

Please Pray for

OUR SICK - Cris Lawserasors, Alicia Cuapio-Atriano, Kim Nicol, Pat Kovacic, Eric Church, Eden, Maureen Hepburn, Sarah Flavill, Bryan O'Loughlin, Ross Monterosso, Harper, Francis.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Stephanie Walker, Salvador Sanchez-Perez, Hugh Magee, Elsa Rivero.

REMEMBRANCE - Tom O'Leery, Bridget Bonner, Anthony Serpanchy, Valeria Puszka.

Child Safe Standards **Safeguarding Children and Young People:**
Enquires /Complaints: 0426 211 572
Policies:
<https://www.frankstoncatholic.com.au/sfx/policies/>
If you see something, say something

St John's
97899794
Principal
Derek Bruitzman

John Paul College
9784 0200
Principal
John Visentin

St Augustine's
9781 3007
Principal
Carrie Rodda

St Francis Xavier
9783 3424
Principal
Stephen Peart

Young, single lady *urgently* seeks secure, independent accommodation within walking distance to St Francis Xavier Parish, shops & transport. Available asap. Please contact *Frances Mulholland 0424 325 431*

St Francis Xavier Friendship Club wish to announce that they will recommence after a year of Covid 19 Lockdown in the *Xavier Centre* as usual. The first meeting will be on *Wed, 7 Apr at 10.30am*. Happy to see all our members back. New members most welcome. Come on the day or contact *Marie 9775 8737* or *Mary 9783 8296*

This Sunday's Readings
1st Reading
Jer 31:31-34
2nd Reading
Heb 5:7-9
Gospel
John 12:20-33

Next Sunday's Readings
1st Reading
Isa 50:4-7
2nd Reading
Phil 2: 6-11
Gospel
Mark 14:1-15:47

SYRO MALABAR
Regular services :
Every Thursday night - 6pm Mass at SFX
First Sunday of month - 5pm Mass at SJE

Fifth Sunday of Lent 21 March 2021



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
60 Davey Street, Frankston 3199

ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST PARISH
20 Coral Street, Frankston East 3199

Parish Priest: Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp
Assistant Priest: Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp
Deacon: Rev Kevin Pattison
Email: frankston@cam.org.au
Web: www.frankstoncatholic.com.au
Secretaries: Christina & Hani

chinua.okeke@cam.org.au
jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au
kevin.pattison@cam.org.au
Phone: 9783 3484
Office Hours : 9.00am - 4.00pm Mon-Fri

St. Francis Xavier's Programme

Sunday Masses
Vigil Mass: 6.00pm Saturday Evening
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Weekday Masses
Tuesday - Saturday 9.15am; 1st + 3rd Mondays of the month

Liturgy of Word and Communion Service
Monday 9.15am; 2nd, 4th + 5th Mondays of the month

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Adoration
Wednesday after 9.15am Mass
1st Friday of month until 9.00pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 10am & 5.30pm

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

Rosary
Wednesday after 9.15am Mass; before Mass Tuesday & 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 and Communion Service
Monday 9.00am

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Adoration
Wednesday after 9.00am Mass
1st Friday of month until 9.00pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 9.30am & 6.15pm

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

Rosary
Before weekday Mass, (except Wednesday)

LENT 2021

Sundays of Lent
5th Sunday, 21 March
Outreach Sunday
Palm Sunday, 28 March

Stations of the Cross
Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays after Mass

Fri, 26th March	SJE 9.30am	SFX 9.45am
Fri, 2nd April	SJE 9.00am	SFX 9.15am

Lenten Retreat on Eucharist, The Word of God & The Passion of our Lord for Healing led by Fr. Gilbert Carlo SVD begins on Monday this week. Fr. Gilbert will be speaking about the retreat in all masses this Sunday. As part of the retreat, Fr. Gilbert will be hearing confession on Mon, 22 March - Wed, 24 March 2021.
(there will be **Mass on Monday** morning followed by Retreat and confession).
St John's at 9.00-10.30am and St Francis Xavier at 7.00-8.30pm (Pls see Flyer for details)

Next Sunday is **Palm Sunday**. Please bring your palm fronds and olive branches in the morning on **Sat, 27 March**. **Everyone is invited** to join in the decoration of the Church.

Easter Confession will take place this **Fri, 26 Mar at 7.30pm at SFX**.

Exposition, Adoration and Benediction shall take place following Mass on **Wednesday**.

Please pick some Easter flyers to place them in the letterboxes in your area.

St Francis Xavier	HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021	St John the Evangelist
Palm Sunday 28 March		
6.00pm (27 March)	Vigil Mass- Blessing of Palms	7.00pm (27 March)
8.30am	Mass - Blessing of Palms	8.30am
10.30am 5.30pm	Mass - Blessing of Palms	10.00am
Holy Thursday - 1 April		
7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper & Watch & Prayer until 12am	7.00pm
Good Friday - 2 April		
9.15am	Stations of the Cross / Veneration of the Cross	9.00am
3.00pm	Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
SOLEMNITY OF EASTER		
8.00pm	Easter Vigil - 3 April	7.30pm
5.00am 8.30am 10.30am 5.30pm	Easter Sunday - 4 April	8.30am 10.00am
EASTER RECONCILIATION		
Fri, 26 Mar	7.00pm (Second Rite)	Mon, 29 Mar
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 11 April		
1.30pm	Confession, Rosary, Procession and Mass	-

Gospel - John 12:20-30

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.



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



Homily for Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year B

Theme: A New Covenant

In the first Reading from the book of Prophet Jeremiah, God promised a new covenant. In the Old Testament, God made a series of covenants with people. He made a covenant with Noah after the flood. In that covenant, God promised he would continue to be a protector God. The seal of that covenant was a rainbow. God later entered into a covenant with Abraham. In that covenant, God was to make Abraham the father of a multitude of nations. Abraham in his part was to circumcise all the male children born to him or living with him.

