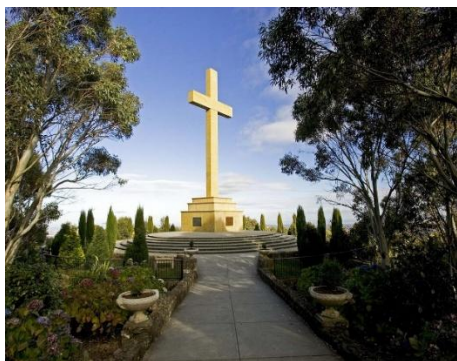




**WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ST AMBROSE WOODEND,
ST AMBROSE RIDDELLS CREEK,
ST BRIGIDS GISBORNE,
ST MARY'S LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY &
ST PATRICK'S MACEDON**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

3rd May, 2026

WEEEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: St. PATRICK'S MACEDON CLOSED FOR STORM DAMAGE REPAIRS

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please see the Mass schedule below

ANointing MASS – 1st Saturday of the month 10.30am St Mary's Romsey

RECONCILIATION 10am – 10.30am 2nd Saturday of the month Woodend, 3rd Saturday of the month Gisborne, 4th Saturday of the month Lancefield

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

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr John Healy, 0439 033 750, john.healy@cam.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Zaher Al Mhanna, 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

LANCEFIELD: Secretary Tammie Dalgleish, 27 Chauncey Lancefield. Ph: 03 54292130, lancefield@cam.org.au

GISBORNE: Secretary Tammie Dalgleish, PO Box 467, 66 Aitken St Gisborne. Ph: 03 54282591, 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

Lancefield: www.melbcatholic.org/s/lancefield

Gisborne: www.melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne

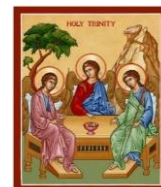
SCHOOL COMMUNITIES **St Ambrose Woodend:** www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au , **St Mary's Lancefield:** www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au , **St Brigid's Gisborne:** www.sbgisborne.catholic.edu.au , **Holy Cross New Gisborne:** www.hcnewgisborne.catholic.edu.au

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday 5th	5pm Mass Gisborne	6pm Mass Woodend
Wednesday 6th	9:15am Mass Gisborne	9:30am Mass Woodend
Thursday 7th	NO Mass Gisborne	9.30am Mass in Romsey
Friday 8th	9.15am Mass Gisborne	9.30am Mass Lancefield
Saturday 9th	10:00am Reconciliation Woodend	

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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

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

3 May 2026

First Reading Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts,
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the way, the truth, and the life, says
the Lord;*

*no one comes to the Father, except
through me.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from
myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no
other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can share in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!

mtate@bigpond.com

EVERYONE WELCOME

Ministry	02/05/26	03/05/26	03/05/26
	6pm	8am	11am
Reader	K. Aprile	P. Lacy	T. Armstrong
Spec Min	N. Spiers	-----	K. Page
Flowers	M. Clifford & W. Kays	-----	-----
Location	Gisb	R/Creek	Gisb
Ministry	09/05/26	10/05/26	10/05/26
	6pm	8am	11am
Reader	F. Murone	A. Dewar	T. Kelly
Spec Min	K. Aprile	-----	T. Armstrong
Flowers	T. Armstrong	-----	-----
Location	Gisb	R/Creek	Gisb

Could those listed on the roster please advise if you are unavailable.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH MACEDON

will be closed until further notice for repairs.

COLLECTIONS AT MASS

1st Collection – Priest & Presbytery
2nd Collection – Thanksgiving & Church.

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.

Child Safety Committee

Fr. John Healy
Fr. Zaher Al Mhanna
Tammie Dalglish

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. Thanksgiving contributions by envelopes, Direct Debit or Credit Card welcome.

Welcome

St. Brigids Parish community warmly welcomes visitors and new parishioners. We invite new parishioners to introduce yourself to Fr. John, fill in a census card located in the church foyer and place in either collection or contact Tam directly at the parish office.

