

Please Pray for

OUR SICK - Mercy Williams, Riley Kemp, Lorna Rebecca, Kara Kenedy, Carol and Ken Ashcroft, Kim Lord.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Ian Manly, Achai Eluvathingal, Matias Cabando.

REMEMBRANCE - Eduardo Paylado, Prescilla Fiel, Celestino Magno, Lise Remy, Gilbert Remy.

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading
Isa 43:16-21
2nd Reading
Phil 3:8-14
Gospel
Jn 8:1-11

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading
Isa 50:4-7
2nd Reading
Phil 2:6-11
Gospel
lk 23:1-49

OFFERINGS

GIVING BACK TO GOD

St. Francis Xavier	St. John the Evangelist
Presbytery \$1,786.00	Presbytery \$1,030.00
Church \$2,168.00	Church \$1,242.00

Thank you for your continued support



The Anointing of the Sick will take place this Thursday, 7 April 2022 following morning Mass.

St Francis Xavier's Blessed Virgin Mary Grotto Appeal

Tickets are on sale on Sundays after Mass until 15 May. Buy your tickets now!! Donations are welcome.

Thank you for your support.

'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, or tel 9890 1101. Email info@heartoflife.melbourne


Welcome and thank you for worshipping with us at St Francis Xavier/ St John the Evangelist.

- 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

St Francis Xavier Church will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with Confession, Rosary and Mass on the 24 April at 1.30pm. All welcome.



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 1st & 3rd Mon 4.00pm-5.30pm
SJE Vinnies Mary Murtagh: 9781 3520
Meetings held on 1st & 3rd Tues 10.00am-11.30am

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
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

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 3 April 2022



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

60 Davey Street, Frankston 3199

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Assistant Priest:
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Email:
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Phone: 9783 3484
Office Hours : 9.00am - 4.00pm
Mon - Fri



ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST PARISH

20 Coral Street, Frankston East 3199

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

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

Gospel - John 8 : 1 - 11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'



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



Homily for Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C

In the first Reading of today, (Is 43:16-21), the Lord, through the mouth of prophet Isaiah, addressed the Israelites during their Babylonian captivity. After about 70 years in exile, the Israelites were wondering if the Lord has abandoned them for ever. The Lord spoke words of encouragement to them by letting them know that he was doing something new in their lives which would be greater than he had done in the past. The Lord said, "No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?" The greatest story the Jewish people reminisced about was their freedom from slavery in Egypt. The Lord was saying that their greatest story would now be their reconciliation with God; the pardoning of their sins.

This becomes more evident in the Gospel of today, (Jn 8:1-11), where a woman caught committing adultery was brought to Jesus by the Scribes and the Pharisees. According to the Book of Deuteronomy, a man and a woman who committed adultery must be put to death. (Deut 22:22).

The Scribes and the Pharisees enquired of Jesus if he supported carrying out the injunction prescribed in the Law on the accused. It was a difficult question for Jesus because he must not be seen as condoning sin. However, the people brought only one of the culprits – the woman, which in itself is unfair. The people of today might frown at killing a spouse because he or she committed adultery. Yes, the punishment is extreme, however, we must not forget that fidelity to one's spouse in marriage is of supreme importance!

Jesus, while not condoning the sin the woman had committed, however, in a gentle but persuasive way pointed out to the woman's accusers that each of them in one way or another do commit sin and were in need of God's mercy. Some sins are graver than others, nonetheless, everyone needs God's mercy and forgiveness.

Stoning was the mode of carrying out capital punishment in Israel in Jesus' time, which explains Jesus' command to the woman's accusers that the person without sin be the first to cast the stone on the accused. The woman's accusers suddenly realised that they were all sinners in one way or another and needed God's mercy and forgiveness. Hence none of them raised their hands on the woman and Jesus said to the woman; "neither do I condemn you but go and sin no more." Wow! Isn't that a great healing to experience the mercy and forgiveness of one's spouse, friend, parents or business associates after we have offended them, especially in very serious ways.

