

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Col 3:15, 16
Alleluia, alleluia! / May the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts, / and the fullness of
his message live within you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 2:13–25, 19–23
A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the
Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
‘Get up, take the child and his mother with
you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until
I tell you, because Herod intends to search for
the child and do away with him.’ So Joseph got
up and, taking the child and his mother with
him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed
until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what
the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod’s death, the angel of the Lord
appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and
said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother
with you and go back to the land of Israel, for
those who wanted to kill the child are dead’.
So Joseph got up and, taking the child and
his mother with him, went back to the land of
Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had
succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea
he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a
dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he
settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way
the words spoken through the prophets were to
be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

LIVING OUT ISRAEL’S HISTORY

With today’s feast we return to one of
Matthew’s special heroes, Joseph. As we have
already seen, Matthew’s Joseph is like the Old
Testament patriarchal figure—he is a ‘dreamer’
who leads God’s family. In this Gospel Joseph
has a dream, a privileged religious experience
of divine communication. In this dream,
an angel, the Gospel’s representation of the
presence of God, appears and again directs
Joseph. This time it is to escape into Egypt;
Herod is out to execute the child Jesus. Like
ancient Israel through the Old Testament
story of the other Joseph who goes to Egypt,
Matthew’s Joseph leads Mary and the child
into Egypt and safety, paralleling the story of
Israel.

For Matthew, Jesus is the symbolic repre-
sentation of Israel’s story and sums up in his
being the desire of God to free the people from
disaster. After Herod dies, Joseph—perhaps
now an insomniac!—gets another dream to
go back to Israel. Instead of returning to his
hometown, which in Matthew is Bethlehem,
he takes the family into exile to Nazareth
because of the murderous intent of Herod’s
son, Archelaus. In this last movement, Jesus
completes the cycle of Israel’s story—being
called, to Egypt, to the exodus and finally, into
exile. It is from this perspective that the rest
of Matthew’s Gospel unfolds. The evangelist,
writing to Jewish followers of Jesus, is keen to
show how Jesus is a true Israelite, living out
Israel’s history.

Two things might be reflectively helpful for the
contemporary family: God always accompanies
the family of Jesus in its journey, no matter
where it leads; trust one’s dream. God can
communicate in different and, sometimes,
unpredictable ways.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / A

28 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her
sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his
sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy
with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing
obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy;
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 127:1–5. R. cf. v.1

**R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and
walk in his ways.**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord/
and walk in his ways! / By the labour of your
hands you shall eat. / You will be happy and
prosper. **R.**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine/ in the heart of
your house; / your children like shoots of the
olive, / around your table. **R.**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed/ the man who
fears the Lord. / May the Lord bless you from
Zion/ all the days of your life! **R.**

SECOND READING

Col 3:12–21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves
you and you should be clothed in sincere



compassion, in kindness and humility,
gentleness and patience. Bear with one
another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel
begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you
must do the same. Over all these clothes, to
keep them together and complete them, put
on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in
your hearts, because it is for this that you were
called together as parts of one body. Always be
thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness,
find a home with you. Teach each other, and
advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude
in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and
inspired songs to God; and never say or do
anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you
should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives
and treat them with gentleness. Children, be
obedient to your parents always, because that is
what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive
your children to resentment or you will make
them feel frustrated.

■ The word of the Lord.



ST PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PARISH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Claretian Missionaries

848 Ballarat Road, Deer Park 3023
Parish Priest: Fr. Felimon Libot, CMF
Asst. Priests: Fr. John Pham, CMF; Fr. Luis F. Rey, CMF
Parish Secretary - Rosemarie Mendoza
Bookkeeper - Rosa Milan
Tel: 93633132 Email: deerpark@cam.org.au
Website: www.cam.org.au/deerpark
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm



DEATH REMEMBRANCE: Joseph Grima, Roko & Anica Koprivanac, Stephen Stolinik, Francis & Anna, Victoria Bronhlo, Jann Christian Makiling, Nikola Del Grosso, Charlie Agius, Theresa Phang, Alda Casimiro Lay, Joe Muscat, Eduardo & Rosa Doctor, Nhi Jin Lai, Yuk Ing Yong, Veronica Aigo, Batwaula Fostine, Francis Oriada, Thomas & Elizabeth Meyn, Robert Okema, Magdalene Asango, Stanislaus Oriada, Tony Cordina, Erlina Reyes, Jairus Zelada, All Souls in Purgatory

