

Seaford Parish Special Edition

25th December 2023

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

Parish Priest: Rev Fr. Martin Jeramias

Frankston North
Carrum Downs
Seaford

Parish Secretary: Sumitha Moses



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CHRISTMAS - YEAR B

He is born for us

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Warmest greetings and heartfelt blessings to each of you as we gather in joyous celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Your presence enriches our Christmas Mass with the spirit of love and community.

May the radiant light of this holy season illuminate your hearts and homes with peace, hope, and the boundless grace that comes from the humble manger in Bethlehem. As we come together in prayer and unity, let us embrace the true meaning of Christmas—love, compassion, and the miraculous gift of salvation.

Remember, Christmas is not just about the presents, the twinkling lights, or the delicious treats – though they are pretty awesome! Christmas is about a baby born in a little town, and His name is Jesus. He is born for us.

May the spirit of Christmas dwell in your hearts, guiding you through the coming year with faith and joy. Welcome, dear parishioners, and a special embrace to our visitors. Your presence truly makes this celebration complete.

Wishing you all a blessed and Merry Christmas.

With gratitude,



Rev. Martin Jeramias
Parish Priest



Sumitha Moses
Parish Secretary



M E R R Y
Christmas
& Happy New Year

• with love, from
St. Anne's Parish

Our parish respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong people, who are the custodians of the Boon Wurrung land

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. Annes 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.

St. Anne's Parish Yearly Report (2023)

Dear Parishioners,
As we reflect on the events and achievements of the past year, we



are pleased to present the annual report for 2023. It has been a year filled with community engagement, spiritual growth, and impactful initiatives that have strengthened the bonds within our parish.

1. Spiritual Growth and Worship Services:

Throughout the year, our parish has continued to provide meaningful worship services, fostering spiritual growth among our community. We've celebrated numerous religious festivals and observed important liturgical seasons, coming together in prayer and reflection.

2. Community Outreach and Service:

A cornerstone of our parish is our commitment to serving the broader community. In 2023 we organized and participated in various outreach programs, supporting local charities, winter shelter program, and other community projects. Our parishioners volunteered their time and resources to make a positive impact on those in need.

3. Youth Ministries:

Our youth ministries have thrived, offering engaging programs and

activities that cater to different age groups. From educational initiatives to recreational events, we've worked to create a welcoming environment for the younger members of our parish. Young Legion of Mary and Children's liturgy are important for the growth of young parishioners who are pillars of future Church.

4. Infrastructure and Maintenance:

Maintaining our church facilities is essential to creating a welcoming and functional space for worship and community activities. In 2023, we undertook necessary maintenance projects and improvements to enhance the overall experience for our parishioners and this will also continue in the coming year. A major renovation work happened in Holy Family hall which catered for winter shelter program.

5. Financial Update:

We are grateful for the continued financial support from you. Your contributions have enabled us to sustain our ministries, maintain our facilities, and support various charitable initiatives.

Future Plans and Vision:

Looking ahead, we have exciting plans to further enrich the spiritual and community experience within our parish. We will continue to explore opportunities for growth, outreach, and improved facilities to better serve the needs of our parishioners.

1. Plans for next year

Cultural Awareness Programs:

We aim to initiate programs that celebrate the rich diversity within our parish. Through cultural

awareness initiatives, we intend to create opportunities for parishioners to learn, appreciate, and embrace the varied backgrounds, traditions, and customs of our community members. By fostering a spirit of inclusivity, we hope to strengthen the bonds that unite us.

2. Acknowledging the Richness of Parish Volunteers:

Our parish thrives because of the selfless dedication of our volunteers. In the coming year, we plan to undertake programs that not only acknowledge but also celebrate the invaluable contributions of these individuals. Recognizing the richness of our volunteers' skills and experiences, we aim to create a culture of appreciation and gratitude within our parish community.

3. Emphasis on Community Gatherings:

Building a strong sense of community is at the heart of our vision. We aspire to enhance and diversify our community gatherings, providing opportunities for parishioners to come together, share experiences, and strengthen the bonds that unite us. Whether through social events, fellowship after Mass, or special celebrations, these gatherings will be pivotal in creating a warm and welcoming parish environment.

In conclusion, 2023 has been a year of growth, community engagement, and service. We express our gratitude to all parishioners for their unwavering support and dedication to making our parish a vibrant and welcoming community. May the coming year bring continued blessings to and every one of you.

Yours in Faith,
Rev Martin Jeramias

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

We are in the joyous season of Christmas, we extend a warm invitation to each one of you to become actively involved in the various ministries that contribute to the vitality of our parish community. Your unique talents, time, and dedication can make a

and acts of mercy inspired by the Divine Mercy devotion.