Volunteering Ministries

A current Working with Children Check is required to volunteer within the parish.

Help is always welcome!

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for the following who are in continuing need of our prayers:

Eileen S, Corrine V, Anthony S, Fran S, Jonathan S, Helen K, Diane M, Marg P, Beth T, Willow O, Fleur H, Thomas C & Michael W.

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 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 **Ingram Mirando**.



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.

Collections last week Presbytery \$523 Thanksgiving \$1048
1st collection: Presbytery & Priest 2nd collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)

OFFERING GIVING PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we begin the Offertory Giving Program, which will continue over the next three weeks. The call to generosity is God's invitation for us to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christians. I encourage you to prayerfully engage in this time of reflection and discernment. Together, we look forward to growing deeper in our relationship with Christ through this process.

God bless.

Fr John



Mary's path of faith and hope serves as an example to all.

This is just one of the reasons that the Universal Church dedicates the Month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The month serves as an opportunity to reflect upon the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the 50 days of Easter. Therefore, time should be taken to reflect on Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery.

The Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century.

To celebrate this month dedicated to Mary you are invited to a scriptural reflection on the rosary and benediction. As our Lancefield & Romsey Churches are dedicated to Mary, we will celebrate this month dedicated to Mary on:

Sunday 24th May at 3pm at St Mary's Church Lancefield
followed by a cuppa. **All are welcome.**

Project Compassion Mite boxes and envelopes

Would all parishioners who took a mite box or set of envelopes for Project Compassion, please return them asap so your donations can be forwarded on.

Thank you.

Upcoming Parish Events

Wed 06/05/26 6:30pm – Baptism Information evening – **Gisborne**
Thu 07/05/26 7pm – PPC & PFC Combined meeting – **Gisborne**
Sat 09/05/26 10am – Reconciliation – **Woodend**
Tue 12/05/26 10am – BUPA – Communion visit – **Woodend**
Tue 12/05/26 10am – The Oaks – Mass – **Gisborne**
Sat 16/05/26 10am – Reconciliation - **Gisborne**
Note: See front page of bulletin for Mass times.

Marriage Encounter Event

St. Dominic's Parish Melton
 When: June 26-28th 2026
 Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes
 Sunday around 4:30pm
 Further details: Mercy & James Vcirakare
 0409 183 676
 vicbookings@wwme.org.au

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – 2nd & 3rd of May, 2026

CatholicCare Victoria – Sunday Appeal 2026

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. CatholicCare Victoria works with those facing homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness.

Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives.

CatholicCare Victoria East Melbourne Office: PO Box 196, East Melbourne VIC 8002

T: (03) 9967 2515 E: fundraising@catholiccarevic.org.au W: www.catholiccarevic.org.au

Your generosity helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

The National Mass Count of Attendance for 2026 will be taking place over the first four weeks of May.



BAPTISM PRAYER

We ask our God, the giver of life, to bless you,

Zoe Grace

who will be baptised today.

We the Church of St. Brigids Parish, welcome and support you.

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.

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.

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

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.

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!



Have you been Encountered?

Marriage Encounter is coming to Melton.

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away from daily distractions. The two of you will come away from your weekend feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep the intimacy alive. While the weekend is based around Catholic values, couples of all faiths are welcome. No group sharing is required.

Come along and experience your special weekend at:

St Dominic's Parish Melton

When: June 26 – 28th 2026

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday around 4:30pm

For further details, please contact:

Mercy & James Bvirakare

Ph: 0409 183 676

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Visit wwme.org.au

On your weekend, a team of 3 married couples and a priest will share their personal stories, their ups and downs, in ways that are very relatable. You are drawn to reflecting on your own relationship, learn new ways of deeply communicating and rekindle the spark! No matter how good things are in your relationship currently, a Marriage Encounter experience is for the two of you.



worldwide

marriage encounter