RECENT DEATH: Frank Padilla, Joanna Ho, Duncan Brent, Vincent Paul Onuoha
SPECIAL INTENTION: Helen & Maria Aquilina, Philomena Asango, John Bosco Oluka, Michaela & Tony Mancuso

HEALING: Pauline Gatt, Tony & Agatha Saliba, Arlyn, Charlie & Helen Aquilina, Marie E, Mary Caroline Okema, Dina Jose, Edgardo dela Rosa, Fum Jum LaiKuer, Vong Thong,
THANKSGIVING: Dorainnae & John Prinzi, Delfin Oswa & Chris Jason Oswa, Sebastiana & family, Alzira Lay Leong family, Sr Judith Redonario, George Palacay Jr & family, Calipes family, Francisco Glovasa, Arnold & Ramona, Lorraine Vella



ADORATION CHAPEL
"The Master is here and wants to see you." John 11:28

Adorers are needed for these hours:

Tuesday: 3am, 4am, 11pm

Wednesday: 4pm

Saturday: 4pm

Contact: Lucy Sgro 0424056823

Thanksgiving Envelopes. To those who are in the Parish Thanksgiving Program, Thanksgiving envelopes will be available in the foyer of the church on Saturday, 27 December 2025. Those whose names are not listed, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued support.

EFTPOS facility available in the foyer the church for those who wish to generously donate to the church. We thank you for your generosity and support. May God bless you and your Family

Solemnity, Mary, the Holy Mother of God.
Thursday, 1 January

Feast, St John, apostle, evangelist.
Saturday, 27 December

No Healing mass. For the month of January.

Parish Office is closed until 5 January 2026 and will reopen on Tuesday, 6 January 2026

Next Sunday, 4 January 2026 Solemnity, The Epiphany of the Lord - A

THIS SUNDAY: 28 December 2025 - Feast, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator 1st Reader 2nd Reader	Mario N Maria Miletic Colleen D B	Richelle M Telmo E Susan C	Hilda D S Wynna D Rukmal M	Eva O Theresa Tan Maria Mizzi	Tami M Gloria T Marvin D	Perly C Maria Sulfaro Gynn D
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Marie E Antonietta C Paul M Joann S	Richelle M	Ronald D Cedric B Shirley T Thi Pham	Anna C Joe M Cathryn D Don C	Ian H Jacqueline R Emman C Kirk D G R	Roland D Joe C Teo C Ric M
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry Fawaz	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Ann	Jepicho, Jude Jherzielle
Choirs	Harmonico Filipino	AHFI	Butch Eleazar	CFCa	Exxemoz	MWF with LHM Sisters

NEXT SUNDAY: 4 January 2026 - Solemnity, The Epiphany of the Lord

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator 1st Reader	Perly C Rency C Gynn D	RJ Baculo Richelle M Glenda A	Dulce T Kathreen T Kumudu M	Nelissa D Sheila D Nonie G	Carina F Flora S Kirk D G R	Mario N Vernon A Shereen Q
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Teo C Anna C Ernesto Co Antonietta C	Richelle M	Ferdinand T Rukmal M Ronald Wynna D	Julie Ann M Lidia L Joe M Maria Mizzi	Tami M Jacqueline R Emman C Ian H	Michael D Joe C Ric M Maria Sulfaro
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Ann	Jepicho, Jude Jherzielle
Choirs	MWF with LHM Sisters	Butch Eleazar	Butch Eleazar	Emmaus	CFCa	Samoan DVM

New Year's Day Mass Times:

31 December

8:30am; 12:00pm; 7:00pm

10:00pm

12:00 MN- New Year's Eve Mass

1 January 2026 - New Year's Day

8:30am; 10:00am; 12pm & 7pm

9-Day Novena for Señor Sto Niño commencing on Friday, 2nd January at 6:00 pm until 10th January except Saturday, novena will start at 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Sunday

Please check flyer in the foyer of the church. Thank you.

1st Friday Vigil 2 January 2026, after the 7pm mass to be concluded with the mass at 12 Midnight



As we begin a new year, we thank God for His many blessings and for the faith and community we share. May 2026 be a year filled with hope, peace and renewed trust in God's loving guidance. Be assured of our prayers for you and your families in the year ahead. With every blessing,
Fr Mon, Fr Luis & Fr John, CMF

A VOCATION VIEW

Families are where kindness, humility, patience and thanksgiving are lived and celebrated. People cannot truly teach these qualities unless they have experienced them.