



HOMILY

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

THEME: A CALL TO HOLINESS

The first reading of today, (Lev 19:1-2, 17-18), invites us to a life of holiness. It stated, "be holy for I the Lord your God, am holy." The Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the church called Lumen Gentium, has its fifth chapter titled, "The Universal call to holiness in the Church". It underscored that everyone is called to a life of holiness in accordance to one's state in life – Children, Young Adults, Adults, Singles, Married People, Religious and Clergy. We become holy by allowing the grace of the sacraments of Christ in us to be fruitful. The first reading and the Gospel shade some light on what holy living comprises of. It entails not bearing hatred in our hearts for our neighbours and being charitable while confronting our neighbours for their misdeeds.

At times, I have heard people say I hate such and such a person. Perhaps you have developed hatred for the person because of the hurt his actions or in-action have caused you or your family or your friend. In the pre-Mosaic era, people took disproportionate vengeance for injuries or offenses committed against them. In Genesis 4:23, Lamech said, "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to what I have to say, for I killed a man for wounding me and a boy for striking me. If Cain will be avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times". The above quotation demonstrated that people took indiscriminate retribution for offenses committed against them. Someone may decide to cut off the arm of an aggressor because one felt insulted by the person or a member of the person's family. Hence, the Mosaic law of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" was an improvement on what had preceded it. It required the offended party to only exact from the perpetrator the same amount of injury that was inflicted on him/her; not more, not less. This law appears to be straight forward on paper; however, it is very difficult to apply because the possibility of a collateral damage always lurks at the corner when one tries to implement this law.

Jesus in today's Gospel, (Mt 5:38-48), insisted that there were other ways of settling disputes that do not require 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'. Experience teaches us that, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth", does not actually bring healing, it leads to spiral of violence. Dialogue and conscientious objection may be a better option. I acknowledge that sometimes one's effort may fall short of bringing peace and reconciliation immediately; however, one must not lose hope.

At times we may gossip about someone's failures without making out time to have a dialogue with the person about his/her inadequacies. It is however true that some people are arrogant and therefore may be unwilling to listen to advice, or they have become addicted to a habit or a way of life that change becomes an uphill task. It is not your fault if someone refuses to listen to your good advice. None-the-less, one must not presume an outcome without trying. Many separated married couples would have still been living together today if there were more openness to dialogue, willingness to change and willingness to ask for forgiveness from each other.

I acknowledge that one may be overwhelmed by some situations. Paul warned us in his epistle to the Ephesians that, "our battle is not against human forces but against the rulers and authorities and their dark powers that govern this world" (Eph 6:12). Hence, we must not rely on our power only, but seek for God's guidance in prayer.

In the second reading, (1 Cor 3:16-23), St Paul reminded us that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God who resides in us will help us to live a life of holiness. Holiness of life is not just a given, it involves struggles, failures, disappointments and moments of joy. May God who has called us in Christ to a life of holiness, grant us the grace and the strength we need to be faithful to our Christian calling.

Amen.

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp



STATIONS of the CROSS

Friday 28th February

SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am

Friday 6th March

SJE 8.30am SFX 8.45am

Friday 13th March

SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am

Friday 20th March

SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am

Friday 27th March

SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am

Friday 3rd April

SJE 8.30am SFX 8.45am

ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses 26th February 2020

St. John's

9.00am and 7.00pm

St. Francis Xavier

9.15am and 7.00pm

St. Augustine's Primary School

2pm

ADORATION

1st Friday of the Month

SFX: 24 Hour

SJE: 9.30-12.00pm



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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 23rd February 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 - 1st + 3rd of month

Liturgy of Word & Communion Service

Mon - 9.15am 2nd, 4th + 5th 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 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

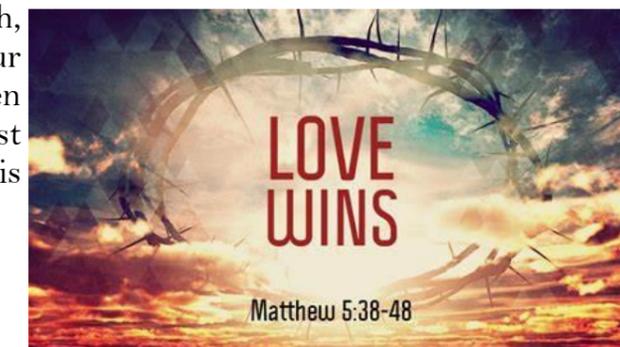
Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Project Compassion - Commences on Ash Wednesday Lenten
Donation envelopes/boxes will be available from this Sunday.

