

St. Mary's Catholic Parish Lancefield Victoria

PARISH PROFILE

St. Mary's Parish, Lancefield & Romsey

The parish is situated about 70kms from Melbourne, about 1 hour by car.

Neighbouring parishes are Kilmore, Kyneton and Woodend, with Sunbury to the south. The Parish Priest of Woodend is also the has the care of Lancefield/Romsey Parish

The parish has two Mass centres, Lancefield and Romsey. The parish was cut off from Kilmore in 1906, although Mass has been celebrated from the early 1860's.

There is currently one Sunday Mass per week at 9am. Mass alternates between the towns to unite the two towns into one parish as they are only 5 minutes away by car. Weekend Mass attendance is approx. 40-60 people. On the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month, Sunday Mass is held in the Romsey church and on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month, Sunday Mass is held in the Lancefield church.

Additionally, there is a Healing Mass and Confessions on the 1st Saturday of each month in the Romsey church at 10am. This Mass is attended by parishioners not only from our parish but neighbouring parishes as well.

Lancefield Parish has had a resident assistant Priest since the end of January 2024.

This has relieved the present Parish Priest of Woodend of a considerable amount of travelling back and forwards, especially Sunday mornings and afternoons for Mass and Baptisms

The parish has a number of Committees and volunteer groups including:

- **Parish Finance & Advisory Committee** which oversee the financial matters of the parish and special events and occasions.
- **Drop-in** - A dedicated group of volunteers who organise a monthly "Drop-in" for elderly parishioners and residents at our Romsey Parish hall.
- **Liturgy Preparation Group** – prepare prayers and weekly music schedule.

The Parish has a dedicated group of Volunteers who serve in all ministries, including Readers, Special Ministers, Musicians, Florists, Gardeners, Handmen & Church carers.

The Parish has a number of Special Ministers who visit the sick and elderly and bring Holy Communion to those who cannot attend Mass. The Parish Priest will take Communion to those at local age care facilities and anoint the sick as required.

The Parish Primary School has approx. 200 children. Children are bused from Romsey and from the surrounding district to Lancefield.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary school has a dedicated Principal and staff. The School has a great link with many of the different groups and organisations in Lancefield through the parents and teachers.

Parishioners are made up from families who have been in the area for generations, and of more recent arrivals (over last 40 years) from the city. Romsey has grown considerably in the last 10 years and the young families bring their children along for Baptism. Both Lancefield and Romsey have substantial new development projects under way with a noticeable increase in population.

The parish has a good working relationship with the other three churches in the area. Combined prayer includes Way of the Cross on Good Friday, a combined annual service, a Carols prayer service before Christmas and a shared hosting of World Day of Prayer.

Parish Facilities - Lancefield

Church – a well maintained traditional church needing renovation especially a good paint.

Presbytery – a large ageing but comfortable house with two separate living quarters. Central heating throughout.

The Parish Office is situated within the Presbytery.

St. Marys Catholic Primary School is located on a separate property across the road from the Church and Presbytery. The school council has negotiated for the side road between the school and the play area to be closed off to cars permanently. There is a need for more classroom spaces to be provided as well.

Parish Facilities – Romsey

The Romsey church was built and opened about 100 years ago. It celebrates its Centenary in October this year. There has been extensively work done on the church in the last two years to stop it falling down. The parishioners were grateful for the gift of two people leaving the Romsey Catholic Church a generous gift in their wills which has been used for this much needed work.

The parish Hall was the two-room old School. It is hired out to local business' for dance classes, exercise classes for the elderly & acting classes.

The local Probus group use the hall on a monthly basis as do the Drop-in Group.

The Hall is not hired out for one-off parties due to risk.

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary – permanent part time Two full days a week.

Parish Housekeeper/Cleaner – only as required.

Finance

The Parish has no debts and is able to cover all on-going expenses including some needed maintenance on the Parish buildings each year. The ageing population sees the same old generous people supporting the work of the Parish and the Archdiocese.