The mercy and forgiveness of God abounds in Jesus and "nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus our, (sic) Lord." (Phil 3:8). Let us not gloss over our past mistakes if they were serious, nor should we only dwell on the wrong choices we have made. Make restitution for the harm and pain you may have inflicted on people and with the grace that comes from true repentance; and the desire to not re-offend, move your life forward.

Paul was a persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus to arrest and torture the Christians, he had an encounter with Christ through a vision. He heard a voice call out to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He enquired about whose voice it was and was informed that it was the voice of Jesus and he, (Saul), was persecuting him, (Jesus), as he persecuted the Christians.

Paul underwent a transformation from that moment and became a protagonist of the Gospel of Christ after receiving Baptism. He worked very hard to make as many people as possible come to know about Jesus Christ and the salvation which he brought to humankind. He founded many churches. His hard work for the faith was a way for him to make restitution for the harm he caused to the nascent church. He did not allow his past mistakes of persecuting the Church to be all that defined him. No! His doggedness in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ has made him to be remembered as an apostle of Christ and a saint! Thus, we should not allow our epitaph to be on our mistakes but on how we were able to triumph despite our mistakes, by the grace of God.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday which marks the beginning of the most Holy Week in the Christian calendar. Today, I am sending you forth to your family members and neighbours to invite them to re-connect with their faith by joining our Parish in the celebration of the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I know that there is a lot of negative news about the Church these days, but with Christ, we will remain sailing!

Fr. Chinua Okeke CSSP

LENT 2022



Outreach

Jesus Said to his disciples, "go and make disciples of all the nations and baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all I have commanded . Lo, I am with you always until the end of time, (Mt 28:19-20).

Please take some flyers home with you today
and invite your family members, neighbours and friends to come and celebrate
the Mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ with us.



Stations of the Cross

will follow Mass on Fridays in Lent

Friday, 8 April.

SJE 9.30am. SFX 9.45am.

Friday 15 April.

SJE 9.30am. SFX 9.30am.



Palm / Olive branches Wanted!

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. We are asking if anyone could donate palm leaves / olive branches. Please call the Parish office at 9783 3484 if you can help. **Many thanks.**



Sundays of Lent

5th Sunday, 3 April.
Outreach Sunday.

Palm Sunday, 10 April.
Holy Week.

Easter Reconciliation

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

Washing of the Feet

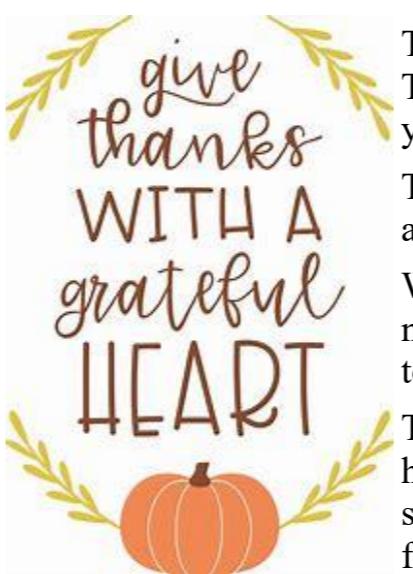
12 Volunteers needed for washing of the feet for Holy Thursday. Please put your name down on a list in the foyer.



Working Bee

There will be a working bee on Saturday, 9 April following Mass to decorate the Church for Palm Sunday.

Stewardship



Thank you to all of you that contribute the stewardship program. This weekend in the Church's Foyer a letter of thanks is waiting for you.

The Stewardship program, your commitment to support the Church and the upkeep of our Priests, is your commitment to your God.

Without your support the bills would not be paid, the building would not be maintained, the Office staff would not be there to be of service to you, and our Priests would be sad.

Thank you, words do not seem adequate. Over the past two years, you have all been very faithful to the Church and supported us very well in spite of all the difficulties we had, we have survived, and now we are flourishing.

If you do not contribute to the program, but would like to start, no amount is too small, by using the envelope, direct debit or credit card system; we are able to better budget, as we know we will have regular contributions. Please contact the Office to get started. Times are tough, tough for us all, but please leave a little for the Church.

There are many things needed to keep our Parishes alive, and as it is at home with your own household, the same pressure is on us too.

Please collect your letter, and new set of envelopes.

God Bless the gifts you give, and multiply them for His greater glory.