



## HOMILY

### Jesus' Recommitment to the Father

My dear friends in Christ, I welcome you to this grace-filled season of Lent. Lent is a penitential period when we commemorate the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness to prepare himself for his ministry. He fasted and faced difficult challenges; however, he was enabled by the Holy Spirit to overcome these challenges by praying and remaining focused on the mission entrusted to him by His Father. As disciples of Jesus, we are invited during this period of Lent to have a pause and to beam a search light on the aspects of our lives that need spiritual ventilation.

The ashes we received on Ash Wednesday underscored the urgency for us to amend our ways, because despite the pomp and pageantry that may surround our lives, we are mere mortals who would have to farewell this world one day and present an account of our stewardship to God.

Do you live a dishonest life? Are you easily agitated or angered? Are you in perpetual loggerhead with your siblings or spouse or neighbours or friends? Is your prayer life rusty? Do you find it very difficult to forgive others? Do you find it difficult to seek for forgiveness?

Are you envious? Do you steal? Do you bear false witness against people? Do you use your tongue as a missile to hurt people? Do you abuse your power or your authority? Are you suffering from unhealthy pride? Are you greedy? Are you wasteful with money or resources? Are you lagging in spending quality time with your family? Do you procrastinate? Are you addicted to gambling or drugs? Are you an alcoholic?

Lent is a time for a new beginning – a time to reset the button by putting God first again in your life through avoiding vices and choosing virtues. It is a period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving should elicit a change of heart in us and enable us to renew our Baptismal covenant with God, which is to reject Satan, (evil), and place our trust and hope in the one true God.

The First Reading from the Book of Genesis, (Gen 2:7-9,3:1-7), recounted the creation of our first parents Adam and Eve and the quality of life they had before they disobeyed God and fell from His grace. According to the narration, Adam and Eve lived in a garden which had many food plants blossoming in it. They were permitted by God to eat from all the edible plants except from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" which was in the middle of the garden. Yet, when temptation came their way, they could not resist eating from that forbidden tree.

This fall of Adam and Eve is referred to in our Catholic tradition as the Original Sin. This was the loss of their "original holiness", (Catechism of the Catholic Church 396 – 409). Humanity was created with free will, thus, Adam and Eve made a wrong choice. We too, at different moments of our lives squander multiple blessings that come our way by succumbing to the temptations from the Evil One.

The Second Reading, (Rom 5:12 –19), continues the theme of the fall of humanity in our first parents and its consequences on humanity. Adam, (in this Reading), prefigured the whole of humanity. St Paul stated that, "sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned". 'Death' in the context of the above quotation is not merely physiological but estrangement from our friendship with God. Adam and Eve experienced this estrangement in their relationship with God after their disobedience. The love and friendship that had existed between them and their creator changed to a relationship of guilt, fear and distrust, because they started 'hiding' from God. The voice of God was no longer a source of joy and comfort but a cause of torment which they must avoid, (Gen 3:9 – 10) At times, when we betray or disappoint our friends or relations, their voices or presence may become torturous to us.

Thanks to Jesus Christ our sole mediator with the Father, (1Tim 2:5), the throne of divine grace has been re-opened to humanity again. For "as one man's fall" brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous" (Rom 5:18-19). This new Adam that brings grace and justification to us is Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of today, (Mt 4:1-11), narrated some of the temptations Jesus had during his ministry. The Book of Hebrews testified that Jesus is our high priest and that he "is not indifferent to our weaknesses, for he was tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin" (Heb 4:15). Jesus' temptations covered the areas of the use of power, (turning stone into bread), pride, (jumping down from the parapet of the Temple), and the search for vain glory, (bowing down to worship the Devil in order to be a king and wealthy).

