



## Third Sunday of Lent - 20 March 2022



**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 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  
**Email:** frankston@cam.org.au **Phone:** 9783 3484  
**Web:** www.frankstoncatholic.com.au **Office Hours :** 9.00am - 4.00pm  
**Secretaries:** Christina & Hani Mon - Fri

**St. Francis Xavier's Programme**

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

**Weekday Masses**  
1st+3rd Monday of the month, Tuesday to Saturday - 9.15am

**Liturgy of Word and Communion Service** - 9.15am  
Mondays: 2nd, 4th + 5th Mondays of the month

**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Adoration**  
Wednesdays and 1st Fridays - 9.45am

**Reconciliation**  
Saturdays - 10am & 5.30pm

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

**Rosary**  
Tuesdays before 9.15am Mass and Saturdays after 9.15am Mass

**St. John's Programme**

**Sunday Masses**  
Vigil Mass: 7.00pm Saturday Evening  
Sunday: 8.30am and 10.00am

**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday to Saturday - 9.00am

**Liturgy of Word and Communion Service**  
Monday - 9.00am

**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Adoration**  
Wednesdays and 1st Fridays - 9.30am.

**Reconciliation**  
Saturdays - 9.30am & 6.15pm

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

**Rosary**  
Before weekday Mass, Tuesday to Saturday - 9.30am

### Please Pray for

**OUR SICK** - Carmen Sciortino, Sylvia Griffiths, Rodney Abbatangelo, Nellie Curry, Don Buchan, Robert Wickdoltz, Dolly Maher, Jan Godfrey, Annabelle Caspers, Paula Murphy, Riley Kemp.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Florence Dowell, Hermina Brysha.

**REMEMBRANCE** - Ron Watson, Valeria Puzka, Cyril Taylor, Alan Wardley.

**BIRTHDAY** - Maureen Watson (80 years)



**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**  
9789 9794  
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

**This Sunday's Readings**  
1st Reading  
Exo 3:1-8, 13-15  
2nd Reading  
1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12  
Gospel  
Luk 13:1-9

**Next Sunday's Readings**  
1st Reading  
Jos 5:9-12  
2nd Reading  
2 Cor 5:17-21  
Gospel  
Jn 9:1-41



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

**OFFERINGS**  
GIVING BACK TO GOD

<b>St. John the Evangelist</b>		<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	
Presbytery	\$379.00	Presbytery	\$508.00
Church	\$586.00	Church	\$872.00

Thank you for your continued support



You are invited to join  
**Mothers who Pray for their Children**  
Every Thursday at 4.30pm  
in SFX Chapel.  
You are welcome to bring your children.



The Combined Societies of Mary invites everyone to  
**Walk with Mary 2022**  
Sunday, 20 March from St Patrick's Cathedral  
2 pm Prayers Holy Mass, City street Procession  
Most Rev. Bishop Tony Ireland - Main Celebrant  
For more info call: Mrs Joy Hunt 9509 2207  
[www.thecombinedsocietiesofmary.com](http://www.thecombinedsocietiesofmary.com)



**St Francis Xavier's Blessed Virgin Mary Grotto Appeal**  
Tickets are on sale on Sundays after Mass until 15 May. Buy your tickets now!!  
We also welcome and appreciate any cash donations towards this project.  
**Thank you for your support.**



### FLOOD APPEAL - SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The floods in Queensland and New South Wales are having a devastating effect on the people living in these regions of Australia. For those wishing to support the long-term recovery work to be undertaken by St Vincent de Paul Society in Queensland and New South Wales, financial donations can be made either directly to either state through:

[www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) - Flood appeal - St Vincent de Paul Society - Good Works (vinnies.org.au)  
Or by calling - Queensland - (07) 3010 1000 or New South Wales - (02) 9568 0262

If you would like to help give back to the community please contact :  
**For Donations: 1800 621 349**  
**For Assistance call 9769 6060**

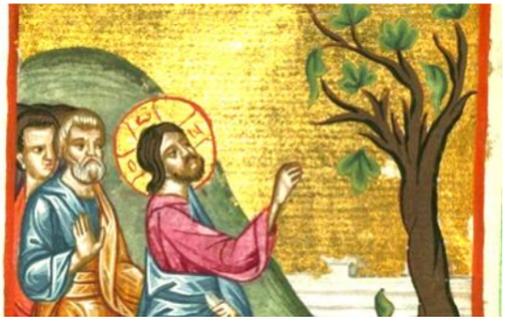
**SFX Vinnies** Peter Butler: 0410 569 357  
**Meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 4.00pm-5.30pm**  
**SJE Vinnies** Mary Murtagh: 9781 3520  
**Meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 10.00am-11.30am**

### Gospel - Luke 13:1-9

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"



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



## Homily for Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

The first Reading from the Book of Exodus, (Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15), presented us with the call of Moses as a prophet. The basic ministry of a prophet is to call the people of God to repentance. Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law at Horeb where he had an experience that would change his life forever. He noticed a bush nearby in flames and yet the grasses and the leaves were not being consumed, as he drew nearer to have a closer look at this extra-ordinary phenomenon, God called him and revealed himself to him as the Eternal Presence, 'I am who I am', and sent him on a mission to free the people of Israel from their bondage in Egypt.

