

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)

Office Hours: **Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10.00am—3.30pm**

Telephone: 9401 6398

Email: seaford@cam.org.au Website: www.stannes.com.au

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

THE CANDLES AND THE WREATH

Today, we begin the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. As we light the first candle of our Advent wreath, we are reminded of the hope Christ brings into our lives. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us of God's eternal love, and the evergreen symbolizes everlasting life.

May the circle of green leaves which has no beginning and no end, be a sign for us of our place in eternal time and of God's never-ending love for us.

All: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: As we light these candles each week, may our hearts be stirred with hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus.

All: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: May he find us awake and watchful, praying at all times, our lives marked by deeds of love, justice and mercy.

All: Come Lord Jesus

BLESSING OF THE WREATH

Lord God, as we light this Advent wreath, we remember the promises of salvation You have given us.

Bless this wreath and all who gather around it.

As the light of these candles grows brighter each week,

may we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World, into our lives.

May this wreath remind us to remain vigilant and hopeful

as we await Christ's coming.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

Leader: Today, we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of *Hope*.

This light reminds us of the hope we have in Christ, who will come again to bring us salvation.

(The first candle is lit.)

Prayer After Lighting the Candle

Let us pray together:

All: Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the World.

As we light this candle of hope,

may it remind us of the hope You bring into our lives.

Help us to trust in Your promises

and to prepare our hearts for Your coming.



ST. ANNE'S VINNIES CHRISTMAS TREE

Our Children's Christmas Gift Tree is up!

Dear parishioners,

Every Christmas you have been so generous, and we are asking again.

Please take a "Gift Tag" from the tree and return it with an age-appropriate gift. (please do not wrap it)! This year to boost our hampers we would like to provide some personal care items to our families (body wash, deodorants, toothpaste/brush etc.) Any donation of these additional items will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Peter V on 0432 120 704

Many thanks and blessings,

St Anne's Vinnies Hamper Team



We are very grateful to all the parishioners for your continued support and 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.

As reference please include your Thanksgiving Number if you have one and/or your full name.

Online direct contributions, either one-off or recurring, can be made through the QR code Or the below link

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/donate?id=0012w00000LOj6iAAD>

Thanksgiving collection for the Weekend 24/11/2024 \$ 2355.00



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

“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 **Bernadette O’Shea, Alexander, Felipe, Anne, Catherine Britt, Chelsea Borg, Ida Perry, Stanley Fernandez, Constance Anderson, Jean McGregor, Jacqueline Ware, Alfred & Maryann Zammit, Allyson Joel, Roman Rzepka.** We pray for all those whose anniversaries & remembrances occur at this time especially **Tony Martins, Maria Diana Tabone, Constancio Uy, Lita Uy, Nicholos Rameshkumar, Emmanuel Prince Jeyaratnam** and for all those who have died recently **Keith Rollinson, Sudharshini, Ryan Fitzgerald, Philomena Martins, Rex Cabanada, Rowan Higgon.**



Rest in Peace. Amen.

**Dear Parishioners,
ADVENT**

Advent is a season of waiting, hope, and preparation. It invites us to pause amid the busyness of life and focus on the coming of Christ—past, present, and future. We remember His humble birth in Bethlehem, celebrate His presence in the Eucharist and daily life, and prepare for His glorious return at the end of time.

This sacred time calls us to renew our hearts, repent of sin, and grow in love for God and others. Like the light of the Advent candles, our faith is meant to grow stronger and brighter, illuminating the darkness around us.

Advent reminds us that God’s promises are always fulfilled, and we are called to wait with joyful expectation. As we journey through this season, may we prepare a place in our hearts for Christ and live in the hope and peace that only He can bring.

**For more information please visit the website
Rev Fr Martin Jermaias**

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday 6:00 - 8:00pm Rosary Prayer Group
Friday 7:00 - 8:00pm MenAlive Group
Saturday 4:00 - 5:00pm Youth Group

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND

7th December & 8th December

6:00pm Vigil Mass

Readers: Rhiann. R / Ignatius. A
Eucharistic Minister: Josephine Reymers
Altar Servers: Luke / Isaac

8:30am Mass

Readers: Marita. W / Jeanne. A
Eucharistic Minister: Joshua Reeve
Altar Servers: Fina / Jeanne

10:00am Mass

Readers: Robert. H / Mechelle. C
Eucharistic Minister: Zeeta Andrew
Altar Servers: Johan / Anthony

