

ST. MARY'S PARISH

LANCEFIELD & ROMSEY

The Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph & Mary - Year B

31st December, 2023

Lancefield Church
27 Chauncey Street
Lancefield



Romsey Church
85 Main Street
Romsey



EVERYONE WELCOME

Ministry Roster	31/12/23	07/01/24	14/01/24	21/01/24
Musician	Agnes	Christine	Rosalie	Christine
Reader	Rosemary D	Leanne	VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED	
Collector	Ged	Gerard	PLEASE	
Cleaner	Florence	Loretta		
Location	Lancefield	Romsey	Lancefield	Romsey

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, Rhonda Cusack & Fran Cassidy.

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES - THANK YOU

Sadly, Fr. Arnold was not able to celebrate our Christmas Masses with us due to feeling unwell, so we wish him a speedy recovery and hope he is back on his feet soon.

A big THANK YOU to Fr. Victor Farrugia who answered a very late call up and stepped into our parish for the first time and did a wonderful job.

Fr. Victor has just retired from his own parish, St. Augustine's in Bourke Street, Melbourne so thankfully for us, he was available to serve.

To our amazing parish children who took on roles in the Nativity, the Readings and the Prayers - Wow - you all did a wonderful job. Thank you for getting into costume and reading so well. You made it a very special evening for us on Christmas Eve. I think a monthly Mass run by the children might be in order for 2024.....

Thank you to our Christmas Day volunteers who took time from a very busy family day to ensure our Mass took place for our parishioners.

Musicians, Florists, Readers, Sacristans - we appreciate you all.

SECRETARY - LEAVE DURING JANUARY

I will be in the office as usual up until Friday 5th of January, 2024. January 8 to 26 will see me recovering from ankle surgery but I will be monitoring parish emails from home so please use email as preferred contact method.

The office phone will not be monitored for these weeks so please contact Fr. Martin directly at the Woodend Presbytery on 5427 2690, for any urgent matters.

Parish volunteers with my mobile are of course, welcome to contact me if help is needed.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE AND MAY 2024 BRING HAPPINESS,
GOOD HEALTH & TIME TO REFLECT AND CARE FOR EACH OTHER.**

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

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

School Website

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

31 December 2023

First Reading Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) *The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! (R.)
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. (R.)
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: it is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:22-40

(or Shorter form Lk 2:22. 39-40)

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

mtate@bigpond.com

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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:** The family of Nazareth inspires us to imitate the virtues of holiness and piety.
With this ideal before us, we ask the Lord to hear our prayers on this family day.
- R:** For the family of the Church, that we may give respect and dignity to all God's children.
In faith we pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- R:** For the family of people and nations, that the rights of the old and the young will be upheld for the sake of peace, justice and harmony.
In faith we pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- R:** For all our families, that those separated from their family circle will find a home with God's people.
In faith we pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- R:** For broken families, that God's reconciling forgiveness will be granted and accepted, to restore all relationships of love.
In faith we pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- R:** We pray for the sick members of our parish, especially 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 Dan & Freda McCarthy & Jack Martin.
In faith we pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

All

ST MARY'S PARISH PRAYER

Loving Mother Mary, we pray that we may be a people who say
"Yes" to life...

A people of faith, hope and love.

Strengthen our commitment to Christ your Son. May we respect the
dignity of each person and bring His love to all we meet.

May our Parish be a welcoming, supportive community,
where all can feel at home.

Help us to follow your wonderful example of faithful love and service
by generously weaving our own gifts into the tapestry of our Parish
life. AMEN.

- Fr:** Father in Heaven,
may your love touch the lives of all those we commend to you through these prayers.
Bless and strengthen us, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Amen

Collections last week Presbytery \$275 Thanksgiving \$831
1st collection: Presbytery & Priest 2nd collection: Thanksgiving (envelope)

Readings next week Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

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.

2023 Volunteers – Thank You

Whilst many of us attend Mass and appreciate that it runs so smoothly, there is a team of volunteers behind the scenes who work hard to make this happen.

On behalf of Fr. Martin, Secretary Tam and all parishioners, may I extend a sincere thank you to our Readers, Musicians, Florists, Liturgy team, Finance team, Gardeners, Collectors, Greeters, Fundraisers and Church carers who make our parish outstanding. **THANK YOU**

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

St. Mary's Parish
Sunday's at 9:00am

31/12/23 – Lancefield
07/01/24 – Romsey
14/01/24 – Lancefield
21/01/24 – Romsey
28/01/24 – Lancefield
04/02/24 – Romsey

HEALING MASS

1st 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 2nd & 4th
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

As 2023 comes to a close I'd like to thank the Business' that support our parish by advertising in our bulletin each week.

Many of them are parish families and are caring for our parishioners by serving them in their chosen fields.

Of course, nobody wants to seek out a funeral home but the two funeral homes who support our parish are simply amazing and when we are at our lowest, they are the hands you want your loved ones to be in.

Thank you to all of our Bulletin advertisers for their continued support.

Tobin Brothers Funerals, Measured Joinery, Sage Business Group, T.J. Scott & Sons Funeral Director & Andrew Baddeley Podiatrist.

Our final thank you goes to our hall users and carers.

A decision was made a number of years ago (and cemented in during the Covid years) that the hiring out of the Romsey Church hall for once off events, primarily parties, was causing too much damage to our hall and posed too much of a risk to such a valuable parish asset.

We have since acquired a number of hall users on a regular weekly basis who not only provide a regular source of income to the parish which in turn helps to maintain our assets, but who also help care for our hall.

In order to keep usage fees low, our hall users care for the hall like it was their own building. This keeps cleaning by volunteers to a minimum and brings peace of mind that our hall is being cared for properly.

Thank you to Barry Ireland who volunteers his time each week to put the bins out at the hall and do a quick tidy up.

Thank you to the Drop In team who provide a monthly lunch and cards day for our most vulnerable parishioners in our community.

Thank you to the Romsey Lancefield Probus group who meet monthly in our hall and provide a wonderful service to our retired community members.


Thank you to Justine Sargeant, founder of Outside the Box Training who runs a twice weekly gentle exercise class in our hall to help older community members who may experience mobility issues, younger community members who may be recovering from injury or community members of any age who just want to work on their fitness and strength.

Thank you to Claire and Amy, founders of Bluebird Dance Theatre who provide such a wonderful experience of exercise, dance, sportsmanship and pure joy to so many youngsters in our community through their dance classes.

Each of our hall groups treat our parish hall with respect and we are happy to support them to support our community.

Lastly, and most certainly not least are the amazing family who look after our grounds at Romsey. It is a sizeable plot and it took me a few years to work out who keeps it in such good condition. A big Thank You to Ian & Rhonda Wilkins of Slashez in Romsey who have cared for our Romsey grounds for many, many years. They want no recognition and will be not be happy I have outed them but I will happily live with that decision 😊

Keep up the great work in 2024 and if anyone would like to participate in any of the activities listed above, please contact Tam at the office for further details.



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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.



**MEASURED
JOINERY**

ROMSEY
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.

- ✓ Superannuation & SMSF Services
- ✓ Wealth Management & Investment Plans
- ✓ Business Planning, Taxation & Growth Strategies

Director – Tim McCarthy
0403 036 654 or tim@sagegroup.com.au



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Lancefield & Romsey*

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

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