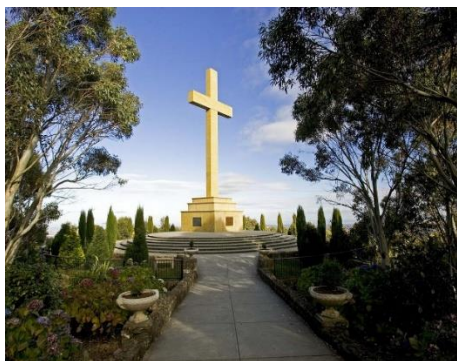




**WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF  
ST AMBROSE WOODEND,  
ST AMBROSE RIDDELLS CREEK,  
ST BRIGID'S GISBORNE,  
ST MARY'S LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY &  
ST PATRICK'S MACEDON**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2026**

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

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

**Sunday** - 8am Riddells Creek, 9am Romsey, 9.30am Macedon, 11am Woodend and Gisborne

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

Please see the Mass schedule below

**ANointing MASS** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 10.30am St Mary's Romsey

**RECONCILIATION** 10am – 10.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month Woodend, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month Gisborne, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month Lancefield

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

**PARISH STAFF**

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Healy, 0439 033 759, [john.healy@cam.org.au](mailto:john.healy@cam.org.au)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Zaher Al Mhanna, [Zaher.Almhanna@cam.org.au](mailto:Zaher.Almhanna@cam.org.au)

**WOODEND:** Secretary Bernadette Petrucci, PO Box 347, 47 Urquhart St Woodend. Ph: 0409 436 441, [bernadette.petrucci@cam.org.au](mailto:bernadette.petrucci@cam.org.au)

**LANCEFIELD:** Secretary Tammie Dalglish, 27 Chauncey Lancefield. Ph: 03 54292130, [lancefield@cam.org.au](mailto:lancefield@cam.org.au)

**GISBORNE:** Secretary Tammie Dalglish, PO Box 467, 66 Aitken St Gisborne. Ph: 03 54282591, [gisborne@cam.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.stambrosewoodend.com.au)

**Lancefield:** [www.melbcatholic.org/s/lancefield](http://www.melbcatholic.org/s/lancefield)

**Gisborne:** [www.melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne](http://www.melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne)

**SCHOOL COMMUNITIES** St Ambrose Woodend: [www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au) , St Mary's Lancefield: [www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au) , St Brigid's Gisborne: [www.sbgisborne.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sbgisborne.catholic.edu.au) , Holy Cross New Gisborne: [www.hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au)

**WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>:** 5pm Gisborne.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>:** 9.30am Romsey.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>:** 8:30am Boarders Mass Kilmore

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>:** 7pm Stations of the Cross - Gisborne

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>:** 10am Reconciliation Lancefield

**23rd February – 28<sup>th</sup> February**

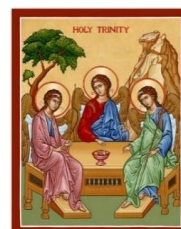
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>:** 9:30am Beginning school Mass Woodend.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>:** 6pm Sacred Heart College Yr 7 Mass Kyneton

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>:** 9.30 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

**First Sunday of Lent, Year A**

**22 February 2026**

## **First Reading** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3**

**(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
4. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

## **Second Reading** Rom 5:12-19 (or Shorter form Rom 5:12, 17-19)

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## **Gospel Acclamation** Mt 4:4

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

***No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.***

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

## **Gospel** Mt 4:1-11

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

**Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth  
of God.'**

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

**He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'**

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

**You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'**

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

**You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'**

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.



## **Reflection** by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. Firstly, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Secondly, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Thirdly, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

These were the Temptations of Christ, but also for us. If you or I are tempted to sin, we will find the marks of this threefold pattern. We want the whole world to change to satisfy us, or we want to take stupid risks and come out unscathed, or we want to exercise total power over others.

How can we try to follow Jesus without the shortcuts of the fantasy world which the Devil may offer? Note that Jesus resisted each temptation with: 'It is written'. The forty days of Lent are a perfect opportunity to read what 'is written' in the Gospels about the episodes and pattern of the life of Jesus Christ.

We could pause for a moment to find what is written and to imitate what we find. That is how the Devil is defeated.

[mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

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# Rosters & Events

Ministers for next weekend's Masses

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year A

28<sup>th</sup> February & 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026

|                    |                      |                     |                      |                                                         |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6:00pm Mass</b> | <b>St. Brigid's</b>  | <b>8:00am Mass</b>  | <b>St. Ambrose's</b> | <b>Flowers:</b><br><br>Greenery only during Lent please |
| <b>Reader:</b>     | B. Floreani          | <b>Welcomer:</b>    | L. Saunders          |                                                         |
| <b>Eucharist:</b>  | N. Spiers            | <b>Reader:</b>      | P. Sammut            |                                                         |
| <b>9:30am Mass</b> | <b>St. Patrick's</b> | <b>11:00am Mass</b> | <b>St. Brigid's</b>  |                                                         |
| <b>Reader:</b>     | B. O'Callaghan       | <b>Reader:</b>      | K. Page              |                                                         |
| <b>Eucharist:</b>  | K. Petherbridge      | <b>Eucharist:</b>   | T. Armstrong         |                                                         |

