



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

Frankston North
Carrum Downs
Seaford



Parish Priest: Rev Fr. Martin Jeramias

Deacon: Pselio Lemalu

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: 03 9401 6398

Email: seaford@cam.org.au **Website:** www.melbcatholic.org/seaford

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Celebrant: On this Third Sunday of Advent, we light the rose coloured candle, the candle of rejoicing, on our Advent Wreath. Let us pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ...

Celebrant: Shout for joy, all you peoples of the earth!

All: The Lord is coming!

Celebrant: Rejoice and exult with all your heart!

All: The Lord is very near!

Celebrant: Have no fear, hold firm and take heart.

All: Hope in the Lord!

Celebrant: Let us pray..... God of eternal joy, you are ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Saviour's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove any sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy which his coming will bring, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

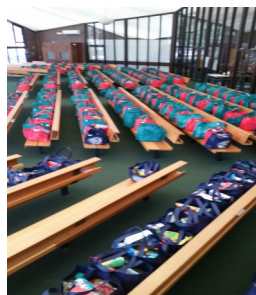


PLEASE HELP TO DELIVER CHRISTMAS HAMPERS/TOYS

St. Anne's Vinnies need your help for **ONE HOUR, meeting at the church on Saturday 20th December 2025 at 9:00 am** 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.



ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
84 AUSTIN RD, SEAFORD

Christmas Mass Timings

Friday 19th December
7:00pm - Individual Confession

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December 2025
5:30pm - Carols followed by Children's Mass
8:00pm - Carols followed by Family Mass
11:30pm - Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - Thursday 25th December
9:00am - Morning Mass

New Year's Day - Thursday 1st January 2026
9:15am - Mass followed by Benediction

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 7/12/2025 \$ 6438.00



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 **Alexander, Felipe, Anne, Chelsea Borg, Ida Perry, Stanley Fernandez, Constance Anderson, Jean McGregor, Jacqueline Ware, Allyson Joel, Frank Bartosy, Siyumi, Eliza Wilmot, John McCready, Yeng Omo, Myra Buyco, Patricia Upton, Alex, Barbara Bennett, Jay Sulton, Cheryl, Kerry Marshall, Frances Kinna.** We pray for all those whose anniversaries & remembrances occur at this time especially **Aldred Perera, Bernadette Perera, Frank Natale, Garry Marshall, Les Monger, Umberto Fonti** and for all those who have died recently deceased , **Fr Michael Shadbolt, Reverend Monsignor Francis Kelly Marriot, John Lloyd, Barbara Bennett.**
Rest in Peace. Amen.



ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND **20TH & 21ST DECEMBER**

6:00pm Vigil Mass

Readers: Deborah. C /Annabelle. B
Eucharistic Minister: Jarvis / Rosario
Altar Servers: Issac, Eric, Luke

8:30am Mass

Readers: Marita. W/ Jeanne. A
Eucharistic Minister: Brian / Ranjani
Altar Servers: Fina, Jeanne, Johan

10:00am Mass

Readers: Varuna. A / Sandra. P
Eucharistic Minister: Martin / Grace
Altar Servers: Shenoli, Emily, Victoria

Behold, I am sending my
messenger ahead of you
he will prepare your way
before you

Jesus, Mt 11:10



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-Year A **Third Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Is 35: 1 - 6, 10
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.
2nd Reading: James 5: 7 - 10
Gospel: Mt 11: 2 - 11

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-Year A **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Is 7: 10 - 14
Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.
2nd Reading: Rom 1: 1 - 7
Gospel: Mt 1: 18 - 24

ANNOUNCEMENT: MEBLOURNE ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

Dear friends in Christ, the faithful of Melbourne,

On the third Sunda of Advent, in the days following the Australian Catholic Festival, and as we ready our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, I write to share with you an important moment in the life of our local church Melbourne.

This Jubilee Year of Hope has been a time of great grace for us. Throughout the year, I have been meeting with clergy and lay leaders, listening to them, and discerning with them as to how the Archdiocese of Melbourne might respond to the call to hold an Archdiocesan Synod.

From this time of prayer, grace and reflection, I now wish to share that I have initiated preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026. I have asked Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ to assist me in leading this process, drawing on the Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod 2025-2028, endorsed by Pope Leo XIV. I have also appointed Ms Cathy Jenkins as Synod Program Lead.

Over recent years, the whole Church has been invited into a renewed way of walking together.

Here in Australia, this journey has been unfolding for many years. The Fifth Plenary Council (2021-2022) arose from a nationwide effort of prayerful listening and discernment. We then contributed to the global Synod (2021-2024), which invited us to reflect on how we live communion, foster participation, and carry out Christ's mission in the Church.

I am grateful for the many people across the Archdiocese who took part in these consultations. You have offered insights filled with faith in Christ, love for the Church, and hope for our future.

The fruits of Take the Way of the Gospel, the development of parish formation through the Bethany Way, and the vibrant witness of young people at the recent Australian Catholic Youth Festival likewise continue to shape our discernment.

Three themes will be taken up in the Synod process:

Young Discipleship

Missionary Leadership

Formation and Participation

These three themes have not arisen in isolation. They have emerged consistently and clearly through all the listening, discernment, and consultation undertaken in recent years across the Archdiocese.



More information about the Archdiocesan Synod process will be shared with you in early 2026.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

The copy of the letter can be found in the foyer of the church and our website.

REFLECTION FOR THIS WEEK

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Caritas Australia: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas.

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty.

But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity.

Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>



MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 pm Mass
Wednesday & Friday 9:15 am Mass
Silent Adoration 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Friday 6:30 pm Rosary
Saturday 5:20 pm Rosary followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet
5:30 pm Reconciliation
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 7:00 - 8:00 pm RCIA Session
Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm MenAlive
Saturday 3:45 - 5:00 pm Senior Legion of Mary

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.

Baptism

We Congratulate and welcome the following children who will be baptised at St Anne's Parish this Weekend
14th December 2025

- ☆ Harmony Mercado
- ☆ Angus Leonard Gartshore
- ☆ Zoe Jane Gartshore
- ☆ Elsie Grace Hendry
- ☆ Andy Aranha D'Costa
- ☆ Declan John Keenan
- ☆ Aidan Pearce Keenan



PIETY STALL

We have received stock of Children's books including colouring books; Picture books of lives of Saints; Prayers to favourite Saints; Brother Francis DVD – Our Heavenly Friends. And many more. Call at the Piety Stall to view.

The Piety stall is collecting used postage stamps (or stamp collections no longer wanted) which will be given to Columban Mission.

GIFT EDITION BIBLE

A special Gift Edition Bible is now available for purchase. This beautifully presented Bible features a leather cover and comes in a variety of colours (**Black, Brown, White and Teal**) which costs \$60.00

ST ANNE'S MEDALS FROM ROME

We are delighted to share that a limited number of St Anne's medals—brought from Rome and blessed by the Holy Father—are now available. These special medals are offered for a donation, with all proceeds supporting our parish initiatives. We extend our sincere thanks to Paul, Principal of St Joachim's School, for generously arranging and bringing these medals for our community.



HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK

It is a tradition in Catholic Church to bring communion to the sick and homebound during Christmas. If you have elderly parishioners at home or if you know someone needs



communion, please contact parish to organise a time for the priest to visit them.

St Anne's Catholic Church



Simbang Gabi

Come join us to worship in the journey of spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Date : 15th - 23rd December 2025

Time: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Venue: St Anne's Church

Light Supper and Fellowship follows

The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed each evening at 7:00pm followed by Holy Mass.