**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY-Year C
First Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Jer 33: 14 - 16
Responsorial Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
2nd Reading: 1 Thess 3:12 - 4:2
Gospel: Lk 21: 25 - 28, 34 - 36

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-Year C
Second Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Baruch 5: 1 - 9
Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
2nd Reading: Phil 1:4 - 6, 8 - 11
Gospel: Lk 3: 1 - 6

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

The imminent arrival of a special guest brings about an anticipation that births excitement. This excitement can bring joy and anxiety in equal measure. The irony is that along with the happiness, joy and hope we have with the expectation of seeing the guest, comes the anxiety of preparing ourselves and our homes. We ponder and fret over whether we are ready, whether we have done enough to prepare. Will they like their accommodation, meals, conversation etc?

In my childhood, I recall fondly the momentous levels of excitement within my family when news came that my Granny or my Grandad was coming out from Ireland to visit. The incredible love that we had, and the fascination that we felt for them infected us with a deep desire to make them feel welcome and loved. It led to a feverish preparation. What room would they sleep in? Did we need to prepare new bedding? Did the house require a lick of paint? Do the lawns and gardens need some work? This preparation and excitement were symbolic representations of the deep love we had for them, the profound honour that we bestowed upon them.

In the season of Advent, as Catholics we also immerse ourselves in a deep state of anticipation. The anticipation of the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We remember and celebrate the incomprehensible moment in time when God so selflessly and lovingly entered into our history in an event as human as the birth of a child, but as extraordinary and profound as the Incarnation; the moment when our transcendent and eternal God shared our humanity: our joys, hopes and dreams, but also our frailties, our faults and our vulnerabilities in the person of Jesus, the very human son of Mary and Joseph. But Advent is more than that, for not only do we remember the great guest we welcomed that Christmas morning 2000 years ago, but we also set our gaze forward, when Christ will return as “the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” The expectation and anticipation of this second coming brings joy and hope, as well as some trepidation, anxiety and even fear among some Christians.

Our focus during Advent should not be upon matters that are beyond our control, but on how we live our lives. The first two readings look with anticipation for God’s mercy and justice, and they both focus on the importance of how our lives can demonstrate God’s power and presence alive in our world right here and now. In the First Reading, Jeremiah delves into the profound hope and expectation of his audience which looked to the restoration of the people of Israel as God’s favoured by focussing on how they should live and act according to the Covenantal Law. In the Second Reading Paul emphasises to the Thessalonians that their focus should be on the community’s ability to live and model Jesus’ love and life to all those they meet. His call is for them to live as true Christians, and he prays that they “make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live.” Both readings help us to understand that living as a community of love, brings about the advent of God’s mercy and reign.

The Gospel today reflects the figurative and metaphorical language of the apocalyptic tradition. It is highly symbolic and easily misinterpreted. Luke deviates a little from his normal method of a narrative, teaching and parable format and he purposefully uses a writing style reminiscent of prophets in the Old Testament. Luke’s community had

been expecting Jesus to return with immediacy to establish his Kingdom on earth, but at that time somewhere in the late 70s and 80s of the First Century, new generations of Christians were springing up while others were dying without having witnessed Christ’s return. This reality was a shock and a challenge to many, and it took a lot of theologising and recontextualising for the community to make sense of this. This Gospel passage emphasises the second coming of Christ. Here Jesus reveals that there will be ‘signs in the sun and moon and stars’ when he returns, but the focus is on the life lived by the Christians, rather than the details of the when and how of Christ’s return. Jesus tells his disciples to ‘Stay awake, praying at all times...’, the emphasis is on the love and mercy that the people demonstrate. These are the signs that Christ’s return, and God’s mercy are imminent.

Unfortunately, many Christians adopt a literal interpretation of these texts, with a fixation upon the signs and the time of Christ’s return. They focus on the frightening aspects of the text and make literal interpretations of the symbolism and figurative language. They neglect the underlying focus on living their lives in imitation of Christ and focus on the apocalyptic events, and the judgement of those who are deemed to have failed to meet God’s expectations. The focus in the readings today is not to become obsessed with the when and how of Christ’s return, or to focus solely on the failings of individuals. It is to prepare for his coming by staying awake and always praying. It is a call to be proactive in how we live out the Gospel through authentic Christian lives full of the love of Christ which reveal the fruits of the Kingdom of heaven and the Reign of God.