## What's on across our Parishes

|                     |                                           |    |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Sat 21/02/26</b> | 10am – Reconciliation – <b>Gis</b>        | JH |
| <b>Sat 21/02/26</b> | 6pm Mass – <b>Gisb</b>                    | JH |
| <b>Sun 22/02/26</b> | Normal Sunday Masses                      | JH |
| <b>Sun 22/02/26</b> | 12pm – Baptism's – <b>Gis</b>             | JH |
| <b>Mon 23/02/26</b> | 10:30am Funeral Joyce Trewarne <b>LF</b>  | JH |
| <b>Tue 24/02/26</b> | 11am – REL's meeting 4 schools            |    |
| <b>Tue 24/02/26</b> | 5pm - Weekday Mass in <b>Gis</b>          | JH |
| <b>Tue 24/02/26</b> | 7:30pm – RCIA – <b>LF</b>                 | JH |
| <b>Wed 25/02/26</b> | 9:30am – Opening School Mass <b>Wood</b>  | JH |
| <b>Wed 25/02/26</b> | 5:45pm – Finance Mtg – <b>LF</b>          |    |
| <b>Thu 26/02/26</b> | 9:30am – Weekday Mass in <b>Romsey</b>    | JH |
| <b>Thu 26/02/26</b> | 11am Funeral Josephine Checinski <b>W</b> | JH |
| <b>Thu 26/02/26</b> | 6pm Sacred Heart Yr 7 Mass <b>Wood</b>    | JH |
| <b>Fri 27/02/26</b> | 8:30am Borders Mass <b>Kilmore</b>        | JH |
| <b>Fri 27/02/26</b> | 9:30am Weekday Mass <b>LF</b>             | JH |
| <b>Fri 27/02/26</b> | 1:30pm Funeral Lyn Middleton <b>Gis</b>   | JH |
| <b>Fri 27/02/26</b> | 7pm Stations of the Cross <b>Gisborne</b> | JH |
| <b>Sat 28/02/26</b> | 10am Reconciliation <b>LF</b>             | JH |
| <b>Sat 28/02/26</b> | 6pm Mass – <b>Gis</b>                     | MF |
| <b>Sun 01/03/26</b> | 8am Mass – Riddells Creek                 | JH |
| <b>Sun 01/03/26</b> | 9:30am Macedon – 11am Gisborne            | MF |

## Collections at Sunday Mass.

1<sup>st</sup> Collection – Priest & Presbytery  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Thanksgiving & Church.

### PARISH CENSUS



If you did not fill out a census card last weekend you are invited to complete a card so that we able to get our parish records up to date. A census card can be found in the pews or at our church entrances. Please place completed cards in the box or basket provided.

**Columban Calendars** available for \$10 - all proceeds going to supporting St Elizabeth Hospital. Please contact Jayne on 0427855471 to organise delivery.

### Partnership News

The Columban Partnership Group would like to thank Liza Wilson for her ongoing support. Liza has been creating "Angel" wings which have been sold through St Brigid's School Community and raised almost \$800. We also thank Emma Barker for her support in assisting in promoting this to the students and families at the school.

### 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, Zoe F, Beth T, Willow O & Anne G.*

**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 **Chris Baxter** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Rita Grech & Sophia Wisniewski**. . 

**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.**

February 27<sup>th</sup> Gisborne, March 6<sup>th</sup> Lancefield, March 13<sup>th</sup> Woodend, March 20<sup>th</sup> Gisborne, March 27<sup>th</sup> Romsey.



## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm those adults seeking to become part of our Catholic Faith Community will be presented to Archbishop Peter in St Patrick's Cathedral. During this ceremony they will be enrolled in the Book of the Elect. We are invited to keep these adults in our prayers. St Ambrose Woodend & St Mary's Lancefield will have 4 adults to present:

***Kate Johnston, Lesley McLure,  
Ron Carrington & Bevan McWha.***  
Please keep them in your prayers.

### Liturgical practices:

The colour of vestment changes to purple, reminding us that we have entered a time of penance and conversion. The Gloria is omitted until the celebration of Holy Thursday. The Alleluia is replaced with a Lenten acclamation. During the season of Lent, we will proclaim the Nicene Creed. The proclamation of a different creed is another reminder that we are in a season of the Church that calls us to focus on our path of conversion. On the Fifth Sunday of Lent our statues and cross will be covered in purple.

## CHILDREN CAN HELP UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF LENT

### *Seeing Jesus in others*

A lesson I learned from my children happened one Holy Thursday when we stopped after Mass to pray at the altar of repose. My daughter, who was four years old, watched our fellow parishioners kneel to pray and look reverently on the Blessed Sacrament. As we left she asked, "Why do they kneel down and look like that?" I answered that it was Jesus and they were kneeling because they loved him. She innocently replied, "But if Jesus is in all of us, why don't they look at each other that way?" Her words have followed me all these years as I sometimes struggle to see the face of Jesus in others.

Joanne

### *I'm being watched*

I learned that I model for my children how one should act during Lent. Children listen more with their eyes than they do with their ears! S

### *Keep trying*

My children taught me that it's OK to slip up, but don't stop trying. J.B.

### *Seeing is believing*

My children have taught me to visually put into practice my beliefs about Lent. This way I can demonstrate to them the joy of altering our lifestyle as we draw closer to Christ during Lent. EM.

### Reflection questions:

What message do I want to offer others through what I say and do this Lent?

What have my children taught me about entering into the season of Lent?

### 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.

### 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 \$550

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

Thanksgiving \$1305

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

## 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 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.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Focus on **Nigeria**

6<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 – 10am

St. Paul's Anglican Church  
32 Fisher Street, Gisborne

**All 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.