

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Year A

28th December, 2025



ST AMBROSE 18 Templeton Street
Woodend



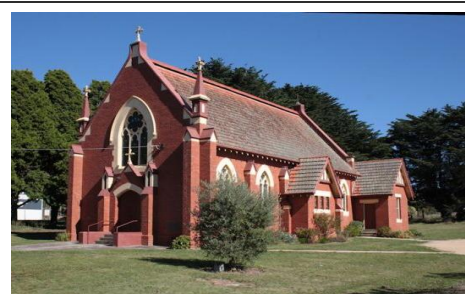
ST AMBROSE 10 Sutherland Street
Riddells Creek



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 Romsey, 9.30am Macedon, 11am Woodend & Gisborne

Please note: **During January, all St. Mary's parish Sunday Masses will be celebrated at the Romsey Church.**

Weekday Mass Times

Please see current bulletin or website for altered weekday Masses during January.

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 Petrucci PO Box 397, 47 Urquhart St Woodend. Ph: 0409 436 441

Email: bernadette.petrucci@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

Weekday mass during the month of January

As Fr Wahid will still be on personal leave during January the following is the amended weekday Mass timetable:

6th 6pm Woodend, 7th 9.15am Gisborne, 8th 9.30am Romsey, 9th 9.30am Lancefield

The week of 12th – 16th No weekday Mass

20th 5pm Gisborne, 21st 9.30am Woodend, 22nd 9.30am Romsey, 23rd 9.30am Lancefield

27th 6pm Woodend, 28th 9.15am Gisborne, 29th 9.30am Romsey, 30th 9.30am Lancefield

The Living Word

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year A

28 December 2025

First Reading **Sir 3:2-6. 12-14**

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten

but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. *(R.)*

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. *(R.)*

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Col 3:12-21**

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other,

and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation **Col 3:15. 16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 2:13-15.19-23**

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. Here he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Herod is seeking to annihilate all the male children in Bethlehem. The child Jesus is in mortal danger. 'Arise, take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.' And Joseph did so. That night and by night, such was the urgency.

Have you ever thought: What if Egyptian border guards had turned back this refugee family? What if, instead of finding safe haven and sanctuary, this desperate family had been denied entry? The Divine plan to rescue Jesus from a murderous tyrant depended not only on Joseph but, also, on the Egyptian people.

And so we discover two Holy Families in this Gospel episode. One is the little Holy Family with Joseph, Mary and Jesus. The other is the larger Holy Family of humanity embodied in those Egyptians who provided sanctuary, who opened their land to allow Joseph, Mary and Jesus to settle out of danger.

We might pause for a moment to ask: Can we be as hospitable and open as the Egyptians of today's Gospel? Another baby in another family of refugees may depend on our answer!

mtate@bigpond.com

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Rosters & Events

JANUARY ROSTERS

A many of us are lucky enough to get away during the Christmas & New Year season there are no rostered duties for the month of January.

It would be appreciated if volunteers could make themselves available at any Mass they attend to ensure all ministry roles are filled.

Upcoming Parish Masses & Events

Sat	27/12/25	6pm Mass – Gisborne	MF
Sun	28/12/25	8am Mass – Riddells Creek	JH
Sun	28/12/25	9:30am Mass – Macedon	MF
Sun	28/12/25	11am Mass – Gisborne	MF
Tue	30/12/25	5pm Weekday Mass – Gisborne	JH
Wed	31/12/25	NO Weekday Mass	

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Thu	01/01/26	10am – NYD Mass – Gisborne	JH
Fri	02/01/26	NO Weekday Mass	
Sat	03/01/26	6pm Mass – Gisborne	
Sun	28/12/25	Normal Sunday Masses	

Please see front page of Bulletin for Weekday Mass Schedule during the month of January, 2026.

Giving Tree 2025

Support for the Giving Tree is always amazing in this parish but this year you've outdone yourselves!

Thank you so much to all parishioners who donated to this cause. Many families across the region will have a wonderful Christmas due to your generosity.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Our parish would not function without the service of many volunteers who keep our Masses and all other special events running so smoothly.

I am reluctant to list them in fear I may omit someone but on behalf of our parish may I thank the following:

Sacristans, Readers, Special Ministers, Florists, Musicians, Singers, Cleaners, Gardeners, Counters, Visitors of the sick, Fundraisers & everyone who says yes when I ask for help!

You are AMAZING!!!

THANK YOU Fr. MARTIN

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE – 1st FEBRUARY 2026

Parish Feast Day.

Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am in the Gisborne Church followed by lunch in the parish hall.

Please bring a "plate to share".

Please note there will be NO other Masses in the Gisborne Parish on this Sunday. (01/02/26)

Come and Celebrate the Feast of St. Brigid.

EVERYONE WELCOME

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.

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 & 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 and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Jim Bodsworth & Shirley Howard**. We remember all those whose anniversary falls during the month of January, especially **John Garzia, Tessie Galea, Anne & Ted Bourke, Jean Brogan, Ruby Bodsworth & Fr. Kevin Bates**.

Please join in 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.

DECODE THE PROPHECY

Use the code below to decipher the prophet's message



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.



2026 ROSTERS

The rosters for 2026 will be produced in the coming weeks and distributed (that's the plan!) prior to February. If you have any holidays planned or extended periods of unavailability, please let me know so I can work around your dates. Thank you.



BAPTISM PRAYER

We ask our God, the giver of life, to bless you,
Thomas & Harvey
who will be baptised today.

We the Parish of St. Brigids welcome and support you

Wishing everyone a very safe and

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

And may 2026 bring you good health, success & much love.

WEEKLY SOCIAL CARDS NIGHT

St. Brigid's Hall – Tuesday 7:30pm start -
Entry \$10 per player

Recommence on January 21st, 2025.
EVERYONE WELCOME

KARATE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Taking a break until
Term 1, 2026

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

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

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 \$881

1st collection: Presbytery & Priest

Thanksgiving \$1170

2nd collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)