

# ST. MARY'S PARISH

LANCEFIELD & ROMSEY

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

17th December, 2023

Lancefield Church  
27 Chauncey Street  
Lancefield



Romsey Church  
85 Main Street  
Romsey



## EVERYONE WELCOME

Ministry Roster	17/12/23	24/12/23	24/12/23	25/12/23
Musician	Christine	Rosalie	-----	Agnes
Reader	Anne B	Eileen	Parish children	Michael G
Collector	Tim	<b>Vol. required</b>	McCarthy family	<b>Vol. required</b>
Cleaner	Monica	<b>Vol. required</b>	-----	<b>Vol. required</b>
Location	Romsey	<b>LF 4th of Advent</b>	<b>LF outdoor 6pm</b>	<b>Romsey 9am</b>

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

## CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray also for the following who are in continuing need of our prayers:  
Merle Trembath, Christine Cheney, Isabelle Fleming, Kath Ireland, Val Carr,  
Gwen DeCarolis, John Alford, Brendan Coburn & Isla Foy.

St. Mary's Church Romsey will celebrate **100 years** in September 2024!  
**Centenary of Romsey Church.**

Please forward celebration idea's by email to [lancefield@cam.org.au](mailto:lancefield@cam.org.au)



## ST. MARY'S PARISH – 2023 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT MASS TODAY

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE - \$300 CASH

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE - \$50 CASH

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE – CHRISTMAS CAKE

Please return ticket stubs and raffle money prior to the start of Mass.

## MELBOURNE CATHOLIC

To keep up to date with news happening  
in our Archdiocese, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org>

## ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of December  
7:30pm – Woodend Church

## Parish Priest

Fr Martin Fleming  
47 Urquhart Street  
PO Box 397  
Woodend Vic 3442  
Ph: 5427 2690

## Parish Secretary

Tammie Dalgleish  
C/- Presbytery  
27 Chauncey Street  
Lancefield Vic 3435  
Ph: 5429 2130

## Parish Email

[lancefield@cam.org.au](mailto:lancefield@cam.org.au)

## Parish Website

<http://pol.org.au/lancefield/Home.aspx>

## Secretary Hours

Wednesday & Friday  
8:00am – 5:00pm

## St Mary's Primary School

Principal - Julie McDougall  
T: 5429 1359

[office@smlancefield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@smlancefield.catholic.edu.au)

## School Website

[www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au)

**CHILD PROTECTION**  
is **everyone's** responsibility

## Safety of Children and All Vulnerable People

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community. The St. Mary's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy is on display on the church noticeboards or via the parish office.

Diocesan Policies available at  
<https://www.melbournecatholic.org>

All children leaving the church  
during Mass must be accompanied  
by a parent.

## Child Safety Committee

Fr. Martin Fleming  
Tammie Dalgleish  
Michael Mooney  
Monica Tomlinson

# The Living Word

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

17 December 2023

## First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

*(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

## Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

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## MYSTERY OF FAITH

Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Fr:** Friends, this Sunday is infused with hope and joy at the nearness of Jesus, who transforms us in grace to be a Christian people.

**R:** That, as Pope Francis celebrates his birthday, he will be blessed with good health and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the strength and courage to continue leading us in turbulent times.

**In faith we pray.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**R:** May we all be constant in prayer with a spirit of thanksgiving, be wrapped in the cloak of God's integrity, & open to the presence & influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**In faith we pray.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**R:** May the peoples of the world, struggling with all kinds of illness and injury, be kept safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body.

**In faith we pray.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**R:** That people who are struggling with homelessness and increases in the cost of living will be provided with practical assistance and support from their communities.

**In faith we pray.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**R:** We pray for the sick members of our parish, especially Rhonda Cusack, Fran Cassidy and Susan Brady and for those who care for them. We pray for the recently deceased, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Margaret Mulvihill, and Chloe Morse.

**In faith we pray.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

## All HAIL MARY

**Fr:** Father, may the heartfelt prayer of Mary be on our lips and in our hearts, rejoicing in you, our Saviour, experiencing your mercy from age to age, and living under your protection.

**Amen**

**Collections last week** Presbytery \$261                      Thanksgiving \$1470  
1<sup>st</sup> collection: Presbytery & Priest      2<sup>nd</sup> collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)

**Readings next week**      Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16      Romans 16:25-27      Luke 1:26-38

## MRSC - Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme - volunteer opportunities

Volunteers visit the older person in their home or residential aged care home, for approx. an hour a week or fortnight, at a time that suits both the volunteer and the person receiving aged care services. Council provides training and support to ensure all our volunteers can confidently participate in their role.