OFFERINGS
GIVING BACK TO GOD

Thank you for your continued support

St. John the Evangelist	St. Francis Xavier
Presbytery \$647.55	Presbytery \$1222
Church \$959	Church \$2442

<u>This Sunday's Readings</u>	<u>Next Sunday's Readings</u>
1st Reading Lev 19:1-2,17-18	1st Reading Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7
2nd Reading 1 Cor 3:16-23	2nd Reading Rom 5:12-19
Gospel Matthew 5:38-48	Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

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



St Vincent de Paul Society

If you would like to help us give back to the community please contact

Peter Butler: 0410 569 357
For Donations: 1800 621 349
For Assistance: 9769 6060

Meetings held on 1st & 3rd Monday 4.00pm-5.30pm at SFX.

Combined Parish Child Safety Team:
0410-715-267

 St John's 9789 9794 Principal: Derek Bruitzman	 John Paul College 9784 0200 Principal John Visentin
 St Augustine's 9781 3007 Principal Jan de Koning	 St Francis Xavier 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

Be in the draw to WIN 1 of 3 CARS & more!!

Tickets are just \$2 each.

Tickets will be for sale before and after each Sunday Masses. If you can, please help by taking a book to sell. This is a great fundraiser for our Parishes.

GOOD LUCK!!!!!!

*No tickets will be for sale at Church during Lent.



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.



SJE Fundraising sausage sizzle.

Sunday 23rd February after 10.00am mass.

Thank you to all those who purchased a Sausage and/or helped make the BBQ a big success at SFX, we raised \$480.

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

REMEMBRANCE - Rob Smith, Jim Wyles, Elizabeth Joseph, Mario, Thomas Chacko, Chris Geeham, Jason Murchie, Douglas Segui, Eiseo Ollada, Elaine Puszka, Celestino Magno, Maria Feenan, Michael Lamb, Margaret Carruthers,

RECENTLY DECEASED - Josie Woods, Sid Dowland, Kevin Maguire, Frank Ranalli, Cathy Bowden, Bernard Stock, John Moore, Michael Hawkins, Craig Cuttins, Rita Vaina, Abdullah children of Sydney, Julie Laws, Moira Mills, Marianito Babass, Giuseppe De Cata, Maria Barbon

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Joben Cia Alicaba, Reggie Lana and Fly's Granddaughter, Ivey Sebastian, Della Pezza, Camilleri Family, Luke, Bessy Gis

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

Lenten 2020 Regulations

The Lenten season has a twofold character:

- 1] It recalls Baptism or prepares for it;
- 2] It stresses a penitential spirit.

By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the Paschal Mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the Liturgy itself and in the Liturgy of centred- instructions the baptism and penitential themes should be more pronounced. Hence: wide use is to be made of baptismal features proper to the Lenten Liturgy and the same approach holds for the penitential elements.

During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual but also external and social .. in any event, let the Paschal fast be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged through Holy Saturday so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

On all other Fridays, except Solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following :

- a) **Prayer** - for example : Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a Church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.
- b) **Self-denial** - for example : not eating meat, not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways.
- c) **Helping others** - for example : special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened; or in their ways.

All who have completed their 18th year & have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. [Can1252].
All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain. [Can1252].

The Season of Lent is a time of Penance. During this season the faithful are exhorted to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety & charity, & to deny themselves.

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday, 26 February 2020 & Trinity Sunday, 7 June 2020 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.

The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament. All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

LEGION OF MARY Bayside curia ACIES



Join our Legionaries for Adoration, mass, reconciliation and the ACIES, followed by refreshments afterwards on Saturday 7th 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.

First Communion & Reconciliation



ST. JOHN'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

This commitment Sunday marks the start of the journey for the year 4 students as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. They are required to participate in one Sunday Mass (7.00pm, Saturday, 8.30am and 10.00am Sunday) every week for six weeks leading up to the reception of each Sacrament. You will see many new faces on the pews and we extend a warm welcome to them and hope they find a new Spiritual growth from participating in the life of our Parish.



We welcome and congratulate the members of the Parish Pastoral Council & the staff members of St. John's Primary School at their annual commissioning.

May God Bless them in their ministries.

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

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.

Thank you to all those that helped out at the Working Bee at SJE last Saturday, Your hard work, time and effort were really appreciated.