



**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**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

26th July, 2026

WEEKEND 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 Petruccelli, PO Box 347, 47 Urquhart St Woodend. Ph: 0409 436 441, bernadette.petruccelli@cam.org.au

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

GISBORNE: Secretary Tammie Dalglish, 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 28th 5pm Mass **Gisborne**

Wednesday 29th 9:30am Mass **Woodend**

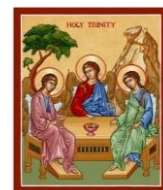
Thursday 30th **NO** Masses – Installation of Bishop Rene in Bendigo

Friday 31st 8:30am Mass **ACK** **NO** Mass Lancefield or Gisborne

Saturday 1st **NO** Anointing Mass Romsey

Due to a funeral on Friday, an appointment on Saturday and Fr Zaher away there has been the need to cancel these two Masses.

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

26 July 2026

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more
to me
than silver and gold. *(R.)*
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. *(R.)*
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your
precepts:
I hate false ways. *(R.)*
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 8:28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to

become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth;

*you have revealed to little ones the
mysteries of the kingdom.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 13:44-52

(or shorter form Mt 13:44-46)

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is St John Henry Newman's image of Hell.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There would be lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

mtate@bigpond.com

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Ministry	25/07/26 6:30pm	26/07/26 9am	01/08/26 6:30pm	02/08/26 9am	08/08/26 6:30pm
Musician	Rosalie	Agnes	Rosalie	Christine	Rosalie
Reader	Joan	Eileen	Tony	John	Michael
Collector	<i>Vol req</i>	Tim/Ged	<i>Vol req</i>	Gerard	<i>Vol req</i>
Spec Min	Julie	Betty	Julie	<i>Vol req</i>	Denis
PowerPoint	Michael	Alex	Joan	Marthese	Tony
Set up	Rosalie/Julie	Eileen	Rosalie/Julie	Eileen	Rosalie/Julie
Cleaner	-----	Anne N	Kerry	-----	-----
Location	LF	Rom	LF	Rom	LF

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

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

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

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 **Sr. Cath Dean RSJ, Michael Connally, Brooke Alford & Kevin Peterson.**

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 Priest & Presbytery \$477 Thanksgiving & Church \$557
1st collection: Presbytery & Priest 2nd collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)

SACRAMENTS 2027 – registrations open for 2027 Sacraments, contact the Secretary at lancefield@cam.org.au to register your interest.

Welcome Fr. Joe Lee

We welcome and thank Fr. Joe who will be celebrating Masses in Gisborne this weekend.

What's happening this week in the Parish

Fr Zaher will be away on holidays for the next 2 weeks. Please check the bulletin each week as there will be changes to where weekday Mass will be celebrated.

25/07/26 10am – Reconciliation – **Lancefield**

28/07/26 7pm – Formation & Participation mtg – **Woodend**

30/07/26 7pm – Eucharist 1st Family mtg - **Lancefield**

Note: See front page of bulletin for Mass times.

ANOINTING MASS

There is no Anointing Mass this coming Saturday, due to an appointment Fr John has.



GOVERNMENT SCHOOL SACRAMENT PROGRAM

If your son or daughter is in Grade four and above and needs to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist, please contact the Parish Office at lancefield@cam.org.au to register as a matter of importance. The first parent and candidate meeting will be held on 30th July, 7pm at St Mary's Lancefield.

St Patrick's Choir Macedon

As St Patrick's Church is currently closed the choir will sing on the 4th Sunday of the month at St Ambrose at 11am Mass in Woodend.

OFFERING PROGRAM

In May we ran our Parish Offering Program looking at our parish finances. The report has been received and that will be shared with the community next weekend.

CHILD PROTECTION

is **everyone's** responsibility

Safety of Children and

All Vulnerable People

The St. Mary's Safeguarding Children and Young People

Policy is on display on the church noticeboards 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

Michael Mooney

Baptism

As arranged with the Parish Secretary on the 1st Sunday of the month

Marriages

Arranged by appointment with at least 6 months' notice.

Please contact parish office.

Funerals

Contact Fr. John directly.

Thanksgiving

Parishioners wishing to join the Thanksgiving program are invited to contact Tam at the parish office to arrange some Thanksgiving envelopes.

Contributions by Direct Debit or Credit Card welcome.

Welcome

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

Volunteering Ministries

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

Help is always welcome!

Power Point operator

Reader of the Word

Church Cleaning & Gardening

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 29th –

Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Friday 31st –

St Ignatius Loyola

MELBOURNE SYNOD

The Melbourne Synod will meet from Friday December 4th to Sunday December 6th. Delegates from across the archdiocese will gather to reflect on three themes:

- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation
- Young Discipleship

In preparation for that gathering the Parishes of the Archdiocese are invited to gather, reflect and provide feedback that will form the conversation at the Synod. This parish consultation is to take place between July and mid-August. It is impossible to have a meeting about the three themes in each of our parishes individually, thus there will be one meeting per theme across our three parishes. The meeting on **FORMATION AND PARTICIPATION** is this week, **Tuesday 28th July 7pm St Mary's Lancefield School Staffroom**. A copy of the Synod Paper will be available at our church entrances. Please read the document before the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday 28th July FORMATION AND PARTICIPATION
7pm St Mary's School Lancefield School Staffroom

Tuesday 4th August YOUNG DISCIPLESHIP
7pm St Brigid's School Gisborne School Staffroom

Each of the meetings will be finished by 8.30pm, which will include a cuppa.



FEAST OF ST JOACHIM AND ANNE - INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Sunday 26th July is the feast of St Joachim and Anne the grandparents of Jesus. This weekend we pray in thanksgiving for all grandparents and their role in the faith and life of their families. Pope Leo says that the theme: "I will never forget you," seeks to emphasize how God's love for every person is never lacking, even in the fragility of old age.



CENSUS CARDS

It is not too late to fill out a census card to register your details with the parish. If you are new to the parish or have been here for years and just haven't had a chance yet, please see your Sacristan for a card or find one at the church entrance. Completed cards can be returned via the collection bags. Thank you.

TJ Scott & Son

Funeral Directors

75 years of care

Kyneton 5422 6455 Gisborne 5428 4155 Kilmore 5782 1112

Lancefield & Romsey

Our family helping yours, when you need it most – John, Kelly, Jack & Daniel Scott



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VIC 3434

find us on facebook
and
instagram

Joel Caspersz

Cabinet Maker

0425 854 370

joel@measuredjoinery.com.au
admin@measuredjoinery.com.au

PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

Anyone not already contributing to the Priest & Presbytery expenses who would like to contribute may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

**St. Mary's Presbytery Account
NAB**

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 64151 8467

Please use your surname as the reference.



Your local financial experts.
www.blackwoodadvisory.au

tim.mccarthy@blackwoodadvisory.au
0403 036 654

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- ✓ Self Managed Superannuation
- ✓ Income Protection & Life Insurance

THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

Anyone not already on the Thanksgiving Program who would like to contribute to the Church may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

**St. Mary's Church Account
NAB**

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 64150 3257

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

Do you have foot Problems?



Andrew Baddeley | Podiatrist

ROMSEY | 5429 5254 | 99 Main St
RIDDELLS CREEK | 5428 7591 |
9 Station St