

Seaford Parish Newsletter

Sunday 18th December 2022

Holy Family
St. Joachim's
St. Anne's

Frankston North
Carrum Downs
Seaford



Parish Priest: Rev Fr. Martin Jeramias

Parish Secretary: Sumitha Moses

Parish Office: 84 Austin Road, Seaford, VIC 3198 (Closed on Monday & Thursday)

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

Advent wreath blessing

Celebrant: As we begin our celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us prepare to light the fourth and last candle on our Advent wreath. As advent draws to a close, we pause to pray for faith that opens our lives to the Spirit of God... Let us pray

Celebrant: Come Lord Jesus, hope of the prophets and desired of all nations.

All: Come! Lead us back to you.

Celebrant: Come Lord Jesus, Son of God, born of Mary.

All: Come! Take flesh in us.

Celebrant: Come Lord Jesus, source of grace and hope for peace.

All: Come and save us, delay no longer.

Celebrant: Let us pray.....

God, our Emmanuel, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMINGS

Penitential Service - Wednesday 21st December

7-9pm - followed by Individual confession

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December

5:30pm - Carols followed Children's Mass

8:00pm - Family Mass

11:30pm - Midnight Mass with Carols

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December

8:30am - Mass

10:00am - Mass

New Year's Eve - Saturday 31st December

6:00pm - Mass followed by Benediction

New Year Day - Sunday 1st January 2023

8:30am - Mass

10:00am - Mass



Our parish respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong people, who are the custodians of the Boon Wurrung land on which we worship. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Elders; past, present and future.

We are very grateful to all the Parishioners for their continued support and thanksgiving donations.

THANKSGIVING OPTIONS

If you are able to send your thanksgiving offerings via direct debit to:

St. Anne's Church

BSB Number: 083 347, Account No: 64340 4615.

Please include your Thanksgiving Number if you have one and/or your name, for our parish priest/and retired priests in the Archdiocese. Online direct contributions, either one-off or recurring, can be made through CDF Pay :

<https://bit.ly/CDFpaySeaford>



Scan this code with your smart phone camera APP & follow the prompts.

Thanksgiving collection amount for the Weekend 11/12/2022 \$ 1992.00

"Child Safety is Everyone's Responsibility"

Welcome to St Anne's Parish, where we foster the well being and safety of all children and adults at risk. Since we take the safety of our young and vulnerable parishioners seriously, we have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to abuse. All our parishioners have the right to feel safe and welcome. If you have any concerns, Please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Please pray for the sick and suffering of our parish especially **Trish Falk, Jenny Beechhey-Garden, Christina Toleafoa, Hortance Bouchereau, Nadege, Anna Martonhelyi Linda Butler, Felipe Gonzalez, Loreto Hermosa, Natalie Fowler, Ben Pool, Gilbert Pyet, Bernadette O'Shea, Tony & Gerda Small.**

We pray for all those anniversaries & remembrances occur at this time especially **Gerald Fitzgerald, Margaret & David Tucker, Maria Isabel Astudillo, Cresencia Salih, Ronald Alo** and for all those who have died recently especially **Fr Joseph Patrick Hynan PE, Juana Adones.**

Rest in Peace



ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK 24th/25th

December

READING, EUCHARISTIC MINISTER & ALTAR SERVERS

8:00pm Mass

Readers: A. Duff / K. Burke

Eucharistic Minister: Rita Luxton

12:00am Mass

Readers: M. Lim / I. Abraham

Eucharistic Minister: Ashley Middleton

8:30am Mass

Readers: C. O'Toole /

Eucharistic Minister: Brian Quirk

Altar Servers: Joshua

10:00am Mass

Readers: R. Hepworth/

Eucharistic Minister: Grace Edward

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY—Year A 4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Is 7:10 - 14

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter, he is king of glory.

2nd Reading: Rom 1: 1-7

Gospel: Mt 1: 18 - 24

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY—Year A The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

1st Reading: Is 52: 7-10

Responsorial Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

2nd Reading: Heb 1: 1-6

Gospel: Jn 1: 1-18

REFLECTION FOR THIS WEEK

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "... The virgin shall be with child ... and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Dear parishioners,

Thank you so much for all your prayers.

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK

It is a tradition in Catholic Church to bring communion to the sick and homebound during Christmas. If you have elderly parishioners at home or if you know someone needs communion, please contact parish to organise a time for the priest to visit them.



