

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

Office Hours: Closed this week

Telephone: 9401 6398

Email: [seaford@cam.org.au](mailto:seaford@cam.org.au)      Website: [www.stannes.com.au](http://www.stannes.com.au)

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR B

### THE REFLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND

This weekend the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb,

those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.



Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Cantic of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimitis*.

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

### **THANKSGIVING OPTIONS**

*Please send your thanksgiving offerings via direct debit to:*

**St. Annes Church**

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



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

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>

### **“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, Christina Toleafoa, Hortance Bouchereau, Nadeses, Anna Martonhelyi, Linda Butler, Felipe Gonzalez, Natalie Fowler, Ben Pool, Gilbert Pyet, Bernadette O’Shea, Tony & Gerda Small, Margaret Keating, Kate Knox, Baby Toby, Mauricio Bonizzoni, Matthew Materia, Fitzroy De Alwis, Judy Bartosy, Jonas Sestokas, Jacquie Vandelight.** We pray for all those whose anniversaries & remembrances occur at this time especially Gerald Fitzgerald, Ronald Alo and for all those who have died recently including , Ernestina Virtudazo. **Rest in Peace, Amen.**



### **A word of thanks to all the Volunteers**



We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered during our 2023 Advent Season, the Dawn Liturgies, our Children’s Christmas Carols & the Choirs for all other Masses,—We are grateful to the cleaners, setting up our beautiful crib, the Christmas tree, decorations, music & IT, our readers, greeters, Altar servers and Sacristans and performing any other ministries during these Masses. We wouldn’t have done it without your help. Greatly appreciated. God bless you.

Dear Parishioners,

We have celebrated Christmas well and are in the still the Christmas season. This weekend we are celebrating the feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, a perfect model for all Christian families. Let us intercede their help to all forms of family situations.

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

The parish office is closed from 22nd Friday to 2nd January. We will try to attend to all emergencies. Please email or call the office and leave a message.

### **MASS TIMES FOR THIS WEEK**

We have regular Masses from this weekend onwards. Please check our website for the updated Mass times.

### **NEW YEAR MASS**

January 1st at 9:15am followed by benediction.

### **FUNDRAISING PROJECTS TO COVER THE COST OF WATER PIPES.**

We have reached our target amount \$15,000 two weeks ago. Thank you for your generosity in time of parish need. There will be no collection toward this project.

**For more information please visit our website.**

**Rev Fr Martin Jeramias.**