After the Jews left Egypt, God made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai. He was to be their God and the Jews were to become a consecrated nation, and a people set apart to worship God. The Jews on their part were to keep the commandments of God. Though God kept his part of the covenant, the Jews often strayed from the covenant by worshipping false gods and engaging in other acts that contravened the covenant.

Joshua made a renewal of God's covenant with the people of Israel at Shechem, (Jos 24). During this renewal, Joshua asked the people of Israel to choose whether they would continue to serve the one true God, (Yahweh), who brought them out from the land of Egypt, or they would serve the Egyptian or the Mesopotamian or the Amorite gods. The people responded overwhelmingly that they would serve no other gods but Yahweh when they said, "may God never permit that we ever abandon Yahweh to serve other gods!" (Jos 24:16). The people then brought out all the false gods they were harbouring and destroyed them. However, despite this renewal, the Israelites remained unfaithful to the covenant and this led to their multiple exiles including the Babylonian captivity.

Due to the Jewish people's infidelity to the covenant, God, through the mouth of prophet Jeremiah, (Jer 31:31-34), promised a new and everlasting covenant which would include the whole of humanity not only the Israelites. This new covenant would be based upon a heart-to-heart relationship with God. "Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people." This new covenant was inaugurated in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

The second Reading, (Heb 5:7-9), recounts the manner of Jesus' ministry while he was on earth. It stated that Christ, while on earth, offered up prayer and entreaty aloud and in silent tears to God for our sanctification. It also made clear that Jesus did not shy away from suffering during his public ministry. He embraced whatever experiences that came his way as a means of sanctifying the world.

Here, we recall Jesus' challenging experiences in the dessert, the temptations he had during his ministries, the hostilities he experienced from the religious authorities, and his passion and death on the cross. We also recall our own tears, failures, disappointments, worries and betrayals. We unite them with the experiences of Jesus, and we pray that Jesus will unite our sufferings and tears to his, so that we might experience consolation in our lives.

In the Gospel, (Jn 12:20-30), Jesus used the occasion of the presence of the Greek speaking people, (who represent the non-Jewish people), during a Jewish festival to announce that the moment of his glorification, through which he would seal the new covenant that included all of humanity, had arrived. For Jesus, his death on the cross was his glorification, for the cross, (not a chair), was his throne. He is King because he was obedient to the Father. He said, "My food is to do the will of my Father who sent me", (Jn 4:34).

Jesus' death is like a grain of wheat that germinates to give new life. Hence Jesus said, "Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown, because when I am lifted up from the earth, then I will draw all people to myself." That is, he will redeem the world. Jesus urged us not to be afraid, for by his death, he has conquered the world.

May Jesus' death and resurrection continue to be a source of renewal for us. Amen.

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp



THE ILLUSION OF COMMUNICATION

42. Oddly enough, while closed and intolerant attitudes towards others are on the rise, distances are otherwise shrinking or disappearing to the point that the right to privacy scarcely exists. Everything has become a kind of spectacle to be examined and inspected, and people's lives are now under constant surveillance. Digital communication wants to bring everything out into the open; people's lives are combed over, laid bare and bandied about, often anonymously. Respect for others disintegrates, and even as we dismiss, ignore or keep others distant, we can shamelessly peer into every detail of their lives.

43. Digital campaigns of hatred and destruction, for their part, are not – as some would have us believe – a positive form of mutual support, but simply an association of individuals united against a perceived common enemy. "Digital media can also expose people to the risk of addiction, isolation and a gradual loss of contact with concrete reality, blocking the development of authentic interpersonal relationships". They lack the physical gestures, facial expressions, moments of silence, body language and even the smells, the trembling of hands, the blushes and perspiration that speak to us and are a part of human communication. Digital relationships, which do not demand the slow and gradual cultivation of friendships, stable interaction or the building of a consensus that matures over time, have the appearance of sociability. Yet they do not really build community; instead, they tend to disguise and expand the very individualism that finds expression in xenophobia and in contempt for the vulnerable. Digital connectivity is not enough to build bridges. It is not capable of uniting humanity.

Shameless aggression

44. Even as individuals maintain their comfortable consumerist isolation, they can choose a form of constant and febrile bonding that encourages remarkable hostility, insults, abuse, defamation and verbal violence destructive of others, and this with a lack of restraint that could not exist in physical contact without tearing us all apart. Social aggression has found unparalleled room for expansion through computers and mobile devices.

45. This has now given free rein to ideologies. Things that until a few years ago could not be said by anyone without risking the loss of universal respect can now be said with impunity, and in the crudest of terms, even by some political figures. Nor should we forget that "there are huge economic interests operating in the digital world, capable of exercising forms of control as subtle as they are invasive, creating mechanisms for the manipulation of consciences and of the democratic process. The way many platforms work often ends up favouring encounter between persons who think alike, shielding them from debate. These closed circuits facilitate the spread of fake news and false information, fomenting prejudice and hate".

46. We should also recognize that destructive forms of fanaticism are at times found among religious believers, including Christians; they too "can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet and the various forums of digital communication. Even in Catholic media, limits can be overstepped, defamation and slander can become commonplace, and all ethical standards and respect for the good name of others can be abandoned". How can this contribute to the fraternity that our common Father asks of us? (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti).



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication. Attend in the comfort of your own home or experience a residential weekend

Our **on-line weekend** gives couples the chance to sleep in their own beds and check-in on kids or animals during meal times.

Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. Couples from regional areas may find the virtual Weekend option ideal.

Next On-line weekend is on **30 April – 2 May 2021.**

Next Residential weekend is on **21 -23 May 2021.**

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au