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection – Priest & Presbytery**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Thanksgiving & Church.**

### Giving Tree 2025

Could donations please be returned no later than Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, so the Gift Cards can be distributed to families for Christmas. Gift cards can be returned at any Mass or the Parish Office.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 F, Beth T &, Willow 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 *Alan Fisher, Desmond Dunne, John de Lai & John Ewels.* 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.

### 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 Day Mass**

Thursday 25 December – 8:30am – Riddells Creek

### 2025 Combined Parishes Raffle - LIST OF WINNERS

Drawn Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2025

Permit No – 10189/25

#### 1st Prize

Kia Picanto Auto Josie Ringdal

#### 2nd Prize

\$5000 Coles/Myer Voucher Grace

#### 3rd Prize

\$3000 Coles/Myer Voucher Celia Ella Williams

#### 4th Prize

\$1000 Coles/Myer Voucher Hoai Pham

#### 5th Prize

\$1000 Coles/Myer Voucher Frank Cosgitis

#### 6th Prize

\$500 Coles/Myer Voucher Tak To Pang

#### 7th Prize

\$500 Coles/Myer Voucher K & A Zmegae

### Christmas Eve Mass with Carols

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

Thursday 25 December – 10:30am – Gisborne





## 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**

## 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.



## 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 Parish needs and accommodation for the Assistant Priest. Currently the presbytery at Lancefield is vacant, so the plan is have the Asst 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.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle – 2025.

Sadly, no winners from our parish but Congratulations to all who took home a prize. St. Brigids Parish raised over \$1000 from ticket sales. Thank you again to all who sold tickets, purchased tickets & helped organise.

## St. Brigids Carols in the Hall - 2025

Another successful event of entertainment, afternoon tea & fellowship. Thank you to all those involved in putting this event together and to those who performed on the day.



## 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

## 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.

## Collections last week

Presbytery \$727

1<sup>st</sup> collection: Presbytery & Priest

Thanksgiving \$977

2<sup>nd</sup> collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)