SIGN UP SHEET

We need volunteers to sign up for Reading, Special Minister, Altar serving, Sacristan and Power Point Presentation, during Christmas and New Year Masses. **As this is last weekend before Christmas, could you please fill up the empty spots in the sign-up sheets that is in the foyer of the Church.** Volunteers please come 10 minutes before your Mass. If you would like the readings for the day please email the parish office.

READING & EUCHARISTIC MINISTER ROSTER FOR 2023

Please collect a copy of the reading & Eucharistic Minister roster for 2023 from the sacristy.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA

Journey through Advent with Caritas Australia's new Parish Resource, useful for small groups or individuals. Exploring seasonal themes of peace, hope, joy and love through a social justice lens, this resource offers Gospel readings, stories of people Caritas Australia serves, reflection questions, prayers, song suggestions and ideas for putting faith into action. Visit www.caritas.org.au/advent to download the resource.

For more information please check our website.

Rev. Fr Martin Jeramias

Announcing the Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program! Part-time in Feb-Nov 2023 - either in person or online - through Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. This program is designed for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and parish or outreach ministries. It will equip individuals to lead with integrity, vulnerability and resilience, and will focus on the inner spiritual journey in order to create fully-formed leaders who listen, learn and accompany others with strength and sensitivity. 'Damascus' can be studied as a Graduate Certificate in Divinity through the University of Divinity (Yarra Theological Union/Catholic Theological College), or as an audit student to receive a Certificate in Spiritual Leadership from Heart of Life. Attendance on Monday mornings and some Saturdays. Read more about the program on the Heart of Life website or contact us on (03) 9890 1101. Applications close on 6/1/23.

Join our Heart of Life Team: Is Social Media Your Thing? Applications are invited for an individual to look after our social media content and assist in sharing news about Heart of Life and its programs. We seek a person who enjoys social media and can help to engage with our community to spark what may begin or continue the 'opening' process of being on earth the heart of God. The role is part-time – approx. one day per week - and is a volunteer role, at least initially. Please apply by 31/12/22 with a view to commencing in Feb 2023. Position descriptions for the above and more information available from info@heartoflife.melbourne, or tel 9890 1101. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Malvern

DAWN MASS

Simbang Gabi

Duration : 16th to 24th December

Time : 5:00 - 6:00am

Address : St Anne's Church,
84 Austin Road,
Seaford.

Breakfast and Fellowship
after Mass

St. Vincent de Paul Gift Tree

"GIVING TREE" for PARISH CHILDREN'S TOYS - URGENTLY NEEDED!

Please take a "Giving Card" from the box in the hall foyer today with a child's age in need of a toy for Christmas. Throughout December St Vincent de Paul members will visit local families and give toys to excite each child on Christmas day. The "Giving Tree" will be in the foyer of the church.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th – 28th April 2023. If you are interested please visit our Parish Website www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls 0427 879 733.

We are very grateful to all the Parishioners for their continued support and Thanksgiving donations throughout the year 2022.



PIETY STALL

has more supplies of the "God's Word for 2023"; "First Children's Bible"; "Illustrated Children's Bible". More supplies of Rosary Beads and various key rings – ideal for small Christmas gifts. Christmas cards and Columban Calendars also available. Various booklets with reference to special saints and prayers asking for their help. Request for **used stamps** which are sent on to Mary McKillop Centre to help with raising funds. Drop any you may receive into the Piety Stall for this fundraising whether it is 1 or more at a time.

The Holy Family 2022 Magazine Deadline

We hope to publish our parish magazine before Christmas. Please check the parish website for any news on when it will be available.



Our Parish Prayer
*We, the people of Seaford Parish
strive to be followers of Jesus
by being a welcoming and supportive
community
in which the talents
of all can grow
and in which we live out
our faith through word,
sacrament and action.
May the Holy Family
St Anne and St Joachim
inspire and intercede for us
that we may be followers of Jesus.
Amen.*



HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

*Heavenly Father,
You have given us the model of life
in the holy family of Nazareth.
Help us make our family
another Nazareth
Where love, peace and joy reign.
Teach us to see Jesus
in the members of our families,
especially in their distress disguise.
May we love one another
as God loves each of us,
more and more each day,
and forgive each other's faults
as you forgive our sins.
Help us take whatever you give
and give whatever you take
with a big smile
Amen.*