Jesus, unlike Adam and Eve, resisted the temptations from the Evil One. Hence, he recommitted himself to the mission entrusted to him by the Father for the salvation of the world. During our Baptism, we promised to reject Satan and sin and we professed to worship the only one true God. We know that like Adam and Eve, we do falter from our baptismal promises by succumbing to the traps of the Evil One. Lent calls us to repentance. On this first Sunday of Lent, I invite you to re-commit yourselves to your Baptismal promises by committing yourselves to a Lenten plan. Choose an aspect of your life that you hope to work on, or a cause you wish to commit yourself to during this Lenten season. I pray that the Lord of the covenant will grant you a grace of renewal during this Lenten period, so that you will rise anew with Jesus at Easter!

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp

# First Sunday of Lent 1st March 2020



## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER FRANKSTON

60 Davey Street, Frankston 3199



## ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST FRANKSTON EAST

20 Coral Street, Frankston East 3199

**PARISH OFFICE:** 60 Davey Street, Frankston 3199 **Phone:** 9783 3484 **Email:** frankston@cam.org.au

**Web:** www.frankstoncatholic.com.au **Office Hours :** 9.00am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday

**Parish Priest:** Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp chinua.okeke@cam.org.au

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au

**Deacon:** Rev Kevin Pattison kevin.pattison@cam.org.au

**Secretaries:** Christina Williams, Bethany Plowright & Evangeline Phillips

### St. Francis Xavier Programme

Sunday Masses Vigil Mass: 6.00pm Saturday Evening

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Weekday Masses Tues - Sat 9.15am Mon - 1<sup>st</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> of month

Liturgy of Word & Communion Service

Mon - 9.15am 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup> Mon of month

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Adoration

Wed 8.40am- Fri after 9.15am Mass

1st Fri of month, 24 hour adoration following Mass

Reconciliation Sat: 10am & 5.30pm

Anointing of the Sick Mass 1st Thurs of month 9.15am

Rosary Wednesday after 9.15am Mass Before Mass Tues & Saturday

### St. John's Programme

Sunday Masses Vigil Mass: 7.00pm Saturday Evening

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.00am

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 am

Liturgy of Word & Communion Service Monday - 9.00am

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Adoration

Wednesday 8.30am-8.55am, Friday after 9.00am Mass

Reconciliation Saturday: 9.30am & 6.15pm

Anointing of the Sick Mass 1st Thursday of month 9.00am

Rosary Before weekday Mass, (except Wed) Sat at 9.30am

## GOSPEL : Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him,

'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.'

But he replied, 'Scripture says: *Man does not live on bread alone*

*but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple.

'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down;

for scripture says:

*He will put you in his angels' charge,*

*and they will support you on their hands*

*In case you hurt your foot against a stone.'*

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

*You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.

'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.'

Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan!

For scripture says:

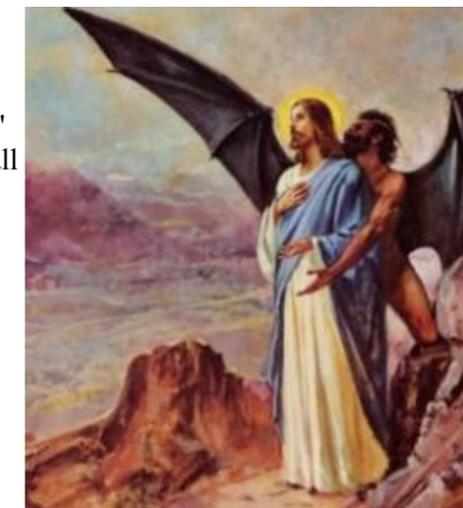
*You must worship the Lord your God,*

*and serve him alone.'*

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**OFFERINGS**  
GIVING BACK TO GOD

Thank you for your continued support

<b>St. John the Evangelist</b>	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>
Presbytery \$565.00	Presbytery \$762
Church \$922.40	Church \$1465

<u>This Sunday's Readings</u>	<u>Next Sunday's Readings</u>
<b>1st Reading</b> Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7	<b>1st Reading</b> Gen 12:1-4
<b>2nd Reading</b> Rom 5:12-19	<b>2nd Reading</b> Tim 1:8-10
<b>Gospel</b> Matthew 4:1-11	<b>Gospel</b> Matthew 17:1-9

Welcome and thank you for worshipping with us at **St Francis Xavier / St John's**  
Please let us know if:

- You are new to the Parish
- Recently changed your home address
- Need Thanksgiving envelopes

Please fill in your details and drop it in the collection bag or hand it to the Priest.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

**SFX:** Every Sunday during 10.30am Mass  
**SJE:** 2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month during 10am mass

 A friendly reminder to all our knitting superstars to get those balls of wool out and start to prepare for our knitting stall which will be held in May.

