

Seaford Parish Newsletter

Sunday 15th March 2026



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

**Frankston North
Carrum Downs
Seaford**



Parish Priest: Rev Fr. Martin Jeramias

Deacon: Pselio Lemalu

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR THIS WEEK

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the

pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

Holy Week SCHEDULE 2026



84 Austin Rd, Seaford. VIC

MARCH 20 FRI	7:00-8:00pm Individual Confession
APRIL 1 WED	9:15 am Mass up to 10:30 Individual Reconciliation
APRIL 2 THU	Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper until 10:30 pm Silent adoration
APRIL 3 FRI	Good Friday 10:30 am The Stations of the Cross At St. Anne's school ground 3:00 pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
APRIL 4 SAT	Holy Saturday 7:00 pm The Easter Vigil
APRIL 5 SUN	Easter Sunday 8:30 am Mass 10:00 am 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 your continued support and donations.

THANKSGIVING OPTIONS

If you are able to send your thanksgiving offerings via direct debit to:
St. Annes Church (CDF)

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 08/03/2026 \$ 4751.25



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.

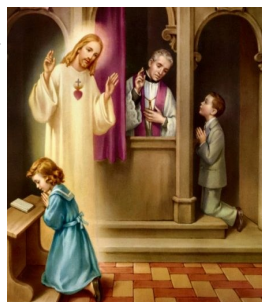
Please pray for the sick and suffering of our parish especially **Alexander, Felipe, Anne, Chelsea Borg, Ida Perry, Constance Anderson, Jean McGregor, Jacqueline Ware, Allyson Joel, Frank Bartosy, Siyumi, Eliza Wilmot, John McCready, Yeng Omo, Myra Buyco, Patricia Upton, Alex, Jay Sulton, Kerry Marshall, Frances Kinna, Philomina, George Paul.** We pray for all those whose anniversaries & remembrances occur at this time especially **Ian Monger** and for all those who have died recently deceased **Mary Aizelaine T Cura.** Rest in Peace. Amen.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

As you may be aware of the Reconciliation or Confession times at our church every weekend is on Saturday before Mass. We encourage you to take advantage of this time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It’s a wonderful opportunity to seek God’s forgiveness, reflect, and renew your spiritual journey.

However, we understand that there may be instances when this time is not convenient. In such case, please know that you can always make an appointment for Confession with our priest. Your spiritual well-being is of the utmost importance, and we are here to accommodate your needs. To schedule a Confession appointment, simply contact the parish office.



ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND **21ST MARCH & 22ND MARCH**

6:00pm Vigil Mass

Readers: Rosario / Alden. M

Eucharistic Minister: Ashley / Rosario

Altar Servers: Jeremy, Bertin, Luke

8:30am Mass

Readers: Kathleen. C / Marita. W

Eucharistic Minister: Antony / Kim

Altar Servers: Fina, Jeanne, Johan

10:00am Mass

Readers: Grazinia. M / Beena. G

Eucharistic Minister: Franklyn / Marylin

Altar Servers: Emily, Eric, Grazinia

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY-Year A **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: 1 Sam 16 :1, 6 - 7, 10-13

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading: Eph 5: 8 - 14

Gospel: Jn 9: 1 - 41

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-Year A **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Ezek 37:12 - 14

Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is
mercy and fullness of redemption.

2nd Reading: Rom 8: 8 - 11

Gospel: Jn 11: 1 - 45

Dear Parishioners,

Laetare Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. This day is a moment of joy and celebration in the midst of the Lenten season, which is typically focused on repentance. On this special day, the priest wears a rose-coloured chasuble for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Meaning of "Laetare"

The word "Laetare" comes from the Latin phrase "Laetare, Jerusalem", which translates to "Rejoice, Jerusalem." This phrase is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass on this day.

Laetare Sunday is significant because it reminds us that the joy of Easter and Christ's resurrection is near. It serves as a break from the solemn practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, offering a glimpse of the celebration to come.

The tradition of wearing rose-coloured vestments on Laetare Sunday (as well as on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent) symbolizes joy and hope in the midst of penitential seasons.

This Sunday is also referred to as:

- Refreshment Sunday
- Mid-Lent Sunday
- Mothering Sunday

On Laetare Sunday, the Church rejoices in the hope and joy of Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life. The rose-coloured vestments and the uplifting theme of the liturgy reflect this anticipation.

These two Sundays serve as reminders that, even in seasons of penance, the promise of Christ's coming and His triumph over death bring us great joy.

WORKING BEE

We need your help to clean our church premises and get ready to welcome parishioners and visitors for Holy week ceremonies.

What we are aiming to complete; Window cleaning; tree branch pruning. Moats cleaning, wiping the pews. Vacuuming. For those who can't manually work, please prepare morning tea for all.