Our ACVVS team is receiving active referrals for older persons residing in local aged care centres, and we would like to match a volunteer who has some experience and similar interest.

For more information or to APPLY to Volunteer with the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme you can find on our website [mrsc.vic.gov.au/ACVVS](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/ACVVS) or email [VolunteerVisiting@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:VolunteerVisiting@mrsc.vic.gov.au) or phone (03) 5422 0333.

**Catholic Mission** thanks the parish of **St Mary's** for your support of this year's **World Mission Day Appeal**. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$188.75 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need. Many thanks!

## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Wednesday 20th December – 7:30pm – Advent Reconciliation – Woodend**

**Sunday 24th December – 9am – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Lancefield**

**Sunday 24 December – 6pm – outdoor family Mass – Lancefield**

**Sunday 24 December – 6pm – indoor family Mass – Woodend**

**Sunday 24 December – 10pm Mass (including carols) – Woodend**

**Monday 25 December – 9am Christmas Day Mass – Romsey**

**Monday 25 December – 9am Christmas Day Mass – Woodend**

## WEEKLY MASS TIMES

### St. Mary's Parish

#### Sunday's at 9:00am

17/12/23 – Romsey

24/12/23 – Lancefield

31/12/23 – Lancefield

07/01/24 – Romsey

10/01/24 – Lancefield

17/01/24 – Romsey

## HEALING MASS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 10:00am

No Healing Mass January 2024

03/02/23 – Romsey

02/03/23 – Romsey

## WEEKLY MASS TIMES

### St. Ambrose Parish - Woodend

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 11:00am

Wednesday, Thursday

& Friday 9:30am

## Baptism

As arranged with the Parish Secretary usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

## Marriages

Arranged by appointment with Fr. Martin at least 6 months in advance.

## Funerals

Contact Fr. Martin directly.

## Reconciliation

By appointment only  
Please contact Fr. Martin  
5427 2690

## 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.

## Welcome

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

## Volunteering Ministries

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

**Help is always welcome!**

Power Point operator at Mass  
Reader of the Word  
Church Cleaning & Gardening

## OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

Following such positive feedback from last year, Fr. Arnold will again be celebrating the Christmas Eve Family Mass in the Lancefield Church grounds at

**6pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.**

The setting will be simple and family friendly. People are asked to bring their own chairs or picnic rug and be suitably attired and equipped to suit the weather - hats, sunscreen, water, coats etc. Should the weather be wet or very cold, of course, the Mass will need to be moved into the Church.

**Children are encouraged to dress in character as part of the Nativity Scene; we hope to see lots of angels, shepherds and even Mary and Joseph among the crowd. Children will be heavily involved in the Mass.**

While it will be a relaxed atmosphere, to ensure safety, the entrance to the west end of the church will be blocked off, children will not be permitted to climb on their favourite climbing tree and no cars will be permitted in the Church grounds.

### POSITIONS VACANT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified & experienced people for the positions of:

#### Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

- Chief Advisor
- Creatives Officer, Parental Leave Contract

#### Parish Positions

- Pastoral Worker - St Judes and St Simons Parish, Scoresby and Rowville
- Pastoral Worker – St Andrew’s Parish, Clayton South

#### Other Positions

- Marketing & Engagement Manager, Newman College

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Please forward this information to family or friends you may have living in the areas mentioned.

THERE CAME A MAN WHO  
WAS SENT FROM GOD. HIS  
NAME WAS JOHN.  
– JOHN 1:6

### 2024 Volunteer rosters

In line with ‘The Way of the Gospel’, Archbishop Comensoli is requiring all parishes to have people involved in all aspects of parish life. Many people have gifts and talents that combined together can allow a parish to run better.

Moving forward there will be opportunity to be involved in new ministries to allow our parish to grow and thrive.

If you would like to join the volunteer team at the parish, please contact Tam to arrange. Ministries include: Reader of the Word, Church Cleaning, Music, Gardening, PowerPoint operator for Sunday Mass, Welcome Team, Special Minister.

A reminder that all volunteers require a valid Working with Children Check.



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### ROSTERS

If you know of any travel plans for January to June 2024, please let Tam know so she can roster you accordingly.

### 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.



ROMSEY  
VIC 3434

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**Do you have foot  
problems?**



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ROMSEY | 5429 5254 | 99 Main St

RIDDELLS CREEK | 5428 7591 | 9 Station St