Just as Moses lead the people of Israel from slavery to freedom, repentance leads us to freedom. I recall a newly Anglican convert to Catholicism sharing her experience of her first Reconciliation in the Catholic Church. She recalled that initially she was hesitant about revealing her sins to the priest, but after she opened her heart and confessed her sins and received absolution, she felt lighter, as if a huge burden had been lifted off her shoulders. She added that since then, she had not thought twice about availing herself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In the Gospel, (Lk 13:1-9), Jesus was informed about the ordinary citizens of Jerusalem who went to worship in the Temple in Jerusalem but did not come out alive because Pilate's soldiers killed them as they were forcefully usurping the Temple's offerings. In contemporary time, we recall the 2019 Easter bombing in Sri Lanka which killed 270 people, and the various bombing of churches by Islamic extremists in Nigeria and other parts of the world. Jesus on his own recalled the collapse of the tower at Siloam that caused the death of 18 people. Similarly, our minds are turned to many natural disasters which have resulted in the loss of property and human lives. At present, Queensland and New South Wales are experiencing flooding. In the city of Lismore in New South Wales, roads have been turned to rivers and houses into pools.

In the Old Testament, calamity was judged as a consequence of sin, hence, the disciples of Jesus were curious to know if the man who was born blind in the Gospel of John was a consequent of the parents' sin or a personal sin. (Jn 9:1-3).

Jesus in responding to the sad news of the innocent victims of Pilates wickedness and the victims of the collapse of the tower at Siloam made it abundantly clear that the victims did not lose their lives because they were the worst sinners in Jerusalem. Evil exists and at times one may bear the brunt of an occurrence one had not initiated. Human greed may instigate a chain reaction which may have catastrophic consequences. Take for instance a builder who cuts corners by using a sub-standard material to build a house, this may result in the house collapsing in the future and maiming people. Another example would be a greedy developer who builds an estate on flood-prone lands. We know that that estate is a disaster waiting to implode.

Each person has moments of grace. The burning bush experience was a moment of grace for Moses. We too must latch on to our moments of grace as Moses did. Though the killing of the worshippers in Jerusalem and the victims of the collapse of the Tower in Siloam were tragedies because in these incidences people lost loved ones – a dad, or mum, or son or daughter on so on. However, Jesus in his ministry as a prophet, used them as occasions of grace for the living. A reminder that our life on earth is finite, thus one day our earthly dwelling will come to an end. What is my relationship with God at this moment? Am I making genuine efforts to be faithful to my baptismal calling? When we participate in a funeral, we are not only farewelling the deceased, but it is also a moment of grace for us to amend our ways and come closer to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Let us not be recalcitrant like the Jews on their way to the promised land. Though the Lord performed multiple miracles on their behalf, however, the hearts of some of them remained hardened, (Second Reading), leading to the journey taking them a longer time than it should have taken, and some of them losing their lives in the desert.

May our Lenten observances not be in vain, but rather lead us to true conversion of heart. Amen.

Fr. C. Okeke CSSp

## LENT 2022



### Adoration / Benediction

#### 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

For the tradition I received from the Lord and also handed on to you is that on the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and after he had given thanks, he broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' And in the same way, with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Whenever you eat this bread, then, and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily is answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone is to examine himself and only then eat of the bread or drink from the cup; because a person who eats and drinks without recognising the body is eating and drinking his own condemnation.



#### Sundays of Lent

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 20 March**  
Adoration / Benediction  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 27 March**  
Anointing of the Sick  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 3 April**  
Outreach Sunday  
**Palm Sunday, 10 April**  
Holy Week



#### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will follow Mass on Fridays in Lent except for the First Friday of the month.

#### Friday, 25 March

SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am

#### Friday, 1 April

SJE 8.30am SFX 8.40am

#### Friday, 8 April

SJE 9.30am SFX 9.45am

#### Friday 15 April

SJE 9.30am SFX 9.30am

#### Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, 27 March, we will have Anointing of the Sick after every Mass.

#### Easter Reconciliation

SJE - Fri, 8 Apr at 7.00pm  
SFX - Mon, 11 Apr at 7.00pm

#### Palm / Olive branches

needed for Palm Sunday. Please call the Parish office 9783 3484 if you can help.

### CARITAS AUSTRALIA - UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

The people of Ukraine are living through a crisis that will impact the country for years to come. Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to support Caritas Ukraine and other partners in the region. The appeal will support the provision of clean water, hygiene and food kits to vulnerable families, as well as safe collection centres for families on the move, emergency accommodation and support for distressed children and families.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/> Or contact 1800 024 413

#### A Prayer for Ukraine

Gracious God, we pray for the people of Ukraine suffering from war.

May they be held in your loving care and protection and given the strength to endure their suffering and hardship.

Transform the hearts and minds of those who perpetuate the violence and oppression.

Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference.

We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and in the name of your Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

#### DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

**COME & SEE!** An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on: **Saturday, 2 April 2022** at 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne.

For more information

A new Vocations website is under development, however the links below (copy. then paste) are working.

**Watch:** Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtTS0>

**Watch:** Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY>

**Read More:** [Brochure] <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

**Contact:** Office of the Permanent Diaconate 9412 3357 / E: [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)