



# HOMILY

## Transfiguration of Jesus Christ

The First Reading, (Gen 12:1-4), narrated the call of Abram, which underscored the importance of faith. Abram who was from the Chaldean city of Ur in the modern-day Iraq was directed by God to set out from his ancestral homeland to an unknown destination. The Lord promised to bless him by making him a great nation and his name would be so “famous that it shall be used as a blessing.” Abram hearkened to the voice of the Lord and embarked on the journey to an unknown destination. The letter to the Hebrews stated that, “to have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.... It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him to go out to a country which God had promised to give him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going,” (Heb 11:1,8).

The Gospel, taken from Matthew 9:1-9 continued with the theme of faith. Jesus took Peter, James and John to a high mountain where they could be alone. Luke 9:28 informed us that they went up the mountain to pray. Mountains or hills have been places of prayer in the Old Testament. When the people of Israel left Egypt after their enslavement, it was at Mount Sinai that they experience theophany and God made a covenant with them to make them his chosen people, a royal priesthood and a consecrated nation, if they kept His commandments, (Ex 19:3-5).

God also gave them the Ten commandments at Mount Sinai. Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel, (1Kg 18:20-40). The temple of the Lord in Jerusalem was built on a mountain, for Isaiah 56:7 stated that, “I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Jesus also gave his sermon in Matthew’s Gospel from the mountain, (Matt 5:1-7:29).

During Jesus’ prayer with his disciples on the Mountain, he allowed his divinity to become manifest. Suddenly, the disciples felt the glory Jesus had with the Father before the foundation of the world, (Jon 17:5). It was an awe-inspiring experience which translated to paradise on earth, which anyone who had had it would not want to let go. The disciples of Jesus did not want to let go. They wanted to build tents so that they could dwell in that experience forever. The psalmist captured this intensity of experience when it stated that, “one thing I ask of the Lord and this I long, to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life...” (Ps 27:4).

Within this theophany, the disciples of Jesus also witnessed the apparition of the two pillars of the Old Testament: Moses and Elijah. Two of the three major parts of the Old Testament were the Law and the Prophets which Moses and Elijah represented respectively. These two icons of the Old Testament appearing in glory and speaking with Jesus was symbolic of a handover ceremony. The Law and the Prophets are being fulfilled in Jesus and he is the one to lead us to the Father, for he is our way, our truth and our life, (Jn 14:6).

The Transfiguration of Jesus which was to prepare his disciples for the scandal of his passion, was also a deep prayer experience for them. At times after saying some prayers, we may wonder what we have been doing because we had not concentrated, our minds had wandered far and near. At other times, we may feel an inner peace that we have communed with God. Prayer should permeate our lives not only when we stop for an intense prayer to God.

Through prayer, we are strengthened to bear hardships when they come our way. For Jesus, to live is to pray; let us pray earnestly during this Lent that we too like Jesus may radiate the glory of God in us. We shall radiate this glory by being agents of peace and reconciliation in our families, communities and the world at large.

This Sunday as a Parish, we are focusing on reconciliation. We recall that Christ died and rose from the dead in order that he may reconcile us to the Father. We believe that in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, and now He has entrusted to us the message that the world is reconciled, (2Cor 5:19). To enable you to live out the reconciliation brought to us by Jesus, I invite you to adopt the prayer of peace of St Francis of Assisi. May what you do or not do, say or not say be driven by this prayer:

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**



Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp

# Second Sunday of Lent 8th 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

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	<b>Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp</b>	chinua.okeke@cam.org.au
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	<b>Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp</b>	jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au
<b>Deacon:</b>	<b>Rev Kevin Pattison</b>	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

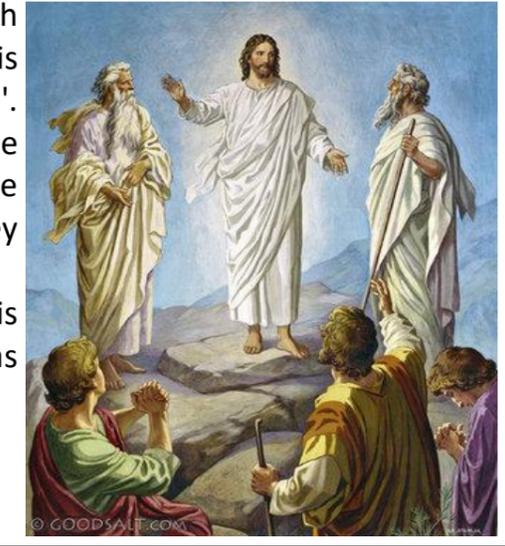
**St. John’s Programme**  
Sunday Masses Vigil Mass: 7.00pm Saturday Evening  
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.00am  
Weekday Masses Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 am  
Liturgy of Word & Communion Service Monday - 9.00am  
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Adoration  
Wednesday 8.30am-8.55am, Friday after 9.00am Mass  
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 17:1-9**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## OFFERINGS

GIVING BACK TO GOD

Thank you for your continued support

<p><b>St. John the Evangelist</b></p> <p>Presbytery \$676.60</p> <p>Church \$1147</p>	<p><b>St. Francis Xavier</b></p> <p>Presbytery \$768</p> <p>Church \$1465</p>
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This Sunday's Readings	Next Sunday's Readings
<p><b>1st Reading</b> Gen 12:1-4</p> <p><b>2nd Reading</b> Tim 1:8-10</p> <p><b>Gospel</b> Matthew 17:1-9</p>	<p><b>1st Reading</b> Ex 17:3-7</p> <p><b>2nd Reading</b> Rom 5:1-2,5-8</p> <p><b>Gospel</b> Jn 4:5-42</p>

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.