Thank you for everyone who helped and supported the SJE Sausage Sizzle, together we raised \$275

**Combined Parish Child Safety Team:**  
0426-211-572

 <b>St John's</b> 9789 9794 Principal: Derek Bruitzman	 <b>John Paul College</b> 9784 0200 Principal John Visentin
 <b>St Augustine's</b> 9781 3007 Principal Jan de Koning	 <b>St Francis Xavier</b> 9783 3424 Principal Stephen Peart

**HOME VISITATIONS:** As part of the implement of our parish theme of **OUTREACH, Frs Chinua and Jude would like to embark on home visitations. To enable them plan the home visitations, please write your name, address and phone number on the sheet provided in the foyer or you may call the parish office.**

**Wanted: SJE Parishioners - Mums - Dads**  
If you have some expertise in planning events please come forward and be a coordinator for our forthcoming Multicultural Event on 30 August to be held in St John's School Hall Please contact Parish Office / Fr Chinua on 9783 3484.

**Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle**

Thank you parishioners for supporting the Combined Parish Car Raffle. Thank you also to those who are giving their time to sell ticket. As we will not be selling tickets over Lent, you can return your sold tickets and money to the Parish office, or put them in a sealed envelope, marked Raffle and drop them in the collection bags during Mass.

Selling will resume after Easter.  
Your support for this fundraiser is much appreciated.

**FR. JUDE'S EXODUS PILGRIMAGE INFORMATION SESSION**

An information evening will take place this week (Thursday 5 March) at 4.30pm at SFX for those interested in hearing more information on Fr. Jude's Pilgrimage, "Exodus; following the footsteps of Moses and Jesus" to the Holy Land, Egypt and Jordan in September/October this year. This is your opportunity to ask all the questions on your minds regarding this trip. Your commitment needs to be made if you wish to be a pilgrim, so that preparation on the part of the travel agent can be made as soon as possible.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**OUR SICK** - Heinz Boucek, Salih Basic, George Moore, Hilda Clayford, Coral Kellette, Dulce Talty, Victoria Walldock, Maree Hambridge, Peter Summers, Adrian Gobel, Keryn, Aillen, Ross Monterosso, Karen Tamapii, Andrew Ling, Steven Auty, Helen Munro, Glyn Trueman, Helen Munro, Boy Neri, Tirso Neri

**REMEMBRANCE** - Douglas Segui, Eiseo Ollada, Elaine Puszka, Celestino Magno, Maria Feenan, Michael Lamb, Margaret Carruthers, Josephina David, Jimmy David, Christian Goble, Ruperta Neri, Julie Scott, Terry & Anne Bacon

**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Michael Hawkins, Craig Cuttins, Rita Vaina, Abdullah children of Sydney, Julie Laws, Moira Mills, Marianito Babass, Giuseppe De Cata, Maria Barbon, Robert Dynes

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Camilleri Family, Luke, Bessy Gis, Kelly

If you would like to have a name published in the bulletin for any prayers please contact Bethany at frankston@cam.org.au or call 9783 3484. No Names will be added past 11am on a Friday

**AT SFX NEXT SUMMER WE CAN BE PRAYING IN A "COOL" CHURCH**

**WHAT??**  
This summer has been really hot!! We need cooling in this church and with your support we can raise funds to cool our church.

**HOW??**  
The SFX fete of November 2015 was a great community effort, we had fun and we raised enough money to purchase new carpet and a new projector and we can do it again!