See you all on 28th March from 9-11am

LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN DONATE

- Easter Egg for children.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

Speaker : Patricia Long

Wednesday March 25th, 2026 @ 12:30pm

Venue: Hampton RSL, 25 Holyrood Street, Hampton
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL – BY FRIDAY 20th
March SHARING THE MEAL IS AN IMPORTANT

PART OF THE TIME TOGETHER Meals from 12.30pm. The presentation & conversation will follow; Event will conclude about 3.00pm For Bookings and/or further details contact: MICHELE:

michelekennan@presvic.org.au OR 0415 956 107(mob)
CATRIONA: catriona3171@gmail.com OR 0419 109 830 (mob) More information on the Notice Board

Melbourne Synod 2026

The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (*Lumen Gentium*, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.



What is a Synod?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

Where does the word "Synod" come from?

The word *Synod* comes from the Greek *syn-hodos*, meaning "walking together on the road." This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

Synodality is not new

Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

THANK YOU NOTICE

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation so joyful and memorable.

We are especially grateful to those who welcomed, generously brought food and desserts, those who helped with the BBQ, and all the volunteers who assisted in preparing, serving, and cleaning up afterwards. Your generosity, time, and willingness to serve created a wonderful atmosphere of community and fellowship.

Because of your support and collaboration, the celebration was a beautiful expression of our parish family coming together in faith and joy.

Leadership team of Voluntas Dei.

MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday & Thursday	6:00 pm Mass
Wednesday	9:15 am Mass
Silent adoration	5:30 - 6:30 pm
Friday	9:15 am Mass
Rosary	6:30 pm
Station of the Cross	7:00 pm
Lenten Reconciliation	7:00 - 8:00 pm
Saturday	5:20 pm Rosary followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet 5:30 pm Reconciliation (Other times by appointment only) 6:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am & 10:00am Mass
3rd Sunday	10:30am Filipino Mass (at Holy Family Hall)

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Monday	6:00 - 8:00 pm Marian Cenacle Group
Wednesday	6:00 - 7:00 pm H.Eucharist Repeat sess. 7:00 - 8:00 pm RCIA Session 7:00 - 8:00 pm Lenten Reflection
Thursday	7:00 - 8:00 pm VIBE
Friday	5:30 - 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 - 7:30 pm MenAlive
Saturday	3:45 - 5:00 pm Senior Legion of Mary

NEED MORE MEMBERS IN THE CHOIR

Our choir that sings at the third Sunday 10am Mass each month is warmly inviting new members to join. Music plays a special role in our liturgy. By joining the choir, you will not only share your gift of music but also become part of a welcoming and supportive group that serves our parish community through song. If you feel called to be part of this ministry, please contact the parish office or speak to them. We look forward to welcoming new voices and sharing the joy of music together.



Piety Stall Notice

We have miniature Stations of the Cross available at the Piety Stall to help this Lenten season. Book for toddlers on the Saints and Prayers to the Saints for pre school children.

Columban Calendars have been restocked, these have space for daily memos and give the name of the saint for the day as well as beautiful paintings for each month.

Some new children's booklets from "Little Golden Book. Call at the Piety Stall to view the selection. See all the various helps for Lenten prayers whether booklets or visual items.

LENTEN PROGRAM 2026

**Lenten Program starting Wednesday 4th March
7:00 pm at St Anne's chapel.**

You are welcome to join us for this Lenten Program. We are reflecting on the Sunday readings in a prayerful manner. We would like you to join these sessions, sign up sheet is available in the foyer of the church.

All are Welcome

THEFT OF MEMORIAL PLAQUES

We regret to inform you again that the remaining plaques have been stolen from our memorial garden. This is a distressing and unfortunate incident, especially for the families whose loved ones were remembered through these plaques.

Please be assured that the police have been notified and an investigation is currently underway. We have supplied CCTV footage and are assisting the authorities.

We had the plan to give to the families the remaining plaques. We have been approved of the claim from the insurance company and will soon install the plaques. We are deeply saddened by this act and are taking steps to improve security. Let us continue to pray for healing, for justice, and for the respect of sacred places and memories.

HARMONY WEEK FROM 16-22 MARCH

This year Australia celebrates Harmony Week from the 16-22 March. This is a wonderful time to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures that make up our Catholic community, and share the message that everyone belongs. Harmony Week coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Schedule for the Sacraments 2026

Dear Parishioners, Please see the dates for the sacraments this year. We need your help to let the families of non Catholic school know these dates as early as possible.

There are 56 students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and 47 students for the First Eucharist this year 2026. Please pray for them.

Confirmation Enrolment form goes out on 31st March (available on our website). Enrolment Mass 1 & 2 May 16/17 & 23/24 Preparation evening June 3rd at 6:30pm in the Church.

All non Catholic school children will need to do special Religious education program apart from the sacramental program of the parish. There will 2 session for the children for the preparation of Reconciliation.

☆ Wednesday, 5 May 2026 @ 6 -7 pm

☆ Wednesday, 12 May 2026 @ 6 -7 pm