**Project Compassion**

Commenced on Ash Wednesday

Lenten Donation envelopes/boxes are now available.

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, Boy Neri, Tirso Neri, Bill Thomas

**REMEMBRANCE** - Margaret Carruthers, Josephina David, Jimmy David, Christian Goble, Ruperta Neri, Julie Scott, Terry & Anne Bacon, Stella Torcaso, Bruno Bonadio, Romulo Binghey, Patrick Flynn, Anne Moles

**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Michael Hawkins, Craig Cuttins, Rita Vaina, Julie Laws, Moira Mills, Marianito Babass, Giuseppe De Cata, Maria Barbon, Robert Dynes, Ronald Barnett, Irene Mitchell,

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Camilleri Family, Luke, Bessy Gis, Kelly, Josephine Roche, Pamela



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

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

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



**Adoration & Benediction**

1st Friday of the Month  
SFX: 24 Hours  
SJE: 9.30-12.00pm  
Sign up sheets in the foyer



**Novel Coronavirus:** Acting on the advice of the Victorian and Australian Health Departments, the Archbishop of Melbourne Most Rev. Peter A Comensoli has recommended that all Parishes take measures to ensure the health and safety of Parishioners regarding the Coronavirus. The way we will be doing this is removing holy water from the stoups and offer a wave, smile, nod or bow instead of shaking of hands during the sign of peace, Holy communion will only be offered in the hand and there will be no Holy Communion from the Chalice.



**St Patrick's Feast Day @SFX**  
**Tuesday 17 March**

Great numbers of Irish settlers were imprisoned here in the early history of our home land Australia. Many came later looking for a new life after the wretched potato famine inflicted such hardship and hunger. The GREAT gift they brought with them was their CATHOLIC faith. Somehow they built the schools and churches where our faith grew as children into adulthood. We Aussies have traditionally worn the green ribbons ,sung Irish songs and raised a glass of Guinness on St. Pat's Day. On Tuesday the 17th wear something green and enjoy morning tea in the QUILTER room after Mass.

<b>St Francis Xavier</b>	<b>HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2020</b>	<b>St John the Evangelist</b>
<b>Palm Sunday 5 April</b>		
6.00pm (4 April)	Vigil Mass- Blessing of Palms—Procession	7.00pm (4 April)
8.30am	Mass - Blessing of Palms—Procession	8.30am
10.30am 5.30pm	Mass - Blessing of Palms - Solemn Procession	10.00am
<b>Holy Thursday - 9 April</b>		
7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper & Watch & Prayer until 12am	7.00pm
<b>Good Friday - 10 April</b>		
9.15am	SFX Morning prayer SJE Station of the Cross	9.00am
3.00pm	Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
<b>SOLEMNITY OF EASTER</b>		
8.00pm	<b>Easter Vigil - 11 April</b>	7.30pm
5.00am 8.30am 10.30am 5.30pm	<b>Easter Sunday - 12 April</b>	8.30am 10.00am
<b>EASTER RECONCILIATION</b>		
Monday 6th April	7.30pm (Second Rite)	Tuesday 7th April

**RECONCILIATION SUNDAY**

This Sunday as a parish, we are focusing on reconciliation. We recall that Christ died and rose from the dead in order that he may reconcile us to the Father. We believe that in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, and now He has entrusted to us the message that the world is reconciled, (2Cor 5:19). To enable you to live out the reconciliation brought to us by Jesus, you are invited to adopt the prayer of peace of St Francis of Assisi. May what you do or not do, say or not say be driven by this prayer:

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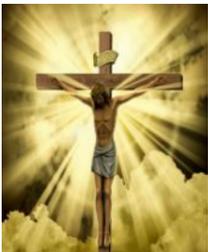


**Palm Sunday**

Palm fronds & Olive branches are needed for Palm Sunday, 5th April 2020. Please contact the Parish office if you can supply some.

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Next Sunday we shall be having 20 minutes of exposition, adoration and benediction after every Mass as part of our Sunday Lenten Programme.



**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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**Wednesday, April 1:** 7.00pm Concluding Mass with Reflection on Eternal life. By His Body and Blood we are healed.

**Confessions:** Monday – Wednesday : 6pm – 6.45pm.



**Divine Mercy Sunday**  
19 April 2020  
At St. Francis Xavier Parish

**1:30 pm** Confession

**2.00pm** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Rosary & Procecion

**3.00pm** Divine Mercy Prayer & Mass

**Sundays of Lent**

<p><b>Friday 13th March</b> SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am</p> <p><b>Friday 20th March</b> SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am</p> <p><b>Friday 27th March</b> SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am</p> <p><b>Friday 3rd April</b> SJE 8.30am SFX 8.45am</p>	<p><b>1st Sunday 1 March</b> Commitment Sunday</p> <p><b>2nd Sunday 8 March</b> Reconciliation Sunday</p> <p><b>3rd Sunday 15 March</b> Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</p> <p><b>4th Sunday 22 March</b> Anointing of the Sick</p> <p><b>5th Sunday 29 March</b> Outreach Sunday</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday 5 April</b> Holy Week</p>
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