

**Please Pray for**

**OUR SICK** - Roger Bagshaw, Brian Dunsford, Denise, Elvie William, Evelyn Holmes, Andrea, Mark, Andrew, Emma, Magie and Ray Cullen, Faye Reidy, Lorna Rebecca, Mercy Williams, Kim Lord, Riley Kemp.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Elizabeth McMahon, Francesco Cannizzo.

**REMEMBRANCE** - Eliamma Kuriakose, Candelaria, Carmen Fernandez, Sheena Sebastian, Leticia, Irene, Joe Betros, Sylvia Micallef, Douglas D'Silva, Pamela D'Silva, Judith Hill, Anthony Cappiello.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** - Trinidad & Sofronio Omo (45 years)

**BIRTHDAYS** - Len Hangar, Jean Universita.

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



**Divine Mercy Sunday - 24 April 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  
**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

**This Sunday's Readings**  
**1st Reading**  
Acts 5:12-16  
**2nd Reading**  
Rv 1:9-13,17-19  
**Gospel**  
Jn 20:19-31

**Next Sunday's Readings**  
**1st Reading**  
Act 3:13-15, 17-19  
**2nd Reading**  
1 Jn 2:1-5  
**Gospel**  
Lk 24:35-48

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

**OFFERINGS**  
GIVING BACK TO GOD

Thank you for your continued support

St. John the Evangelist	St. Francis Xavier
Presbytery \$920.00	Presbytery \$764.00
Thanksgiving \$1,396.00	Church \$1,083.50
SVDP \$550.00	SVDP \$414.80
Holyland \$326.00	Holyland \$1,065.05

**'Pondering Grief', Saturday 30 April 2022, 10am-3.30pm.**

Facilitated by qualified Counsellor/ Supervisor/ Educator Linda Espie, this reflection day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern. Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch).

Book and pay via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), or tel 9890 1101.  
Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)

**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 10.00pm

**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 9.00am

**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 10.30am

**Reconciliation**  
Saturday 9.30am & 6.15pm

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

**Rosary**  
Before weekday Mass (except Wednesdays), Saturday at 9.30am

**25 APRIL ANZAC DAY** **Anzac day Mass**

Tomorrow, April 25th we shall acknowledge the sacrifices of our Australian and New Zealander armies made to keep our countries free from the enemy. Please make a special effort to participate in Mass that will be celebrated tomorrow to thank God for His goodness and protection.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** good works

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

Welcome and thank you for worshipping with us at **St Francis Xavier / St John the Evangelist Churches**  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

† Many Blessings †

**Divine Mercy Sunday**  
**24 April 2022**  
**St Francis Xavier**

1.30pm: Confession.  
2.00pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Rosary and Procession.  
3.00pm: Divine Mercy Prayer and Mass.

**Gospel - John 20:19-31**  
*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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





## Homily for Divine Mercy Sunday

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Gospel is a message of God's love for us.

This Gospel is a story for the early Church (and for us). John the Evangelist is writing about 100AD, seventy years after the death of Jesus. Few living members of the Christian community had actually met Jesus. **They had to rely on the witness of others.** They were being distracted by stories of magic; magic enthralled John's people. The recounting of this story of Thomas was to counter a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. **Our Gospel story emphasises the real, the tangible, the physical; the post resurrection Jesus, bearing the marks of his torture and death, can be touched.**

When you read the resurrection accounts of all four Gospels, you realize that Thomas is not alone in his doubt. In fact, doubt isn't the exception but the rule." Yet was he a "doubter" or did he see himself as a realist? Remember, he had seen Jesus nailed to the cross and die.

The realism of this story is very telling. No one, even after all the predictions, no one says to Jesus, "Welcome back," or "We knew it," or even "What took you so long?" No, when Jesus shows up, there is doubt or confusion.

Doubt isn't the opposite of faith but, actually, part of it; maybe even an essential part of it. Jesus doesn't rebuke Thomas, rather He blesses all those who have managed to believe without the benefit of direct experience; all those who have managed to come to a faith that lives with doubts and yet still finds a way to believe.

There is another message the Evangelist John, our Parish Patron, is sharing with his community. Trust in the faith community. Is Thomas doubting Jesus or is he doubting the witnesses - like Peter doubted the witness of Mary of Magdala?

Thomas doubted the witnesses, those claiming that Jesus had risen from the dead. Very few of us go through life without having serious questions about God, Jesus, the Spirit and the Church. These are good questions within themselves, necessary for a mature adult faith. **What we need to ensure is that we sincerely want to know the answers and not use them as excuses for wandering away from the Faith.**

What happened to Thomas? He had rejected the witness of the faith community, yet they remained faithful to him in his doubts. **We know this because he is still with them a week later.** They didn't eject him – they held onto him in the hope that he would experience the Lord for himself. In this we should take the earliest Church as our model and stay faithful to our doubters.

The birth of the Church is an ongoing act of God's creation. It took time. People will be at different stages at different moments. Like any family. Pope Francis commenting on family stated, "The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife. It's just us sinners." He continues "A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases: "May I? Thank you and I'm sorry" and "never, never, never end the day without making peace." (Meeting with engaged couples, Feb. 14, 2014).

