



# 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

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**6<sup>th</sup> September, 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** – 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 033 750, [john.healy@cam.org.au](mailto:john.healy@cam.org.au)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Zaher Al Mhanna

**WOODEND:** Secretary Bernadette Petruccelli, PO Box 347, 47 Urquhart St Woodend. Ph: 0409 436 441, [bernadette.petruccelli@cam.org.au](mailto:bernadette.petruccelli@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 MASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** NO Mass

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** NO Mass

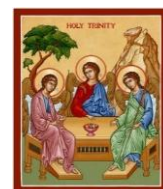
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** NO Mass

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** NO Mass

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>** 9.30am Mass **Woodend** 10am 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

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

6 September 2026

## First Reading Ez 33:7-9

*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

*(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

## Second Reading Rom 13:8-10

*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your

fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

## Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 5:19

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;*

*and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Mt 18:15-20

*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord acknowledged that the community he was establishing had to set boundaries. Who is to decide who is within or outside those boundaries?

In today's Gospel, Our Lord teaches that a nuanced step by step process should be invoked. First, there is private conversation, then slightly extended to bring in two or three others, then a sort of church community jury before a person is put beyond the pale. Our Lord promises to be with them to help guide their decision.

We all know of marriages which are fractured and where one partner has found intimacy and security in a second (civil) marriage.

Pope Francis did not suggest that the second marriage be regarded as valid. But he suggested a process of discernment to allow a divorced person to receive 'the Eucharist . . . a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.'

Could a jury of ordinary Catholic lay people help make that discerning judgement, and then advise the Bishop as to the next step?

We could pause for a moment to ponder the promise: 'Where two or three are gathered into my name, I am there with them.'

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## EVERYONE WELCOME

| Ministry          | 05/09/26 | 05/09/26       | 06/09/26       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | 10:30am  | 6:30pm         | 9am            | New rosters were put on hold while Formation meetings were being finalised in order to prepare new volunteers. Rosters will be completed in the coming week. Please volunteer as required if you are able. |
| <b>Musician</b>   | -----    | Rosalie        | Christine      |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Reader</b>     | Eileen   | Tony           | Joanne         |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Collector</b>  | -----    | <b>Vol req</b> | <b>Vol req</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Spec Min</b>   | -----    | Julie          | Kerry          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>PowerPoint</b> | -----    | <b>Vol req</b> | <b>Vol req</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Set up</b>     |          | Rosalie/Julie  | Eileen         |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Cleaner</b>    | -----    | Tam            | Tam            |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Location</b>   | 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.

**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.**

|                              |                                                 |                                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Collections last week</b> | Priest & Presbytery \$tbc                       | Thanksgiving & Church \$tbc                         |
| <b>Collections 23/8/26</b>   | Priest & Presbytery \$421                       | Thanksgiving & Church \$868                         |
|                              | 1 <sup>st</sup> collection: Presbytery & Priest | 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection: Thanksgiving (envelope) |

**SACRAMENTS 2027** – registrations open for 2027 Sacraments, contact the Secretary at [lancefield@cam.org.au](mailto:lancefield@cam.org.au) to register your interest.

### What's happening this week in the Parish

The only weekday Mass this week will be on Saturday at 9.30am at Woodend, followed by Reconciliation. Fr John is on leave for a few days due to a medical procedure.

**Note:** See front page of bulletin for Mass times.

## FATHER'S DAY BLESSING



Congratulations to the children who celebrate their First Eucharist this weekend at St Mary's Lancefield.



### BAPTISM PRAYER

We ask our God, the giver of life, to bless you,  
**Tadhg**  
who will be baptised today.

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

### 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 Dalgleish  
Michael Mooney

### Baptism

As arranged with the Parish Secretary on the 1<sup>st</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

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

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>   | Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> | St Peter Claver                     |



### The Story of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** on December 8.

Scripture does not give an account of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety.

According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning. Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace.

### National Child Protection Week 6-12 September, 2026 - A message from Rachel—CAM Safeguarding Director

National Child Protection Week is an important opportunity for us all to renew our commitment to creating safe, welcoming and respectful environments where every child and young person is valued, heard and protected.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility and a shared mission, which at its core is central to Catholic teachings. It is reflected not only in our policies and procedures, but in the everyday actions of our parishes, ministries, and communities. It is demonstrated in how we listen to children, respond to concerns, and ensure that their safety, wellbeing and inherent dignity remain at the heart of all we do.

This Child Protection Week, we invite everyone across our Archdiocese to reflect on how we can each contribute to making our Church a safer place for children and young people, and work to center their voice in the conversation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone across our parishes who contribute to this important work. To our parish safeguarding representatives, clergy, staff, volunteers and community members; thank you for the time, care and commitment you give to strengthening safeguarding and helping create safe environments for children and young people. Together, we can help create communities where every child feels safe, respected and supported.

### SECRETARY HOURS NEXT TWO WEEKS

As Fr. John will be on leave next week I will be taking the opportunity to attend the Parish Admin Forum at the Archdiocese and to do some jobs out of the office at our other church & hall locations. Please contact me via email if you need anything during this time as office attendance will be sporadic.

### TJ Scott & Son

#### Funeral Directors

75 years of care

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Lancefield & Romsey

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



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### Joel Caspersz

Cabinet Maker

**0425 854 370**

[joel@measuredjoinery.com.au](mailto:joel@measuredjoinery.com.au)  
[admin@measuredjoinery.com.au](mailto: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.



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[www.blackwoodadvisory.au](http://www.blackwoodadvisory.au)

[tim.mccarthy@blackwoodadvisory.au](mailto:tim.mccarthy@blackwoodadvisory.au)

0403 036 654

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- ✓ Superannuation & Retirement Planning
- ✓ 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