**WHEN?**  
25th October  
A Family Sunday Fun-day is planned in the Church grounds.

**WHO??**  
YOU!! We are looking for people to hold a stall. Suggested stalls/activities can include: Food stalls; cakes and Devonshire tea, sausage sizzle. Craft, plants, silent auction, lucky envelopes, pre-loved treasures, books, face painting, jumping castle and rides for children, a petting zoo and raffles.  
*If you can assist with any of these please put your name and phone number on the sheets in the foyer.*

**AND.....**  
The Fundraising Committee are also seeking business Owners or Managers for exclusive sponsorship of this monster FUN DAY! We also have advertisement space to sell in a magazine to be distributed to 1000 possible new clients in the area. The size will be A5 full page for \$75.00 or half page for \$50.00.

**LEGION OF MARY Bayside curia ACIES**

 Join our Legionaries for Adoration, mass, reconciliation and the ACIES, followed by refreshments afterwards on this Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at SFX. Adoration begins from 6am in the Chapel, Benediction at 9.00am, Mass is at 9.15 ACIES begin at 11.00am.

The whole worldwide Legion both individually and collectively earnestly seeks each year to celebrate the Acies. This ceremony is one of the most beautiful and profound functions of the Legion. What precisely is its purpose and meaning? Well first of all it presupposes an examination of our relationship to Mary and specifically our practice of true devotion to her in the spirit of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Then we seek to renew and express publicly our Consecration to Mary in the condensed and beautiful formula; 'I am all yours my Queen and my Mother and all that I have is yours.' What an extraordinary depth of doctrine and devotion are packed into so few words. They express the total conviction and commitment of every true legionary. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the Acies in the life of the Legion.

  
**STATIONS of the CROSS**

<b>Friday 6th March</b>	
SJE 8.30am	SFX 8.45am
<b>Friday 13th March</b>	
SJE 9.30am	SFX 9.45am
<b>Friday 20th March</b>	
SJE 9.30am	SFX 9.45am
<b>Friday 27th March</b>	
SJE 9.30am	SFX 9.45am
<b>Friday 3rd April</b>	
SJE 8.30am	SFX 8.45am

  
**Adoration & Benediction**

**1st Friday of the Month**

SFX: 24 Hours  
SJE: 9.30-12.00pm

Sign up sheets in the foyer

**LENTEN RETREAT:**  
**March 28 – April 1, 2020**  
Eucharist, The Word of God & The Passion of our Lord for Healing  
Hosted by: Fr. Gilbert Carlo svd (Divine Word Missionary)



This retreat is focused on Prayer, Meditation, Contemplation, Eucharist, the Word of God and the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which deepens our relationship with God & one another and heals our body, mind, soul and spirit

**ST. JOHN'S**

**Monday, March 30:** 9.00am Mass followed by talk & reflection Healing through God's Love and Forgiveness: Reflection Isaiah 53.5; 'By his wounds, we are healed'

**Tuesday, March 31:** 9.00am Mass followed by talk & reflection Healing through the Word of God & Eucharistic Adoration: Reflection Matthew:8.8; 'By our faith on the Word of God, we are healed'

**Wednesday, April 1:** 9.00am Concluding Mass with Reflection on Eternal life. By His Body and Blood we are healed.

**Confessions:** Monday – Wednesday : After the service.

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

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**LENT** Lent calls us to repentance. On this first Sunday of Lent, you are invited re-commit yourselves to your Baptismal promises by committing yourselves to a Lenten plan. Choose an aspect of your life that you hope to work on, or a cause you wish to commit yourself to during this Lenten season. Write them down on the paper provided on the pews and place them in the basket after the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

**Project Compassion**  
Commenced on Ash Wednesday  
Lenten Donation envelops/boxes are now available.

**Sundays of Lent**

**1st Sunday 1 March**  
Commitment Sunday

**2nd Sunday 8 March**  
Reconciliation Sunday

**3rd Sunday 15 March**  
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

**4th Sunday 22 March**  
Anointing of the Sick

**5th Sunday 29 March**  
Outreach Sunday

**Palm Sunday 5 April**  
Holy Week