Our fidelity and love for one another on life's journey is only surpassed by Jesus himself who does not give up on us, no matter how many questions we ask or how much we doubt. He came for all, not just the few. That is what divine mercy is about.

Jesus took Thomas' fears, doubts, and disbelief and transformed them into a powerful Christian message that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith. Remember always His words to each of us, **"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."**

*Rev Deacon Kevin Pattison*

## FOR THE FALLEN

– Anzac Day, 25th April 2022

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
Australia mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

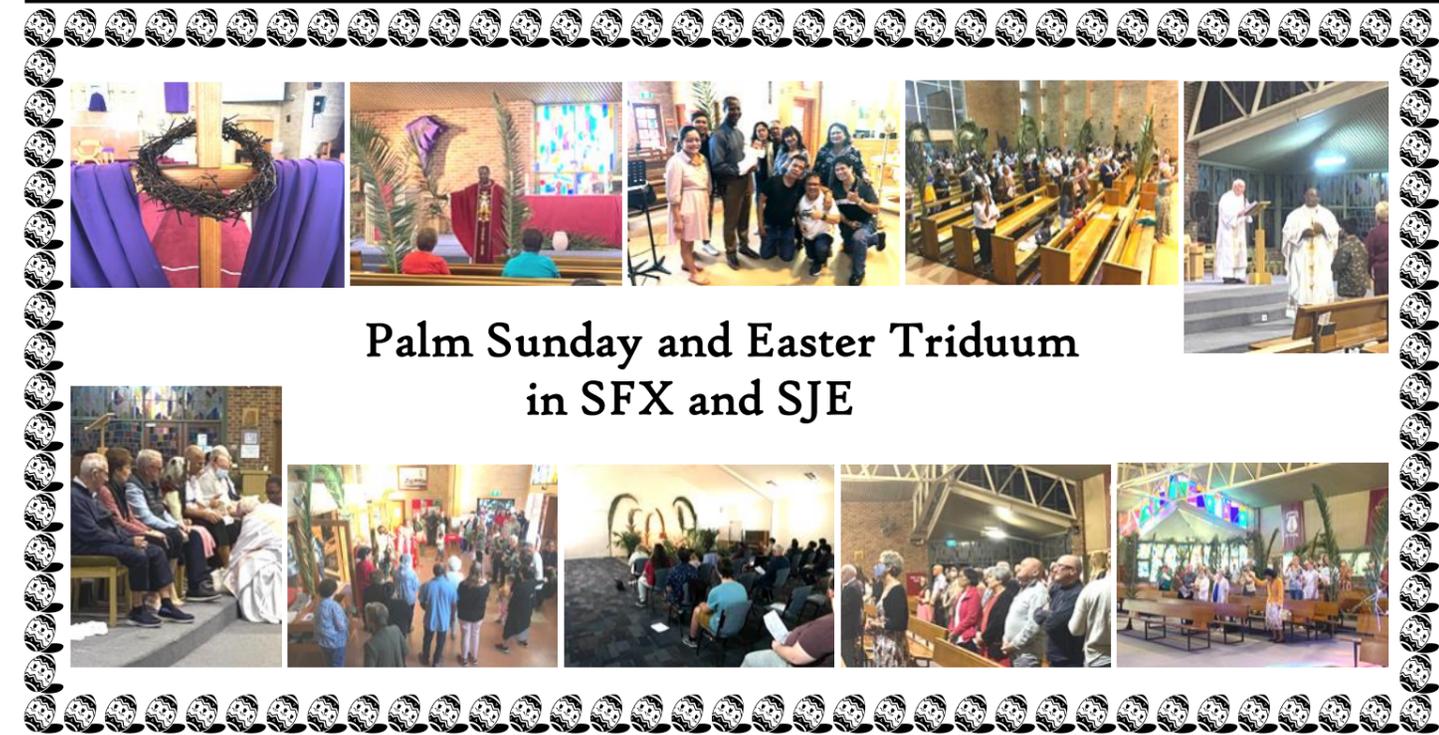
They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond Australia's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;  
As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in The Times newspaper on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1914.-Adapted.



## Palm Sunday and Easter Triduum in SFX and SJE

 Aid to the Church in Need For 75 years, the support of Christian refugees has been a major pillar of the work of *Aid to the Church in Need Australia* (ACN). Today ACN is supporting displaced Catholic families by attending to basic needs such as food and medicine, but these families also hunger for the healing power of the sacraments and the pastoral support of the Church. As such, the help we provide is not only material. Our support of priests, sisters, and catechists all work to build up the faith and to offer help and consolation to those in desperate need. Can you give hope to Christian refugees today?  
**Teresa Hodal**, (Communications Coordinator) PO Box 335, Penrith NSW 2751 1800 101 201 | 02 9167 9517 | [teresa@aidtochurch.org](mailto:teresa@aidtochurch.org) | [www.aidtochurch.org](http://www.aidtochurch.org)