What does it mean then to be ‘Advent People’, to be people of hope and excitement, longing for the arrival of our Lord? How do we honour the Incarnation at Christmas time and prepare ourselves for the second coming? We can look to today’s readings which emphasise the need to act with love, faith and mercy. In preparing our home adequately for my grandparents, we didn’t focus only on the date and time of their arrival. We focussed on preparing our home so that they would feel honoured and loved. We opened our hearts to express the deep appreciation and privilege we had in hosting our guests. This also meant loving and honouring each other and working together as a family to create a culture of love as this was the very reason that they longed to visit us. This life of love is a powerful invitation to Christ and a sign that we are ready for him to return.

In the Incarnation of the first Christmas, God shared in our humanity and in Christ’s Resurrection, we shared in God’s divinity. Our responsibility is to make Christ’s Kingdom a reality in the here and now. We don’t need to wait for signs in the moon or the sun. We don’t need to worry and fret over the return of Christ because we can become the visible sacraments of Christ in the world through the lives we lead. Each time we extend ourselves in loving others or make ourselves vulnerable through love, and each time we bear our cross and follow the example of Jesus, we demonstrate Christ’s reign of love and mercy here on earth. When we welcome the stranger, or offer comfort to the afflicted, we are truly Advent People preparing ourselves for the return of Christ.

By Liam Doherty

Catholic Identity and Religious Education
Adviser

Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Ltd



MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday 6:00 pm Mass
Wednesday 9:15 am Mass
Silent Adoration 5:30 pm - 6:30pm
Thursday 6:00 pm Mass
Friday Rosary 6:30 pm
First Friday 7:00 pm Mass

Saturday 5:25 pm Rosary followed
by Divine Mercy Chaplet
Vigil Mass 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am & 10:00am Mass
3rd Sunday 10:30am Filipino Mass
(at Holy Family Hall)

Giving is an Act of Worship Thanksgiving Envelopes

Thanksgiving envelopes are ready for collection in the foyer of the church. We are very grateful for your continuing support & generosity to St Anne's Parish. If you can't find your envelope, please contact the parish office.
New givers are welcome.



ADVENT SESSION AT MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE, EAST MELBOURNE

Waiting in Joyful Hope

We invite you to this special three-day retreat offering a unique opportunity to pause and reflect during Advent. In the midst of the chaos, this retreat will provide rest, contemplation, and a deeper connection to the meaning of the season.

Facilitated by Sister Rita Malavisi. Rita has been a Sister of St Joseph for over thirty years. She trained as a primary school teacher, working in city and country schools. Rita is involved in adult formation and is a trained Spiritual Director. She is the current National Chair of the Conference of Spiritual Directors Australia.

Day : Monday 9th December to Wednesday 11th December 2024

Time: Starting Monday evening and finishing on Wednesday morning

Venue : Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert street, East Melbourne

Price: \$480 for live in retreatant including accommodation and catering
\$400 for daily retreatants including catering

P: (03) 9926 9300, **E:** admin.mmhc@sosjspirit.org.au

St Anne's Catholic Church



Simbang Gabi

Come join us to Worship in the Journey of Spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Dates: 16th - 24th December, 2024

Time: 7:30pm - 8:30pm

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

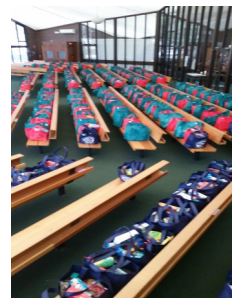
Light Supper & Fellowship after Mass

PLEASE HELP TO DELIVER CHRISTMAS HAMPERS/TOYS

St. Anne's Vinnies need your help for **ONE HOUR, meeting at the church on Saturday 21st December 2024 at 9:00am** to deliver

Christmas Hampers/Toys to our parish families in need. Parish area will be cut up into 10 sections, you only need to drive to one area to put a big smile on the faces of the families you deliver to.

Please contact Peter V on 0432 120 704 if you can help.



John Paul College Companion Van and (it is hoped) other community food providers will temporarily move:

From : Young St East carpark)

To: Playne St carpark (corner

of Playne, Young and Davey Streets, opposite Frankston Arts Centre)

From 25 November 2024 - 11 December 2024

This is due to: a temporary closure of Young St carpark due to Frankston City Council's (FCC) Christmas Festival 2024 using the space.

