



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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

2nd August, 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 4th 5pm Mass **Woodend**

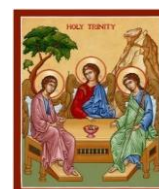
Wednesday 5th **NO** Mass – Archdiocesan meeting

Thursday 6th **NO** Mass

Friday 7th 8:30am Mass **ACK** **NO** Mass Lancefield or Gisborne
11am Funeral **Romsey** – Noel Doolan

Saturday 8th 9.30am Mass **Woodend** - FEAST OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS.
NO Reconciliation.

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

2 August 2026

First Reading **Is 55:1-3**

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have
good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting
covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

*(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.*

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *(R.)*
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Rom 8:35. 37-39**

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ. Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 4:4**

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 14:13-21**

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: 'Send the people away so that they can buy.' The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat; those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. 'There is no need for them to go; give them something to eat yourselves.' The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves 'and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd.' Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'.

Jesus still looks with gut-wrenching compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, Our Lord and Master, commands us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds us of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, 'Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world.'

We could pause for a moment at Mass to ask: Who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungers of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, will be satisfied.

mtate@bigpond.com

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Ministry	01/08/26 6:30pm	02/08/26 9am	08/08/26 6:30pm	09/08/26 9am
Musician	Rosalie	Christine	Rosalie	Agnes
Reader	Tony	John	Michael	Betty
Collector	<i>Vol req</i>	Gerard	<i>Vol req</i>	Joe
Spec Min	Julie	<i>Vol req</i>	Denis	Kerry
PowerPoint	Joan	Marthese	Tony	Margaret
Set up	Rosalie/Julie	Eileen	Rosalie/Julie	<i>Vol req</i>
Cleaner	Kerry	-----	-----	Christine
Location	LF	Rom	LF	Rom

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 **John Theisz**.

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 \$486 Thanksgiving & Church \$1098
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. Martin Fleming

We welcome and thank Fr. Martin Fleming who will be celebrating 6pm Mass in Gisborne and 11am Mass in Woodend this weekend.

What's happening this week in the Parish

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

05/08/26 6:30pm – Baptism information meeting – **Gisborne Parish house**

05/08/26 7pm – Young Discipleship meeting – **Gisborne Parish house**

07/08/26 7pm – Holy Hour - **Gisborne**

Note: See front page of bulletin for Mass times.

MINISTRY FORMATION

We give thanks to all those who have volunteered for various ministries across our Parishes. It is good to gather every now and then to celebrate the gift of your ministry and do some formation. The following formation meetings have been scheduled across our three parishes. Those who are currently involved in these ministries, as well new volunteers are invited to attend. If you are unable to attend the one in your local parish community, you are encouraged to come to the meeting in one of the other parishes. Please call or email the parish office to register.

READERS AND MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Tuesday 11th August 7pm St Ambrose Church **Woodend**

Wednesday 12th August 7pm St Brigid's Church **Gisborne**

Tuesday 18th August 7pm St Mary's Church **Lancefield**.

NURSING HOME AND HOME VISITATIONS

Wednesday 12th August 10.30am St Ambrose Presbytery **Woodend**

Thursday 13th August 10.30am St Brigid's Presbytery **Gisborne**

Friday 14th August 10.30am St Mary's Presbytery **Lancefield**

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

Monday 3rd St Dominic

Tuesday 4th St John Vianney

Wednesday 5th Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major

Thursday 6th Feast of the Transfiguration

Saturday 8th Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

MELBOURNE SYNOD

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE AND VENUE OF THIS WEEKS MEETING

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.

The meeting to discuss **YOUNG DISCIPLESHIP** is this week,

Wednesday 5th August 7pm Parish House Gisborne.

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.



Our first information evening for those interested in becoming a Catholic will be held on Tuesday August 25th at St Ambrose Presbytery – 47 Urquhart St Woodend at 7pm.

Please contact the parish office if you are interested in attending.

This meeting will look at what is involved in this program.

BAPTISM PRAYER

We ask our God, the giver of life, to bless you, **Theodore, Elia & Luca** who will be baptised today.

We the Church of St. Mary's Lancefield/Romsey welcome and support you.

Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Congratulations and special blessings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during

August.

May your journey through life be filled with daily treasures, and may you always be open, willing and ready to share your blessings with others. Amen.



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Lancefield & Romsey

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0403 036 654

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- ✓ Business Advisory Services
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- ✓ Superannuation & Retirement Planning
- ✓ Self Managed Superannuation
- ✓ Income Protection & Life Insurance

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.

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