Eucharist Ministry: Serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, sharing the Body and Blood of Christ.

Finance Committee: Lend your financial expertise to ensure responsible stewardship of our parish resources.

Funeral Ministry: Extend comfort and support to

grieving families during their difficult times.

Greeters: Welcome fellow parishioners and visitors with a warm smile, creating a hospitable atmosphere.

Junior Legion of Mary: Encourage our younger members to participate in acts of service and devotion.

Legion of Mary: Engage in prayer and apostolic works through the Legion of Mary.

Music Group: Bring your musical talents to enhance our worship experience.

Office Staff: Offer your administrative skills to support the smooth operation of our parish office.

Faith and Mission Committee: Participate in discussions and decisions that shape the future of our faith community.

Piety Stall: Contribute to the availability of religious items and literature in our piety stall.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults): Walk with individuals on their journey into the Catholic faith.

Religious Education Team: Support the growth of faith in our school age children through religious education.

Sacristan: Ensure the proper preparation and care of liturgical items used in our worship.

SHAC (Seaford housing Action Coalition): Plan and organize social events that foster fellowship within our parish.

Vincent De Paul: Engage in acts of charity and support for those in need in our community.

MenAlive: Connect with other men in the parish for spiritual growth and fellowship.

Fate Committee: Organize opportunity for parishioners and

significant difference in the life of St Annes church. Here are some of the volunteering opportunity you could assist us with:

Altar Servers: Encourage our youth to serve at the altar, enhancing the beauty of our liturgical celebrations.

Audio Visual Ministry: Utilize your tech skills to enhance the worship experience through audio and visual elements.

Maintenance Committee: Contribute your insights and skills to the ongoing improvement of our parish facilities.

Child Safe Committee: Be a part of creating a safe and secure environment for our youngest members.

Children's Liturgy: Share the joy of the Gospel with our little ones during Mass.

Communion to Nursing Home: Bring the Eucharist to those unable to join us in person, spreading the love of Christ.

Counters: Assist in the responsible counting and recording of our parish offerings.

Decoration Ministry: Help beautify our worship space for special occasions, enhancing the spirit of the season.

Divine Mercy Group: Join in prayer



visitors to engage in community gathering and fundraising events.

Christmas is a time of giving, and what better way to give than to share your time and talents with our parish community? Joining a ministry is a beautiful way to deepen your faith, build connections, and actively participate in the life of our church.

For more information or to express your interest, please contact our parish office. We look forward to welcoming you into our various ministries and celebrating this Christmas season together as a united and thriving faith community.

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.

Leading Into Christmas

St Anne's Vinnies

Again, for all of us the Christmas rush is ON, more frantic than ever.

As we all work harder! More work = more responsibilities, fewer staff to do more tasks, hoping for more wages to cover the increases in everyday costs.

Two aspects of life I become more aware of at this time of year, as we hanker for the joy and rest of Christmas are:

1. The growing dependence of an ever-increasing number of our companions (parishioners/local families) who are so desperately in need of help. Our St Anne's Vinnies members have visited over 1200 individuals and families this year (5-6 per day), providing food vouchers, assistance with educational needs, utilities, transport, Interest Free loans for whitegoods, mental health and rent assistance, phone, electrical support etc.
2. The generosity of our St Anne's



parishioners, St Joachim's and St Anne's Catholic schools, local government, and local

businesses. Through your/their generosity (the Giving Tree, Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Lapathon, Mini Vinnies Market, Frankston Community Grants) Vinnies were able to provide over 160 age specific toys bringing a huge smile to our local children while 140+ hampers with personal care products, groceries and Woolies Gift Cards for families who cannot provide a special Christmas meal.

On your behalf I want to thank the super hard working four (4) person Hamper Committee, the wonderful St Anne's Vinnies members for their Christ like care of our companions, the helpers of the Bunnings sausage sizzle, the smiling



hamper delivery crews - THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Special thanks to all of you, the parishioners of St Anne's, for your friendship and constant support, especially over the last four (4) years of my privilege of leading our Vinnies.

Wishing you all, a very happy, holy, and relaxing Christmas, and many blessings during the year ahead.

Peter Vyverberg

RCIA

As we are in a new liturgical year and the season of grace, we extend an invitation to all those who are seeking to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith or considering becoming members of our Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the beauty and richness of the Catholic faith, we welcome you to join our RCIA program. This journey of faith is an opportunity for learning, reflection, and spiritual growth, culminating in the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

For those expressing interest or seeking more information about the RCIA process, please contact the office.

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.